

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 December 2015

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Dec. 6 | The Sanctity of Life
Reverend Conrad Dippel | Music: Toni Janik |
| Dec. 13 | Reverend William Gaskell
Jane Innerd | Music: Ray Stone Quartet and Bill Baylis |
| Dec. 20 | How Can We Keep From Singing?
Sharon van Abbema | Music: Lorie Lyons |
| Dec. 24@ 5 p.m. | Christmas Eve | Carabel Ringrose |
| Dec. 27 | NO SERVICE | |
| Jan. 3 | 2015: Year of Transistion? To What?
Bobbie Baylis | Music: TBA |



Congregational Budget Meeting

Vote on the 2016 Budget
December 6, 2015
Immediately after the Service
(with time to grab a cup of tea)

From the Board

As the church faces the task of finding a new settled minister, it confronts a number of major and complex questions: do we want to have a minister? If so, then part-time or full-time? What are our needs and goals, what expectations are reasonable for us to have for a new minister, and what salary and terms of appointment are appropriate? Both the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) and the Unitarian Universalist Association of America (UUA) recommend the appointment of an Interim Minister for two years as an intermediate step when replacing a minister who has served for over five years or so. The hiring of an interim minister can be much simpler and faster than the search for and appointment of a settled minister. Provided a suitable candidate is available, we could have an interim minister in place by August 2016 whereas it would take at least a year longer to “call” a settled minister. More importantly, Interim Ministers have training to help congregations get the best match in a settled minister.

At its congregational meeting on November 8, the church voted to have the Board hire an interim minister for the standard period of two years. An interim task force needs to prepare an application package for submission in April. Once candidates for the position are received, the task force reviews them, selects a few, and interviews them. The board struck a task force of four church members and is now waiting for all to confirm their availability. It also still has the option of adding another member or two. If we are successful in getting an interim minister, we will then need to form a transition team of experienced members to advise and support the minister. During the interim period and until a new settled minister is called, our Committee on Ministry (CoM), under chair Steve Brennan, is temporarily disbanded. This action follows UUA guidelines and allows CoM members to play a more active role in the task force and transition team. Anyone with concerns about any ministry of the church between now and when the CoM is re-activated, is encouraged to bring these concern to the attention of the Board. As Stuart Miller reminded us, there are still several suggestions from the previous assessment and the follow-up visioning session to be considered for action.

Bobbye Baylis and her finance committee have been working on the budget for 2016, juggling the changes that the loss of a settled minister and the probable appointment of an interim minister bring. The Board and the Finance Committee have approved a draft budget that will be presented for ratification to the congregation on December 6. It includes a reduction in annual transfer payments from the Lloyd Fund from \$30,000 to \$15,000. This, together with a similar reduction this current year, will help the fund recover from slow market growth during recent months.

In other news, Bill and Bobbye reported on the car trip that they and Joyse Gilbert made to Hamilton for the annual Central Region Fall Gathering the CUC on October 25. It was a long day, leaving Kingsville at 5:30 AM and returning around 10 PM, but worthwhile for making and renewing contacts and for the information learned at the three sessions we attended on Building a Social Action Plan (Bill), Small and Mighty: vitality in a smaller congregation (Joyse), and Money and Mission: building a compelling case for Stewardship (Bobbye).

Remember that we plan a Christmas Eve service at 5 PM on December 24 but no regular service on the following Sunday, December 27. Our next Board meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, at 7 PM. As always, members are invited to attend.

Bill Baylis, President



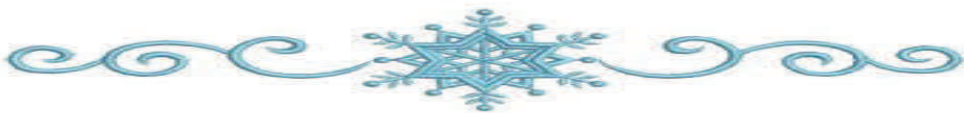
Finance Committee

The 2016 Budget, based on decisions made by the Congregational Meeting on Nov. 8 and further developed with input from Board members at the Nov. 11 Board Meeting, was passed at the Finance Committee meeting on Nov. 15. Copies have been available in the church since Nov. 22 for the Congregation to read over before the vote on Dec. 6.



Social Responsibility Committee

On Sunday, Nov. 22, the Social Responsibility Committee met for the first time since June. Other activities kept getting in our road, so we had a lot to discuss. In particular, we want to learn how we can help welcome Syrian refugees to our corner of Canada, which will seem to them like paradise, if a bit on the cold side. There are many streams bringing refugees into Canada. We have been hearing lately much about government sponsorship, but there is also the possibility of private sponsorship, through various groups, including UU organizations. Local mosques are organizing material support (linens, mattresses, furniture, clothing, etc.) for those government-sponsored families who will be housed in empty schools and churches. Laurie Stone has been in contact with the mosque in her neighbourhood and is gathering a lot of information. Karen Miller reported that the Sarnia congregation has organized support for a family. The CUC supplied us with more information, especially at the Fall Gathering in Hamilton. Hopefully it will be possible to have a speaker on this topic during January, to help us sort out how we can best use our limited resources. Some information will be posted on the bulletin board in the "Coffee Room." Stay tuned! information will be posted on the bulletin board in the "Coffee Room." Stay tuned!



