

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 June & Summer 2017

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
June 4	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Call and Inspiration: Some Call on their ministers for Inspiration; some ministers find Inspiration in a sense of Call. What might that look like? Sound like? Feel like?</i>	Indian Village String Quartet
June 11	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Intergenerational Service: Norbert Capek and Flower Festival In the city of Prague, in the 1930's, Unitarian minister Norbert Capek looked for a new way to symbolize what it might mean to be a beloved community. And so, as summer's fullness approached, he invited the people to bring a flower to share—a festival of bloom. People would bring a flower to place in a vase, and at the end of the service each person would take home a flower that someone else had brought—a symbol of how we enrich one another's lives.</i>	Toni Janik
June 18	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Fathers' Day: Lord of the Rings Fran reflects on models of fatherhood found in Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings."</i>	Baylis-Butzen-Stone quartet
June 25	Tracey Ramsey, MP Essex	<i>People, Power and Politics. Howard Pawley memorial talk.</i>	Lorie Lyons
July 16	Helen Moore	<i>Peter Singer's book: The Life You Can Save</i>	tba
Aug. 6	Bill Baylis and Ray Stone	<i>Music and Spirituality Music is a key component of the spiritual element of Sunday Services. Bill and Ray will discuss and demonstrate properties of good music that make it so successful.</i>	Baylis-Stone Trio
Sept. 10	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Ingathering and Water Ceremony: Welcome back after the summer break! You are invited to bring water and share some of your experiences with the congregation.</i>	tba



Annual Picnic

June 11 after the Service

Upcott Farm (695 Talbot Service Rd) or Church Basement
(depending on the weather)

From the Board, June 2017

Hard to believe this is the last newsletter before summer break. The church year has gone by so fast but much has been accomplished, and while it will be a break for most, the search committee will be busy all summer. The S.C. has gotten off to a great start and the congregation thanks them for their commitment.

Everyone who had anything to do with the celebration of Gypsy Carroll's life deserves a large thank-you. It was a great celebration for a valued member of our congregation and a great friend and person. Rev. Fran Dearman and our Lay Chaplain, Joyse Gilbert, and all involved did amazing work.

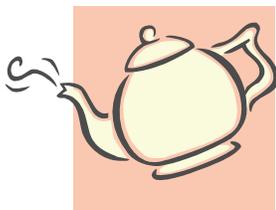
Gypsy, with her great smile and wonderful personality, will be greatly missed in our congregation. Her counsel will also be missed in relation to finances as she was involved for many years in that aspect of church work. The congregation wishes her family and friends the very best as they continue their life without her but know that her love for them will always be there.

For anyone who may at some time be involved with R.E., the board has a cover letter so one can get a police clearance without cost as a volunteer. We have the form, also, for Kingsville that you need to fill out but you need to get the form from the district in which you live. Our insurance company insists that we need this to volunteer with R.E. but it would be good for all to have one.

Do not forget the picnic on June 11th at our place if the weather is good or at the church if not. They have blocked our road from the East so to get to our place you need to go around the block and come in from the West but details to follow.

Have a great summer and do not forget the two summer services in July and August and the Baylis B.B.Q. in Aug. Please take care of yourselves and others and stay well to enjoy the summer.

John Upcott, President



Tea with the Minister

Join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Wednesday, June 14 and 21, from 1:30-3:00 pm. This treat is a regular occurrence on the second and third Wednesdays of the month. The third Wednesday is an opportunity for handwork, in addition to the tea.

Note from the Treasurer

Though we will have two church services between June 25 and September 10, on July 16 and August 6, our expenses continue. Our cleaning lady may not clean in July and August but some hard-working members often do some deep cleaning of parts of the church.

The cost of ministry continues as do electricity, gas, water, telephone, internet, and lawn mowing bills. Please take that into account as you plan your monthly expenditures.

Thanks, Helen Moore

Update from the Ministerial Search Committee

Your Search Committee has been busy behind the scenes and we are very excited to begin this daunting process. We had a productive meeting with Rev. Keith Kron and Rev. Stephen Atkinson while they were here. The committee roles and tasks have been set. At our next meeting, we will be creating and affirming the Committee's Covenant. The schedule of timelines and deadlines have been established.

