

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
 2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0
 Toni Janik & Bobbye Baylis, Editors



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

Sunday Services December, 2018

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Dec. 2	Rev. Rod Emilio Solano-Quesnel	<i>Adventure</i> Expectation is one way to peek into the future... and to glimpse into our present	Lorie Lyons
Dec. 9	Rev. Rod Emilio Solano-Quesnel	<i>Glimpse</i> Finding the occasional glimpse of the future that can be is another way to be prophetic	Toni Janik
Dec. 16	Greg Wiens	<i>The Bridge, the Leamington Youth Resource Centre: from Concept to Reality</i>	Baylis-Stone Trio
Dec. 23	Rev. Rod Emilio Solano-Quesnel	<i>In The Flesh</i> Embodying the spirit of hope involves looking for it in unexpected places	Lorie Lyons
Dec. 24	Rev. Rod Emilio Solano-Quesnel	<i>The Most Beautiful Baby in the World</i> A 5 PM Christmas Eve service to celebrate the power that a child can have	The Baylis Gang
Dec. 30	Helen Moore	<i>Open Mic: Reflecting on 2018, Anticipating 2019. The service will consist of short readings, poems, or thoughts, related to the end of one year and the beginning of the next year, which those present bring to the service.</i>	Bobbye & Bill Baylis
Jan. 6	Rev. Rod Emilio Solano-Quesnel	<i>Epiphany</i>	Lorie Lyons

Congregational Budget Meeting

Vote on the 2019 Budget
 And 2018 Nominating Committee
 December 2, 2018
 Immediately after the Service
 (with time to grab a cup of tea)

Clergy Connection

Stories of the Spirit

As another holiday season is upon us, I am finding that a spirit of finding diverse stories of hope is growing. One of the ways that Sarah and I are getting into the spirit was in joining the South Point Ukulele Group (SPUG) and singing at a caroling gig with them at Chartwell seniors' residence. I have also been exploring the diverse stories that different traditions have to offer.

Over the past month I have needed to be away a number of times for several professional development and denominational events – these are times to enrich the ministry I can offer at Olinda, and to connect with the wider Unitarian Universalist and interfaith communities. I'm also pleased to say that I'll be able to stay around with more stability in the coming weeks!

One of the highlights of these journeys was the **Parliament of the World's Religions**, in Toronto. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, there is a lot to unpack from this opportunity to connect and deepen relationships with members of several faith groups. There were many options to expand spiritual learning, including a focus on Indigenous Awareness. I will be sharing more about these fascinating connections, and their stories, throughout the year.

Another opportunity to connect was at the Canadian Unitarian Council's **Central Regional Gathering** in Guelph, which included a workshop on exploring our personal theology, as well as a chance for me to connect with other congregants in southwestern Ontario that I represent at the **CUC Board**.

I was also able to attend a seminar on **Church and Charity Law**, sponsored by Carters Law firm. This is very valuable reference for me and other church leaders for carrying on our work responsibly. I saw Rev. Linda Thomson there, from the CUC staff, and she will be leading our **Startup Workshop** on **Saturday November 24 at 9:30**.

My last bit of travel was a collegial gathering of the **UU Ministers of Southern Ontario**, in Mississauga, where I've found helpful support from colleagues, which included sharing ideas on how to better serve you in our spiritual community.

Closer to home, I had the opportunity to attend an **Interfaith Hospice** event in Windsor, where we explored different spiritual approaches in dealing with loneliness. This was also a good place to have a better sense of the faith communities around Essex county.

Now that I'm in town more consistently, I am continuing to offer **drop-in Café Hours** on **Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (1-5pm)** at the Lakeside Café in Leamington. You can also contact me by e-mail or by phone. You can find this information in our new directory.

Warm regards,
--Rod

From The Board

Happy Holidays to one and all and may all your dreams come true, and I really mean it but as most of you know I am not a big fan of Christmas. I am always concerned about the people who are without family or friends at this time of year, and we all need to do what we can to let people know that someone is thinking and cares about them. Maybe it is just a kind word to someone or a good deed or it could be a donation to a charity that you know is there to help. If we all do a little it would mean a lot.

The Christmas season started way too early again this year, I noticed advertising and Christmas decorations in the stores even before the Halloween stuff was gone. I worked in retail for a part of my life so I know how important the December buying season is and you cannot blame the stores as most sales come at this time of year for a lot of them. If there was just some way to hold off the hype until December and a short break before the next round, maybe we would be less stressed and happier.

If all goes well on Jan. 1st the church will be incorporated and we can move on. Peter LeClair and Helen Moore deserve a great deal of credit and thanks for all their work. They made sure all was in order and contacted the people needed to make it happen. Thank-you again , it is a job well done.

The three families from the Children's Aid that we are supporting for Christmas still could use your donations. Helen keeps an account open all year so you can support the families even after the gifts and food vouchers are bought.

As you will see in the newsletter, the tree decorating service is at 5p.m. on Dec.7th and the pot luck on Dec. 9th; please come and bring a friend.