THINKING OF SPRING

WINTER IS NOT HERE YET – DURING THIS WINTER YOU CAN GIVE SOME THOUGHT IF YOU MIGHT WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRUNK SALE THAT WOULD BE HELD THE SAME DAY AS OUR BAKE SALE, USUALLY LATE MAY.

This is in place of a yard/basement sale. It would be held in the Church parking lot and you would sell your own items from your vehicle trunk. The proceeds you receive would be donated to the church and a tax receipt will be issued to you.

When organizing our Bake Sale, probably in March, we will check with you to see if you are interested. We want at least 10 participants or more to make it worth while.

Important Dates

Dec. 2 7 pm

Book Club: *The Heart Goes Last* by Margaret Atwood

Dec. 6 9:45 am

Sunday Services Committee Meeting

Dec. 6 Noon

Congregational Meeting to Approve the 2016 Budget

Dec. 9 7 pm

Board Meeting

Dec. 10 7pm

Choir Rehearsal

Dec. 20 Noon

Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Dec. 24 5 pm

Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 27 *****

No Sunday Service

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.*

December 2015

Title: The Heart Goes Last

Author: Margaret Atwood

Summary: Several years after the world's brutal economic collapse, Stan and Charmaine, a married couple struggling to stay afloat, hear about the Positron Project in the town of Consilience, an experiment in cooperative living that appears to be the answer to their problems - to living in their car, to the lousy jobs, to the vandalism and the gangs, to their piled-up debt. There's just one drawback: once inside Consilience, you don't get out.

Location of Meeting: Crowder Residence, Kingsville

Leader: Stuart Miller

Date: Wed., 02 December, 2015; 7 pm

January 2016

Title: "History's People"

Author: Margaret MacMillan

Summary: In this year's highly anticipated Massey Lectures, internationally acclaimed historian Margaret MacMillan gives her own personal selection of the great figures of the past, women and men, who have changed the course of history and even directed the currents of their times--and sometimes with huge consequences, as in the cases of Hitler, Stalin, and Thatcher.

Location of Meeting: UU Church of Olinda

Leader: Gypsy Caroll

Date: Wed., 06 January, 2016; 7 pm

February 2016

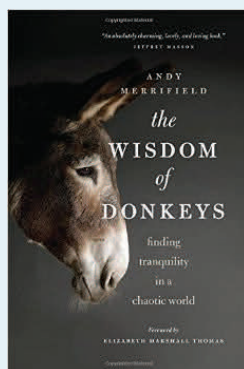
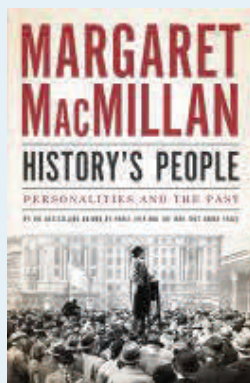
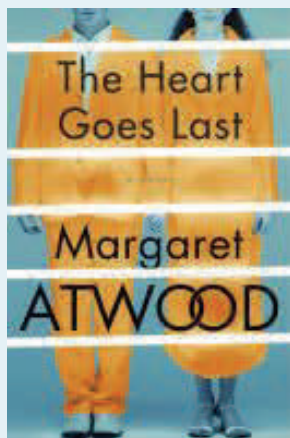
Title: *Wisdom of the Donkey. Finding Tranquility in a chaotic world.*

Author: Andy Merrifield

Summary: ***Location of Meeting:*** Crowder Residence

Leader: TBD

Date: Wed., 03 February, 2016; 7 pm



Caring Committee

Well the Christmas season is here and we are all ready for it, right ? As some of you know this is not my favorite holiday but life goes on.

I am happy to report that Marion Thompson is back at Erie Glen after rehab and Romell Reid is back home after a stay in Leamington Hospital and both of their respective spouses are glad to have them back. On behalf of the congregation I want to wish Linda Goyette's husband , Allan Chambers, a speedy recovery after by-pass surgery. We all miss them both and hope everything continues to improve. Howard Pawley has been having some health problems, and we want Howard and Adelle to know we all hold them in our hearts. A holiday hello to Albertina Bell and Jean Wallis; may they both have a healthy and happy Christmas with family and friends.

On a personal note I was so happy to see so many of the congregation who came to discuss the future of our church and the overwhelming vote in favor of searching for an interim minister. The board gave all the chance to voice their opinion, and there was very little opposition to the motion. I hope now we can all work together with one goal in mind and not have a couple of people work with the internet and behind the scenes to undermine the decision voted on by so many. If we work together this can be the church with a future that the majority of the members want. Please remember that " LOVE IS A MORE POSITIVE FORCE FOR GOOD THAN FEAR". To all our members and friends everywhere have a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

John Upcott, Chair



Offering Collection

Each Sunday two people are asked to collect the offering and to go to the front once the music starts. If you are sitting at or near the front you may think that no one is going to collect the money since no one comes to pick up the collection plates until the music starts. Be assured that two people have been chosen and will collect the offering as soon as the music starts. Thanks.

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
John Upcott
Sharon van Abbema