

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 2017

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Dec. 3	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Something Old, Something New</i> At Advent, Rev. Fran looks into some new anthropological science on an old subject—where do we come from? Where did the Neanderthals go?	Bobbye & Bill Baylis
Dec. 10	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Reason and Nature</i> Rev. Fran explores UU theologian William R. Murry's expansion of traditional humanism.	Lorie Lyons
Dec. 17	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Winter Tales</i>	Toni Janik
Dec. 24	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Sunday Morning Service</i>	Lorie Lyons
Dec. 24 at 5 PM	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>	tba
Dec. 25 at 10:30 AM	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Christmas Morning Service</i>	tba
Dec. 31 at 10:30 AM	Bill Baylis	<i>Time and the Cosmos</i>	Toni Janik
Jan. 7	Ray Stone	<i>American Religious History</i>	tba

Congregational Budget Meeting

Vote on the 2018 Budget
And 2018 Nominating Committee
December 10, 2017
Immediately after the Service
(with time to grab a cup of tea)

From the Board, December 2017

On behalf of the board let me say to all Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

It is hard to believe that December is here and the end of 2017 is near. On a personal note I want to wish the board, who have done a great job this year, a wonderful Holiday season and to Rev. Fran a big thank-you for all you do.

The search committee has asked the board to help form a negotiating team made up of a board member (Helen Moore) and a member of the congregation (Carol Hylton) as well as someone from the search committee and thanks to all who volunteered. The search committee is now putting the packet together to send to candidates looking for a position. The work of the search is now in high gear and going ahead at a rapid pace.

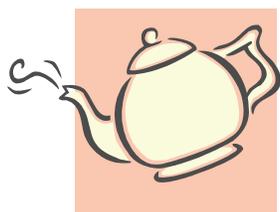
We had two members join the church, Ben and Nancy Bernath, and we welcome them to the church family. I am sure they will be a wonderful addition to the church. On a sad note John and Sharon van Abbema have moved back East to be closer to their family and we will miss them. Sharon became Caring Com. Chair and did a great job and John will continue until the end of May to help with the Newsletter. The congregation thanks them for all they have meant to the church and wishes them the best in their new home.

There will be congregational meeting on December 10th to approve the budget. Please be aware that this is a budget that nobody is pleased with but one that we need to bite the bullet and pass. The finance committee worked hard to keep the budget in line and the finance chair, Elaine Stevenson, has done a great job but there are one time expenses with the search that will put us in a sizable deficit. We need to decide how important this church is to us and if possible increase our giving and all pay our share. We have improved our building and made it a wonderful place to come and now we need to find a full time settled minister to help us grow.

At this Dec. 10th meeting it is the congregation's responsibility to elect a nominating committee, so if you wish to volunteer please let someone know.

Please stay well and I will see you in church.

John Upcott, President



Tea with the Minister

Please join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Wednesdays, December 13 and 20, from 1:30-3:00 pm. This treat is a regular occurrence usually on the second and third Wednesdays of the month. The third Wednesday is an opportunity for handwork, in addition to the tea.

Financial Trustee Report, November 2017

The 2018 Budget has been developed with input from the Finance Committee, Search Committee and the Board as well as from our contract with our Interim Minister, the Rev. Fran Dearman. It was presented and posted at the last board meeting November 9th. At that time we were working on general assumptions that the total cost to the Congregation of a Settled Minister would be similar to that of our Interim Minister.

Copies have been available in the church since Nov. 12 for the Congregation to read over before the vote on Dec. 10th. Many may be alarmed about the estimated large deficit but that is to be expected with several one-time expenses related to the Search Committee and moving in a new Settled Minister. The accumulated surplus of the Operating Account of the church as reported in the 2016 annual report should also be of help.

Special thanks to all of you who have already submitted your pledge of support for 2018. Our ability to plan for the future depends on you and I am confident that we can give of our abundance to see us through the next year and beyond!

Blessings,

Elaine Stevenson, Trustee



Holiday Potluck!
December 3 after the
Service

Bring your favourite
holiday dish and
share!
There will be TURKEY!

Important Dates

Dec. 1 5 pm

Tree Trimming, Carol Sing
and Mittens

Dec. 3 Noon

Holiday Potluck (**Turkey!**)

Dec. 10 9:30

Choir Rehearsal

Dec. 10 after church

Congregational Budget
Meeting

Dec. 13 1:30 pm

Tea with the Minister

Dec. 14 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting

Dec. 17 9:30 am

Sunday Services Meeting

Dec. 17 noon

Social Resp. Comm. Meeting

Dec. 20 1:30 pm

Tea with the Minister

Dec. 24 5 pm

Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25 10:30 am

Christmas Day Service

Dec. 27 9 pm

January Newsletter Reports
due

Fran's Column for December 2017

Fran's Week:

Tuesday:

Admin Day, Fran works at home

Wednesday:

Walkabout Day

Thursday:

Great Day to do Coffee!