This is the time of year when we need to make sure that we recognize all our members and friends with a card, phone call or a visit. Our Caring Committee does a wonderful job with this but we all need to do our part and remember that we are all part of the Caring Committee.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS-

John Upcott
President

Important Dates

Dec. 2 Noon
Congregational Meeting on Budget

Dec. 7 5 pm
Christmas Tree Trimming

Dec. 9 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal

Dec. 9 Noon
Turkey Potluck

Dec. 13 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Dec. 16 9:30 am
Sunday Services Meeting

Dec. 16 Noon
Social Resp. Comm. Meeting

Dec. 23 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal

Dec. 24 5 pm
Christmas Eve Service

Jan. 1
January Newsletter Reports due

Small Ministry Meet-Up & Book-Talk



Small Ministry Meet-up

- UUCO Monthly Book-Talk
- Reflection Topic Jar
- Lay Led Service Creation
- For Arts Sake
- A Social Action Activity
- And More.

Meets before church the last Sunday of the Month @ 9:00 a.m. at UU Olinda
No Meeting Dec., Jul. & Aug.

Reminder: No Small Ministry Meet-up in December.
Next meeting at 9 am on Sunday, January 27, 2018



Caring Committee Report

Remember this December, that love weighs more than gold.

Happy holidays to all the congregants and friends, especially those who are unable to attend church services.

Leona and I had an exciting card game the other day with Marion Thompson, while Walter Sinclair observed at Erie Glen. We were unable to visit with Tina Bell, due to Sun Parlour being under quarantine, although Tina is doing well. A happy belated birthday to Jim Reid, wishing many more. A cheery hello to Emil and Eunice Buhne and happy to hear Emil is recovering well as are Don and Sylvia Dorzert.

Wishing all a season of gladness, a season of cheer, and to top it all off a wonderful year.

Submitted by Linda Upcott

A Note from the Treasurer

If you wish to make a donation to be counted for a 2018 income tax receipt please make the donation prior to or on December 30 since contributions beyond that date cannot be receipted for 2018.

Thanks for returning pledge cards.
Helen Moore

A Note from the Membership Committee

The new church Directories are available. Feel free to pick one up; if we run out, we can print more! If you cannot come by the church, email bbaylis@xplornet.com and request to have one emailed to you.

The new Telephone Tree is nearing completion and should be available by the first Sunday in December.

A special thank-you to John & Linda Upcott and the Hyltons for holding the Poor Boy Luncheon on Nov. 4th that was well attended and turned out to be another successful fundraiser for the church!

Bobbye Baylis,
Secretary, Membership Committee

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

Financial Report

The 2019 Budget has been developed with great input from our Treasurer Helen Moore and suggestions of the Finance Committee. It was presented and posted at the last board meeting on November 8. We are greatly thankful that all committees and donors helped to lessen the estimated large deficit projected last year. I hope that all will continue to generously support us this month so that the deficit will be as small as possible. Unfortunately, we still have Rev. Rod's installation ceremony next year as well as incorporation to finish and we estimate a small deficit for 2019. I would love to see you prove me wrong and keep us in the black!

Copies of the budget are ready for your review and I would gladly answer any questions you wish to ask. December 2, 2018 will be the congregational meeting to vote on the proposed budget. I hope all will be interested in attending.

Special thanks to all of you who have already submitted your pledge of support for 2019. 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!

We will be continuing the midweek luncheons at the church in the New Year. Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson are hosting soup luncheons on January 16 and February 20, 2019. Plan to come early for games and conversation to send the winter blues packing!

Blessings
Elaine Stevenson

Update From Property

For the convenience of anyone setting up for a food event to be served on the main floor, a couple of fold up tables have been purchased. They are 2'x4' each and are height adjustable up to counter height for buffet style and can be placed along the south wall in the refreshment room where the electric outlets were installed this year. We managed to purchase the tables at a sale price which was another plus.

Also, Doug Whaley will be doing the church snow removal this winter as he did last year. We appreciate very much Doug taking on this chore. Thank you Doug.

Laurie Hylton



Soup Luncheon

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

11 am —1:30 pm; Games at 10 am

**Menu: Soups: French Onion, Cream of Potato,
Beef Barley and Italian Wedding,
buns, and dessert**

Suggested donation: \$15

Hosted by Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson

Please sign up to attend!

Christmas Families

This Christmas we are sponsoring three Children's Aid Society families. One of our fearless and determined volunteer shoppers, Linda Upcott, with her husband John Upcott, read the wish list from a mother, of two children aged two years and 6 months, with very limited income, who has very limited positive family support but engages in services and is cooperative. She requested pots and pans. Linda saw a flyer advertising a set of pots and pans regularly priced \$ 361 on sale for \$129. Linda looked further and found a similar set of pots and pans for \$89 which cost \$101 including tax. Can you imagine the joy that mother will experience as she opens her Christmas gifts? Elaine Stevenson did some scouting and referred Linda and John for some other good bargains. Thanks Linda and John as well as Elaine. Our shoppers spend the money very wisely.

I've just called the volunteer driver who will pick up the Christmas gifts, when they are purchased and packed, to set up a time with him. He wanted me to mention how much CAS appreciates the great generosity of this congregation to the families.

As John Upcott announced in the November 18th service, "It is never too late to give."

Thank you for your contributions.

Helen Moore, Treasurer

Turkey Pot Luck Luncheon

Come and bring a friend to our
UU Church of Olinda Turkey Pot Luck
following the service on December 9th.



Let Every Day Be Christmas

By Norman W. Brooks

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do yourself.