While there are many components of the search process that are confidential, the committee is also aware that we must be transparent to the members of the congregation when the information is allowed.

We will be asking for your assistance and input during the fall in the form of surveys, and your thoughts and ideas as to the type of Minister that would best suit our congregation... So start putting your thinking caps on over the summer.

Cathy Dewhurst
Search Committee Communications

Members, MSC. Bobbye Baylis Steve Brennan Cathy Dewhurst Stuart Miller Linda Upcott John van Abbema
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Important Dates

May 31 9:30 am
Membership Committee

May 31 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal

June 1 1:30—3 pm
(+ Thursday, June 8 & 15)
Minister's Office Hours

June 7 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal

June 8 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

June 11 noon
Annual Church Picnic
Sunday Services Meeting

June 14 1:30 pm
Tea with the Minister

June 18 noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

June 21 1:30 pm
Handwork with the Minister

June 21 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal

September 5 9 pm
September Newsletter Reports due

Fran's Column for OLINDA Newsletter, June 2017

Early last month Olinda welcomed UUA Transitions Director Keith Kron, along with the Rev. Stephen Atkinson. Stephen is newly appointed as the UUA's Transitions Coach for Canada, and currently serves as a hospital chaplain in Hamilton, Ontario.

I had the privilege of hosting Stephen as he stayed on after the Start Up Workshop for the Olinda Ministerial Search Committee (MSC). Stephen had accepted our invitation to preach about his own path to ministry, and how he had become aware of his own white privilege. Stephen shared a reflection on aspirations and actualities, referring to the recent clash of expectations around police participation in the Gay Pride Parade and Black Lives Matter in Toronto.

This sermon constituted Olinda's formal participation in the UUA's White Supremacy Teach-In. Here in Essex County we too have shadowed portions of our history to shine a light upon and acknowledge. Needless to say, the work is ongoing. I will be glad to hear from you any items of interest on the topic that you might wish to pass along, for future sermons on the topic....

Stephen's visit was a treat for me, rare time for extended conversation with a colleague while conveying Stephen from and to the ViaRail Station at Chatham. And my esteemed colleague asked a question: what do I do with the time?

Stephen and I both served the same very busy, intense, staff driven congregation in West Vancouver, a medium sized congregation with many programmes, many meetings, much teaching, and for me at least two full days per week at the church building on task with staff.

Stephen wondered how different my week must be, serving the semi-rural parish of Olinda.

The longer answer is that my week has about the same shape it always has: Sunday is a day on; Monday is my Sabbath; Tuesday is an administration day; Wednesday is walkabout day, for visiting or undertakings out of the ordinary ambit, e.g. driving in to Windsor to pick up a book order at Biblioasis; Thursdays, again, administration, especially special projects like sifting my predecessor's bookshelves; Friday I work at home on sermon preparation; Saturday is a day off, unless someone wants to meet for morning coffee. Not so different from the big city routine—with this exception: I have learned here in Essex County that a big part of my job is to show up, to build up the strands in the web of community that connect us to our friends and neighbours.

So the short answer is: I show up. I sing with the County Classic Chorale, a great place to meet the neighbours. I attend meetings of the Leamington Ministerial. I stand by at the Remembrance Day observance. I go to Old Bank theatre. I drop in at the Leamington Arts Centre. And everywhere I go, folks ask me who I am, and I tell them, and then they tell me about the event they once attended at the Olinda church, and who they know and how they know them. At a small, family sized congregation in a semi-rural parish, I go where I'm invited, and I show up.

Yours, for the interim, and may your summer be warm and wonderful.

See you in September, Rev. Fran

Property Committee Report, June 2017

Finally I can say we have the front door bell connected. It will ring in the Minister's Study as well as on main floor. The handicap basement access is a real problem in our old building and it will be a challenge to find the best solution.