Friday:

Fran works at home - Sermon Preparation

Saturday:

Open for Coffee and Visiting

Sunday:

Fran on Deck!

Monday:

Day of Rest

Fran welcomes the opportunity to meet with you; please call to set a time for conversation.

Welcome December: dark nights, bright lights, busy shoppers—a time for charitable giving, a time for cheerful gathering, a time for quiet reflection in the silver night under the starry skies. At December let us pause for time out of time, for rest and renewal at the turning of the year.

The Christmas tree goes up at Olinda on Friday December 1st, welcomed by the singing of carols and the opening of hearts. Warm winter woollies, mittens and toques and socks, are welcome adornments for the Olinda tree and will be conveyed to Hiatus House in Windsor, and elsewhere as appropriate, following the third Sunday of December.

For me, the sight of a grey wool work-sock always brings back the essence of Christmas morning. There, at the foot of my bed, one of my dad's work-socks, with nuts and sweets and an orange tucked in the toe. Then scrambled eggs, then presents, some sent all the way from grandparents in England. And books, always a book for Christmas....

I wonder what the Christmas season means to you, and the turning of the year?

For those of us and our neighbours who do not consider themselves Christian, what does it mean to be submerged in the tide of commercialism and drenched in a Christmas culture that overflows its own historic beginnings? We find the Christmas story in Matthew and Luke, but not in Mark or John. Christmas has not always been Christmas. How do we shape our own sense of engagement with this time of year?

I love this time of year—the singing and the ornaments and the red velvet bows. Memories of love and light seem to shine brighter, in this dark time of the year, somehow.

Sadly, there are things I do not care for, that press upon me this time of year: the risk of falls and flu; the ominous cloud of the credit card bill; and the fear of drunken revellers who choose to drive despite having engaged in far too much Christmas cheer.

Please, let us all drive safely this holiday season, and take good care.

December brings hidden joys, also—and a pregnant darkness into which spring will grow.

With best wishes for peace, rest, and renewal through the turning of the year,

Yours in the interim,
Rev. Fran

Property Committee Report, April 2017

Change of season duties have been done. The front gardens have been tidied up for the winter. Thanks to Rick & Elaine Stevenson for changing the batteries in the smoke/fire protectors. Also thanks to Doug Whaley for taking on the responsibility of snow removal for the upcoming winter.

At this time, we have exhausted our efforts to find a company who will install a handicap basement access. There may be some methods, but they would be extremely expensive and require some major renovations.

If you notice something that needs to be attended to, please let me know.

Laurie Hylton, Property



Christmas Family

Thank you for your generous donations to the Children's Aid Society Christmas Family with two parents and five children, two girls aged 8 years and 17 months and three boys aged 11, 9 and 3 years.

Thanks to John and Linda Upcott for buying the items on the Christmas list and to Lorie Lyons who purchased \$300 in gift cards for groceries at Costco.

Helen Moore

Caring Committee Report , December 2017

Sharon van Abbema, our chair, has moved to the east coast ,therefore this will be a short report.

The caring committee wishes everyone, especially our dear folks at Erie Glen Nursing Home, namely Marion Thompson, Walter Sinclair and Tina Bell, and all others in the congregation, a Very Happy Holiday Season.

It was good to see a healthy Jim Reid at church putting money in the birthday box and also to know that June Blacker is recuperating from surgery. A special holiday hello to Don and Sylvia Dotzert at home.

We certainly will miss Sharon and her husband John, even though they were only here for 3 years. In that short time, between the two of them they had served on the Board as Vice President, RE Trustee, on committees: the Interim Minister Task Force and the Caring Committee, and as the Newsletter editor. Many of us enjoyed lovely dinners at their home. And to top it off, they gave us an excuse for cake at Coffee Hour for two Sundays in a row!

Again, stay well over this holiday season and if you are in need please contact someone on the Caring Committee.

Submitted by Linda Upcott



Christmas Memories from the Past

Many years ago, Christmas concerts at Olinda were held in the evening. First there would be Sunday school and Church in the morning. Then Mom, Dad and children would return in the evening for the concert.

There was always a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. The tree was decorated with well used Christmas balls and home-made decorations. The tree was cut and brought into the church by one or two of the church fathers.



In front of the inside of the church, a huge blue curtain was hung across a wire line. I do not know if the hooks for the curtains are still in the walls by the hymn board and clavinova. Maybe they

are? The railings around the pulpit were taken down to open up the area for a stage. The children practised weeks in advance. This was a time of great anticipation, not only to perform but to welcome Santa Claus (who was always one of the fathers).

The children did not receive gifts but happily anticipated the paper bag filled with a mixture of candy, nuts, an orange or apple and of course a candy cane they would receive from Santa Claus. They were so happy and curious as to who was in the Santa suit. There were the standard singing of Christmas Carols and recitations.

