

# 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 , 2019

| Date    | Speaker                      | Title   | Musician(s)              |
|---------|------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Dec. 1  | Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel      | <i>Counting Thoughts</i> (RE Downstairs) - The adage that it's the thought that counts opens up the question on how exactly thoughts are valuable... and what do they count for?  | Baylis-Stone Trio        |
| Dec . 8 | Dave Freeman                 | <i>The Story of the Windsor Residence for Young Men</i> - Since 2012, Windsor Residence for Young Men (WRYM) has assisted young men 16-24 years of age to leave homelessness behind and build new lives. WRYM provides a supportive functional family atmosphere, delivers individual counselling, and teaches basic life skills. WRYM supports active citizenship, not dependence. | Toni Janik               |
| Dec. 15 | Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel      | <i>Lather, Rinse, ...</i> (RE Downstairs) - Some instructions might seem so obvious that they seem unnecessary. And yet, sometimes it makes sense to take another look at them... just to be sure we understand what they're all about.   | Lorie Lyons              |
| Dec. 22 | Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel      | <i>...Repeat</i> (Intergenerational) - The cycles of the year remind us of the value of doing some things more than once. And as we do so, their meaning can grow - like the slowly-lengthening days.   | Toni Janik               |
| Dec. 24 | Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel      | <i>Christmas Eve</i> (Evening Service) - A celebration of the Christmas story with readings and singing of our favorite carols.   | Karen Miller & Ray Stone |
| Dec. 29 | Congregational contributions | <i>Year Endings &amp; Beginnings.</i> Our annual year-end service. Please bring your readings, poems and thoughts. Helen Moore is service leader.   | Lorie Lyons              |
| Jan. 5  | Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel      | <i>Surprise</i> (Intergenerational) - The unexpected has a way of inviting new visions. Especially when we expect the unexpected.   | Baylis-Stone Trio        |

### Congregational Budget Meeting

Vote on the 2020 Budget  
 December 8, 2019  
 Immediately after the Service  
 (with time to grab a cup of tea)

## Clergy Connection

November gave us an opportunity to remember our dead, honour our veterans, and share valuable community time at our lasagna lunch together. We have also had important discussions about what our church means to us and the different ways we support it, including volunteer work, leadership, and financial contributions. We will see some of the results from these conversations, and this work, at our Congregational Budget meeting on Dec. 8.

December invites us to look at our larger community. This includes some outreach that has become tradition at our church, such as the sponsorship of a Christmas family, by which we help make it easier for the spirit of celebration to grow among those around us. Many of us also attend the annual Soup Fundraiser for **The Bridge** on **Nov. 27**, which supports local youth, especially those facing homelessness.

Another initiative in this regard is the new **Out if the Cold** Monday dinner hosted weekly by our faith neighbours, Leamington United Church. I had the pleasure to attend one of these on November 4, where I helped in serving food and was invited to offer grace before the meal. This initiative is backed by Leamington Ministerial and mayor Hilda Macdonald, who was also in attendance. The joint Ministerial group is making an appeal to area churches to support this initiative, either with volunteer power, financial contributions, or both. Sponsoring an entire meal for about 70 guests would only take \$200, and a team of volunteers would ideally comprise 5-6 volunteers. In October, the Board passed a motion to support this initiative in principle, and the Social Responsibility Committee is exploring the concrete ways in which we may be part of this effort.

I was glad to attend the gathering of the UU Ministers of Southern Ontario (UUMOSO) in Mississauga from November 18-20, where I always find support and fresh insight from my colleagues in the region. While there, I ran into the newly ordained **Rev. Pat Trudeau**, whose ordination I attended on Oct. 27. Hers was Neighbourhood UU Congregation's third ordination – I was their second.

I look forward to beginning the Christmas season with you at our Tree Decorating on November 30, and our Holiday Potluck on December 1, marking the beginning of the advent season.

Warm regards,  
--Rod

## From The Board

I am writing this on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> which seems early to be talking about Christmas but due to circumstances that is what it is. The board has been busy discussing how to cope with all the regulations that Revenue Canada and incorporation have given us but Helen has been hard at work and has a line on a book keeper who seems to be well qualified. Helen, along with Peter LeClair, has done an amazing job with incorporation and these new regulations and has made my job so much easier. It is hard to imagine how the board and president could have lasted without them.

Thank-you to all who attended and all who helped in any way with the lasagna lunch on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. There was good fellowship and good food and I believe, even with the winter weather, all had a good time.

Please do not forget the Christmas families and give a donation to Helen so they will have a good Christmas. Christmas is for young families and we have three to buy for. Please read Rev. Rod's report in the newsletter and if you could help in any way with the Out Of The Cold project please let the board know.

Please consider taking a position on the Board, if not this year then soon. It is so important to have new people with new ideas to learn the ins and outs of how the church works. I am speaking for myself and have had a wonderful time serving this church as President. Steve Brennan has been attending the board meetings as part of the Committee on Shared Ministry and has added valuable information for the Board.

I want to wish all in the congregation a very happy Christmas and a very healthy New Year. May you celebrate with family or, if that is not possible, celebrate with friends, neighbours or someone who cares about you. You all know how I feel about the hype around the holidays so just remember that love is the best thing about them.