The people who regularly go to the church have their own church key. If you have occasion to have access to the church, there is a spare key available to any volunteer who may wish to do some extra work in or around the building. You can make arrangements to borrow the key with Laurie Hylton. When you do, please sign your name on the sheet and, when you return the key, make sure that you check off that you returned it. If you decide to offer your services, and do a cleaning project around the church, there is the Property Record book in the filing cabinet to guide you.

You can look through the book and see what needs to be done. When someone does a job at the church it is helpful that it is recorded so there will not be duplicate efforts.

We thank you for anything you do - it takes all of us to keep up the facility.

Laurie Hylton

Accolades, Recognition and Thank You's

This month, we would like to honour Walter Sinclair for his volunteer work in our UU Church in Olinda, and in the community. Walter married, as they say around here, into the church, in 1954. It turns out that his father-in-law came from a long line of Universalists (the founders of this church). His father-in-law was the Reeve in the area and for many years he was the Olinda Universalist Church's custodian. Walter's mother-in-law was in charge of the cemetery.

Walter had married into a volunteering family and followed their footsteps throughout his lifetime. Family and community came first. He served several terms on the Board at Olinda, usually as Property Trustee, and has been a life-long member of the Odd Fellows Lodge. For years he was the go-to person for opening the church, turning on the heat, or clearing snow. He still keeps his eye on things.

Thank you Walter , for your service and dedication over the years.

...Editor

Membership Committee Report, June 2017

The Membership Committee was very busy less than a year ago, making sure our records of communication were updated and accurate. Thanks to all of you for your co-operation, we were able to publish the September 2016 Church Directory and the Telephone Tree. The latter had a couple revisions made recently by Bobbye Baylis and a few copies were placed on the library table.

Another responsibility of the Membership Committee is to ensure that there is clarity and accuracy of our church membership record. In the year 2017, this has presented a new challenge for us; according to new CRA government regulations for non-profit organizations, any person named as a member of the church is entitled to vote on future legal decisions. Consequently, not only is there a need to review our current membership list (which includes both voting and non-voting members), for the sake of complying with government regulations, we have to ensure our membership list consists of only those who are entitled to vote in preparation for calling a new minister.

To accomplish our goal of creating an accurate membership record, there are a few important steps to take. First of all, we truly value all people who wanted to have a connection with our church. In order to maintain this bond, we are planning on transferring the names of those on our current membership list, who primarily have been inactive within the church for a year or more, to a newly created "Legacy List". This Legacy List would be included along with the Membership List in our church Annual Reports, as a record for our church history. We have also considered creating a "Friends of the Church" list representing those who have donated to our church but prefer not to become a member.

Secondly, the Board will have to amend the Membership By-Laws to accommodate this change and the new government regulation. A Special Congregational Meeting to vote on the amendments will be scheduled tentatively before the end of 2017. Our current Membership By-Laws have been included at the end of this report for your review.

Finally, there is time for people to ask questions or express their concerns regarding this future change of our church membership document. As a reminder, Membership Committee members are Bobbye Baylis, Helen Moore, and Sharon van Abbema. Rev. Fran Dearman is also glad to answer questions. If we can work together, this transition can be made as smoothly as possible. We are all a part of this church family, regardless of which historical record preserves your name.

Lorie Lyons, Chairperson

Membership By-Laws (1984)

Article IV. Membership

1. Membership in this Church shall be open to any person sixteen (16) years of age or over who
 - a) is in general agreement with its purpose; and
 - b) requests in writing that his/her name be entered in the membership book.
2. In order to be eligible to vote a person shall
 - a) have been a member for at least thirty (30) days; and
 - b) have made a contribution of record in the preceding twelve (12) months.
3. Membership shall terminate when a member
 - a) by notice in writing resigns from membership; or
 - b) cannot be located; or
 - c) does not respond to a letter of inquiry.
4. Membership records shall be maintained by the Membership and Publicity Trustee who, in consultation with the Treasurer and the Minister, shall conduct an annual review of the membership roll and report same to the Annual Congregational Meeting. The membership roll shall also be reviewed before any Special Congregational Meeting at which a vote is taken.
5. Membership shall not be a requirement for participation in the services and activities of this Church.