Afterward, Mom, Dad and children went home with a smile on their faces and a warm loving feeling in their hearts. Everyone took the time to enjoy the warmth and the love that radiated from a simple Christmas concert in our beautiful little Church at the Crossroads.

These memories are from the past, when we took time to love and enjoy Christmas in its simplicity.

From the heart of Carabel Ringrose

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Linda Upcott

Nominating Committee Report December 2017

We have a couple of positions on the Board not filled yet for the year 2018.

Religious Education was not filled this year and we thank Sharon van Abbema for taking on the duties of leading the children in this period. Since Rev. Fran does a Story for All Ages, the children are only away from the service for 20-25 minutes. The following has been Sharon's approach & thoughts:

By Sharon. 'Being at the children's level, emotionally. Using short stories they can understand as well as encourage discussion after and/or crafts. It is important that children are not bored. Important that they are engaged and feel special. Important that families can enjoy the service and know their children are happy to come out Sunday morning with them. R.E. for this church in the UU sense would need older children as well as more time. Children need to be listened to by people who care. They need to feel important and wanted.'

Rose LeClair has been assisting Sharon lately and will continue assisting the leader. What we are hoping to do so that every Sunday one person does not miss church to do R.E.; we would like a Trustee who organizes a schedule with 2-3 other assistant persons. There are times that an additional story is not necessary and Rev. Fran's story can be the basis for discussion. The basement has been prepared to accommodate R.E. and it especially gives more area for little ones to move about.

It is necessary to be flexible as it is very unpredictable if there will be children and their ages. At this time in the life of our church, we will continue along Sharon's path and adjust things to needs in the future. Also, once our settled minister arrives there may be other adjustments to the program.

If you would like to be the Trustee of R.E., attend the Board meetings and do one Sunday a month (providing we are successful in having other volunteers), please let us know.

If you would like to help the R.E. Trustee in giving your time one Sunday a month, please let us know.

Finance Trustee

We thank Elaine Stevenson for taking on this position during this current year. The Finance Trustee has a committee that includes the Treasurer.

If you have some accounting/financial background and would enjoy working in this area; please come forward. Also, if you would like to review the details of the 'job description' please ask us. This may be the position for you and how you can help out our church in 2018.

There is no obligation to 5 years, we do one year at a time.

In any of the above cases, your help will be greatly appreciated by your church members.

Respectfully, Your Nominating Committee

Cathy Dewhurst, Sue Markham & Carol Hylton

Ministerial Search Committee Update

As mentioned earlier, your Search Committee has been very busy. Bobbye and Stuart have been compiling all the information collected for the Congregational Record. The final touches are being added as this newsletter goes to post. Thank you to all the people who have been contacted for details that we needed help with.

The second document that the committee has been working on is the Letter of Call and Ministry Agreement. This is essentially the contract between the Minister, the Board, and the Congregation. As many of you are aware, a contract is very detailed and this one is no different. This author is amazed at the amount of information that is required, and a big thank you to Fran and Helen for their input.

These two documents are only some of the many sections of our website that will be made available by the end of the month, to interested candidates. Bobbye has received many pictures and will be including some of them on the website when she completes the links required.

The committee will start again in January, when the next part of the process begins, reviewing, interviewing and screening the applicants.

Since there will not be an update in December, we wish everyone a Very Happy Holiday.

Cathy Dewhurst, Search Committee Communications

Social Responsibility Committee Report

We enjoyed the film *Dolores* at the Windsor International Film Festival, as well as dinner at La Carita afterwards. This documentary was both enlightening and inspiring, showing how much difference one woman can make. Dolores Huerta was instrumental in getting union recognition for migrant farm workers in California. We had all heard of Caesar Chavez, but now we also know about Dolores!

Ray Stone has a line on another documentary on the prison system. Stay tuned!

And of course, we are already thinking about the International Dinner next Spring!

Bobbye Baylis,
Secretary of
the SRC



[This Photo](#) by

Wisdom from a Child in the Present

"Hi Sharon! I'm happy to see you.

"Now I am 7. I can hardly wait 'til Santa comes.

"Actually, it is a very short time before that happens. AND, actually, I have a secret. I will whisper:

** I don't really believe in Santa. Seems to me it is kind of make believe magical.*

*

"I do like the magic of it though. So, I have decided I will 'create' my own magic and be Santa to other people. I will do special things for them..even give them a little surprise. I saved my money. I can be my own Santa..and that will bring back the magic to me.

"I feel better about Christmas already. Thank goodness.

Now...what do you think of that idea, Sharon? "

I told my friend Katie she must be brilliant..as that was an original idea for a 7 year old and she thought it up herself. Now, I am wondering what good ideas I can think of this Christmas season that will bring back the magic of times long ago.

From Katie sharing with Sharon van Abbema