John Upcott

President

## Important Dates

**Nov. 30 5 pm**  
Tree Trimming & Carols

**Dec. 1 Noon**  
Holiday Potluck

**Dec. 4 10 am**  
Membership Committee Meeting

**Dec. 8 Noon**  
Congregational Meeting on Budget

**Dec. 12 7 pm**  
Board of Trustees Meeting

**Dec. 15 Noon**  
Sunday Services Meeting

**Dec. 22 9:30 am**  
Choir Rehearsal

**Dec. 22 Noon**  
Social Responsibility Meeting

**Dec. 31**  
January Newsletter Reports Due

## Membership Committee Report

A big thank you to John and Linda Upcott for hosting the Lasagna Luncheon on November 13th. A most delicious meal was enjoyed by 19 people and \$490.69 was raised for the church. What a lovely day it was for socializing and catching up with one another as well as enjoying some great board games.

Remember to mark your calendars for the Soup Luncheons, hosted by Toni and Elaine, coming up on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup>. Sounds like the perfect way to warm up during the winter months.

The new updated Telephone Tree list has been distributed and the new Directory will be ready soon. Bobbye has been quite busy working on other projects, including this Newsletter, with her computer skills and records on her computer. I am very grateful to receive her help with these jobs whenever she has the opportunity.

There are times during the church year when I think about the many people who have left us over the years by their passing or becoming ill making it difficult for them to attend church. People who have contributed so much to this church and who helped to make this place feel like a safe and welcoming home. If not for their generosity, dedication and perseverance we would not be here today. I hope the next generation will be able to say the same about us. So to those of you who are no longer able to attend church, I want to say on behalf of our membership, thank you so very much and you are truly missed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorie Lyons (*Trustee*)

## Update on Your Church Property

I am sorry to report that a couple weeks ago, there was a substantial leak in the roof. It appeared first in the closet where the Archives are kept and later that day had managed to find a way through the ceiling in the refreshments room. We have had a roofer attend the immediate problem and we learned the shingles are very old and need replacing. I am waiting for a quote to have new shingles installed and that will be done next spring. The section where the solar panels are was shingled prior to the panels being installed and is not part of the quote. You will hear more about this in the near future.

We have been fortunate to have had Doug Whaley take care of our snow removal for a couple of years and we thank Doug. Now it is necessary to find someone else. We have now managed to contract someone to take care of our snow removal for this coming winter. He has already had to remove snow, thanks to the early snow fall on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

I also thank Lorie Lyons for all her work in bringing a selection of chairs to put in the place of the back pew bench. There was a choice made and Lorie has ordered them.

## **Christmas Family**

The Board of Directors has approved our proceeding with sponsoring one or more Children's Aid families for Christmas gifts. We requested county families who have the greatest need. We have been assigned three young families.

If you wish to make a contribution to purchase Christmas gifts for a needy family, please mark your envelope for Christmas Family or CAS. If you wish to contribute by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda.

You will be credited for the donation in your annual income tax receipt from the church.

Thank you.

Helen Moore  
Treasurer

## **Donation**

If you wish to make a donation to the church prior to the end of the year, please mail it before December 31.

There is still time to donate to Christmas Families for which you will receive a charitable receipt.

Make cheques to Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda.

Thanks for you generosity.

Helen Moore

## Financial Trustee Report

The Budget, available today (Nov. 24), is ready for your approval at the Congregational Meeting on the Budget after church on Sunday, Dec. 8. Various committees and trustees have input into this budget, but it mostly is based on past expenses and donations, recorded by our Treasurer, Helen Moore. Thank you, Helen, for your dedication to this work.

This Budget has been approved by the Finance Committee and by the Board of Trustees and represents all of our best estimates. Please come to the meeting (So we can have a Quorum!) and join in the discussion of this important aspect of church life.

Note that we are projecting essentially the same sized deficit as we did last year, less than \$7000. Now we have whittled the 2019 deficit down to a probable \$350 by careful spending and generous donations. Hopefully we can continue in our generosity and frugality!

Bobbye Baylis, Finance Trustee

## Holiday Potluck

Come and bring a friend to our  
UU Church of Olinda Holiday Potluck  
following the service on December 1st.



## **Caring Committee Report**

December- a month of lights, snow and feasts; time to make amends and tie loose ends, finish off what you started and hope your wishes come true.

It was a pleasure to see everyone made it safely to the lasagna luncheon, which generated \$490.69, especially after the snow storm we had, unexpected for this time of the year. Great time was had by all.

The caring committee is expecting to spread some Christmas Cheer to those who are unable to attend church. The congregation welcomes back John and Pat Hayes to the church, they seem to have adjusted well in their new home. Nancy Burgess has recovered well along with Evelyn Dresser. Keep up the good work you two! A Christmas hello to Emil and Eunice Buhne, Don and Sylvia Dotzert and Evelyn Fisher. May everyday in December fill your days with hope, love, sunshine, and energy.

December, being the last month of the year, cannot help but make us think of what is to come. Kindness is like snow; it beautifies everything it covers.

Wishing All A Merry Christmas

Submitted by Linda Upcott

### **Andrew Connelly**

Long time member Andy Connelly died on October 6. His wife Maggie died in 2015. Some of us remember Maggie and Andy sitting in the short pews on the right side of the church. For a period of time they brought their grandson Michael to church. They were an important part of our congregation and church family. Maggie had a wonderful sense of humour and kept many of us laughing, especially at our annual auctions. They gardened at the Memorial Garden. Andy was a good friend of Don Dotzert.

#### **Caring Committee Members**

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott