

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0

R.E. Class and Service held at 10:30
(followed by refreshments)

Sunday Services September 2015



Sept 13	Water Ceremony	
	Jane Innerd	Music: Bobbye and Bill Baylis with Ray Stone
Sept 20	Memorial Service for Reverend Christine Edith Hillman	
	Reverend Linda Thomson	
	Reverend Allison Barrett	Music: Toni Janik
Sept 27	From California to Olinda: Ministerial Journey	
	Reverend Conrad Dippel	Music: Lorie Lyons
Oct 4	Childhood Heroines: Clara Barton and Laura Ingalls Wilder	
	Charlotte Innerd	Music: TBA

The Olinda Men's Group will have their second gathering Saturday, September 19. All men from the Olinda Unitarian Universalist Church are invited to get together. This is an opportunity to enjoy a casual, upbeat afternoon while we get better acquainted with each other.

Where? 1511 Redwood Rd., Kingsville, in the Sun Room
Time? 2 pm until 3:30
Refreshments? Coffee and muffins

Call John van Abbema for further information or directions at 519-712-9020.

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME..... SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

From the Board

The battle with cancer and ultimate death of our minister, Reverend Christine E. Hillman, dominated the discussion at the meetings of our Board in June and August. At our meeting on June 16, Christine was just beginning chemotherapy for her cancer and we were hopeful of her recovery. Helen Moore did discuss the successful arrangement of services by church members to replace those that Christine had planned in May and June, but regular business was also handled. In particular, the Board discussed suggestions from the Visioning Session last November for a change in the Board's structure to a small executive board. While it appreciated the objective of making meetings shorter and more efficient, it was concerned that meetings without the direct participation of trustees who chair the standing committees would have the effect of delaying action and further isolating the Board from congregational input. It would also require a major rewrite of the church's by-laws, and in any case, Board meetings this year have been better at staying on topic and avoiding work that should be concluded in committee. They have thus been shorter, generally less than two hours long, and more effective. It was concluded that instead of changing the board structure, the Board should concentrate on increasing participation in the standing committees and work further on good communication with the congregation.

During the summer, Christine was receiving treatment at hospitals in Michigan. The little news we received was not encouraging: Christine was in pain and did not respond well to the chemotherapy. On Saturday afternoon, July 25, 2015, her husband, Arthur, called to say that Christine wanted Board members of the Church to come to the Beaumont hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan, to meet with her as soon as possible. As communicated to friends and members by email, seven of us drove to Royal Oak and met Christine, Arthur, and Reverend Kimi Riegel, a minister of the NW UU Church in Southfield, who was actively supporting and assisting Christine as part of the UUA's Living Tradition program.

We learned that Christine's condition was worsening rapidly and she had been moved to the care of Hospice. The Board met in a special session on August 4 to discuss plans as well as to approve a private, family service on September 6 to receive the ashes of long-time member Margaret Connelly in our memorial garden. Chaplain Joyse Gilbert officiated.

Rev. Riegel said that Christine had spoken of her love for the church, its people, and her work there. Although Christine could no longer communicate well by phone or email, Rev. Riegel offered to collect messages and stories from church friends and members and read these to Christine. Christine's daughter Courtney had scheduled her wedding to Derrick Lee for later in September but was able to hold it earlier so that Christine could be present. Christine died late on Friday, August 7. Our summer service on Sunday, August 9, was changed to review the development of the church during Christine's 14 years of ministry at Olinda: an impressive legacy! A moving memorial service was led by Rev. Krista Taves at the NW UU Church in Southfield, Michigan, on August 22. Christine's good friend and colleague, Rev. Allison Barrett from Hamilton, will come to Olinda on September 20 to hold a morning memorial service here.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled on Wednesday (!), September 16, 2015, at 7 PM. As always, members are invited to attend.

Finance Committee

In October we will start the process of creating an Operating Budget for the 2016. The following schedule is being presented to inform everyone who would like to be part of this process. There are always openings on the Finance Committee for anyone who is interested in the financial health of our church.

Date Time Description

4 Oct. After church Open meeting to discuss budget items. Anyone desiring to be on the Finance Committee should definitely attend this meeting and volunteer to become a member.

25 Oct. By this date, all budget details must have been submitted to the finance trustee or the treasurer so that they can prepare the budget. Items needed:

- Preliminary Search Committee Costing
- Preliminary Interim Minister Costing
- Committee Chair's budget requests

8 Nov. After Church Meeting of the Finance Comm. to approve the Budget & possible Letter of Agreement.

17 Nov. 7 PM Board Meeting at which Budget and possible Letter of Agreement will be presented for approval.

22 Nov. Before Church Copies of the budget will be available to the congregation.

6 Dec. After Church Congregational Budget meeting.

Important Dates

Sept. 13 Noon

Sunday Services Meeting

Sept. 15 7 pm

Book Club: *Handwriting* by Michael Ondaatje

Sept. 16 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting

Sept. 19 2 pm

Men's Group Meeting

Sept. 20 2 pm (following the Memorial Service and luncheon)
Transition Interview for Board

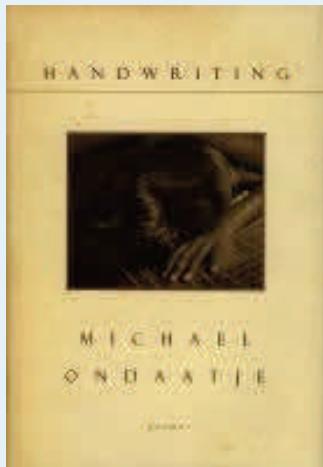
Sept. 24 7 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Sept. 27 Noon

Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Olinda Book Club



This group of congregants and friends gathers once a month (1st Wednesday) at the home of book club members, the Church, or other arranged venues.

During the meeting a selected book, author, or theme previously selected by each member in turn is discussed. The 'fun-loving' group is into another year of reading, learning and socializing.

Everyone is welcome – *Contact Chairperson Pat Haynes, or Stuart Miller* Eve-

Book for Month – September 2015:

Title: **Handwriting** (1998)

Author: **Michael Ondaatje**

Summary

Handwriting is a collection of exquisitely crafted poems of delicacy and power - poems about love, landscape, and the sweep of history set in the poet's first home, Sri Lanka. The falling away of culture is juxtaposed with an individual's sense of loss, grief, and remembrance. Handwriting is a poetic achievement by a writer at the height of his creative powers. In it, we are reminded once again of Michael Ondaatje's unique artistry with language and of his stature as one of the finest poets writing today.

Location of Meeting: Miller Residence

Leader: Stuart Miller

Date: **Wed., 16 September, 2015; 7 pm**

Social Responsibility Committee Report

The awful plight of the Syrians has finally hit the headlines. A dreadful situation four long years in the making is no longer something Canadians can ignore. It is no longer enough to donate money to groups helping out in the refugee camps. After years in those camps or in towns reduced to rubble, with no resources or schooling for the kids, these refugees are desperate enough to flee the Middle East area and risk death by drowning. Certain European countries have been overwhelmed with refugees. Some are locking them out and some have managed to take more than their fair share.

Kate Wheelton-Lukaniuk and her husband Todd are looking into details on how a group can organize to support refugees and bring them to Essex County. This will be a major item of discussion at our next meeting.

Caring Committee Report

First let me welcome all back to the start of another church year. I hope everyone has had a good and healthy summer, but for all of us this has been a hard and sad summer.

First Margaret Connelly passed away at Erie Glen Retirement Home the first week of July. Anyone who ever met Margaret soon became a friend and we will miss her. She had a warm smile, loved to work in her garden and was a great person to be around. Many auctions were much more entertaining because of her and Andy's presence. All the congregation extends our sympathies to Andy and family. On September 6 she had her ashes scattered in the memorial garden in a private service with Joyse Gillbert officiating.

Rev. Christine Hillman's illness got much more serious as the summer rolled on and on July 26th she asked the board to come to Beaumont Hospital to meet with her. They were informed by Christine that she would not be taking anymore chemo treatments and would be entering hospice where she passed away on Aug. 7th 2015. She was a great friend to Linda and me and I am sure to many of us she was more than a minister. On Aug. 13th and 14th many of us gathered to help Arthur pack up her house here and I know Arthur and family were very grateful. I want to thank all who helped and this is just another way our congregation shows what a close knit and loving group we are.

There will be many challenges in the weeks and months ahead but if we work together I am sure we will come out of this a stronger congregation. We need to support our board and offer them all the help we can. We have been through tough times before but I am confident in this congregation.

On Friday Sept. 4th Arnold Thompson had a stroke which has affected his speech. We wish him a speedy recovery and to Marion and family if there is any way we can help please let us know. He is at Leamington Hospital where he is receiving good care.

A special birthday wish to Albertina Bell in Erie Glen and a hello to Jean Wallis in Brantford. We miss you all and wish you the best.

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

John Upcott

Sharon van Abbema