Kindness

May and June are the graduation months when our schools and universities release our offspring into the world. The following is an excerpt from a convocation speech made in 2013 and reprinted in the New York times.

Reference for the full Convocation address, on Google: "Kindness", by George Saunders, New York Times.

Mr. Saunders is the author of the best selling book, "Lincoln in the Bardo".

....Editor

Now, one useful thing you can do with an old person is ask: "Looking back, what do you regret?" And they'll tell you. So, what do I regret? Being poor from time to time? Working terrible jobs? The occasional humiliation? Not really. But here's something I do regret:

In seventh grade, this new kid joined our class. When nervous, which was pretty much always, she had a habit of taking a strand of hair into her mouth and chewing on it. So she came to our school and our neighborhood, and was mostly ignored, occasionally teased ('Your hair taste good?' — that sort of thing). I could see this hurt her.

I still remember the way she'd look after such an insult: eyes cast down, a little gut-kicked, as if, having just been reminded of her place in things, she was trying, as much as possible, to disappear. At home, I imagined, after school, her mother would say, you know: 'How was your day, sweetie?' and she'd say, 'Oh, fine.' And her mother would say, 'Making any friends?' and she'd go, 'Sure, lots.' — And then they moved. That was it. No tragedy, no big final hazing. End of story. But still, it bothers me.

Now, why do I regret that? Why, forty-two years later, am I still thinking about it? Relative to most of the other kids, I was actually pretty nice to her. I never said an unkind word to her. In fact, I sometimes even (mildly) defended her. So here's something I know to be true:

What I regret most in my life are failures of kindness. Or, to look at it from the other end of the telescope: Who, in your life, do you remember most fondly, with the most undeniable feelings of warmth? Those who were kindest to you, I bet. It's a little facile, but I'd say, as a goal in life, you could do worse than: Try to be kinder. Because kindness is hard — it starts out all rainbows and puppy dogs, and expands to include . . . well, everything.

To the extent that you can, err in the direction of kindness. Do those things that incline you toward the big questions, and avoid the things that would reduce you and make you trivial. That luminous part of you that exists beyond personality — your soul, if you will — is as bright and shining as any that has ever been. Clear away everything that keeps you separate from this secret luminous place. Believe it exists, come to know it better, nurture it, share its fruits tirelessly.

Caring Committee Report , June 2017

The Caring Committee showed on May 13 their ability to work together to bring about a very satisfactory reception for our good friend Gypsy Carroll at the Olinda Unitarian Universalist Church.

Food was catered from Lakeside Bakery by Gypsy's daughter Ginny Mercer. The hospitality team of Linda Upcott, Eunice Goyette, June Blacker, Trudy Ware and Carol Hylton and others, made sure there were the right amounts of punch, sweets and other goodies to satisfy everyone.

A big thank you for the many hands that made light work. Dishes and supplies were put away and the kitchen restored for the Sunday morning service the next day. Our parking attendant, John Upcott, decked out in black suit with shoes to match, did a great job of keeping the cars parked in good order.

The service led by Rev Fran Dearman and the eulogy, given by Joyse Gilbert, was a true celebration of a vibrant, optimistic, generous woman. We will miss Gypsy with her refreshing attitude towards life and living, no matter what.

On Sunday June 4, following the morning service, Laurie and Ray Stone will hold a memorial service for Laurie's mother, Patricia Pilling. A light lunch will follow.

I am happy to report Erie Glen Manor has had their restrictions lifted. We will soon be able to visit Tina and Marion once again.

Sharon van Abbema, Caring Committee

Poetry Month (April)

April 30, we commemorated Poetry Month with a discussion on the poems of Mary Oliver, a much loved and respected UU poet.

We also had the good fortune to have two musicians and singers from Ann Arbor MI to help us in the celebration. Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski added much colour, life and good feeling to our Sunday morning service.

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Linda Upcott

Sharon van Abbema



Photo by Karen Miller