

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 January, 2020

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
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
Jan. 12	Carrie Ann Peters	<i>Teachings from Our Relations</i> - The Cultural Development Coordinator with the Caldwell First Nation will be sharing with us a story of Creation, as well as the 7 Grandfather Teachings.	Toni Janik
Jan. 19	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>A Cluster of Observations</i> (RE Downstairs) - Sometimes a lot comes together all at once, and the ways we stay aware can get complicated.	Lorie Lyons
Jan. 26	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>A Toast</i> (RE Downstairs) - A few words can frame a look at the past - or set the tone for the future.	Baylis/Stone Trio
Feb. 2	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>In Store</i> - The mid-winter time leaves some questions up in the air, and the outlook can be intriguing.	Toni Janik



Soup Luncheon

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

11 am —1:00 pm; Games at 10 am

Menu: Soups (French Onion, Cream of Potato,
Four Cheese Tortellini and Vegan Chili), buns and dessert

Suggested donation: \$15

Hosted by Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson

Please sign up to attend!

Clergy Connection

During December, we experienced the sense of expectation that comes with the Advent season. We concluded the season with our Christmas Eve service, with the musical talents of Karen Miller, and Ray Stone, as well as a surprise performance by Bradley. Helen Moore closed the year by leading the congregation in sharing favourite readings and poetry.

Well, a new year is upon us, along with the feeling of a new decade, and it's time to explore what all the Advent expectation might be about.

Our Holiday Potluck on December 1 is a taste of the kind of fellowship that we may expect through the many community meals we have scheduled this year, beginning with our **Soup Fundraiser** on **January 22** starting at **11 am (games at 10.)**

Our traditional outreach in sponsoring Christmas families gives way to the larger conversation around families in need, affordable housing, and the risk of homelessness in our area. Dave Freeman, our speaker on Dec. 8, offered us a wider perspective and insight on one way that the Windsor community can address some of these issues. Closer to our church, **The Bridge**, which supports local youth, especially those facing homelessness, opened their new temporary housing facility on **Dec. 6**, which I was able to attend.

While there, I ran into a few of the local clergy leading our fellow neighbours of faith, including Rev. George Bozanich from Leamington United Church, which has begun hosting a free community meal every Monday. Our very own Bradley, who offered a few hours of community service at our aUuction last spring, has fulfilled his commitment by volunteering there on Dec. 23, and he proved to be a model of dedication and diligence, working with the team in hosting a well-served holiday meal. In the coming weeks, we'll have other opportunities to make similar contributions to initiatives such as these.

Another connection to look forward to is meeting Carrie Ann Peters, the Cultural Development Coordinator with the **Caldwell First Nation**, who I met in December and is enthusiastic about speaking at our church on Jan. 12. This is an opportunity to hear more of the stories that reflect the experiences of indigenous people where we live.

And, as we get ready to welcome a new Board in February, we continue to look for a new Treasurer, which is an important responsibility in looking after our church's financial wellbeing. This responsibility will be shared with a hired professional Bookkeeper, who would look after some of the more technical aspects of financial oversight. I encourage you to consider how you might contribute as Treasurer.

We will continue to look at these, and other surprises, at our Epiphany-themed service on Jan. 5.

Warm Regards,
--Rod

From The Board

The start of a brand new calendar year and according to some the start of a brand new decade. Some think the decade starts in 2020 some think it starts in 2021, and it really does not matter because a new year begins and the church starts down a new path towards the future. The board made the decision to farm out the job of bookkeeping to Erika Banwell who is an accountant familiar with charities and incorporated clients. She was able to start keeping the church's books on January 1st 2020 so we will be covered. We are still, at the time of this writing, in need of someone to take over, with Helen's help, the duties of treasurer which will be defined before Helen leaves office on Feb. 23rd 2020. If you are interested please let the nominating committee or a member of the board know.

The Lay Chaplain Committee has met and filled out the paper work for Sue's appointment as our Lay Chaplain and sent it to the C.U.C., we now need to form a contract, have it signed and send it in also. I take the blame for this taking so long as I was under the impression that it had already been done and I did not follow up.

Please keep in mind the date of February 23rd when we will have the Olinda General Meeting. This year more than ever we need a good number of members to vote at this meeting as it will be important to the church.

I hope all had a wonderful holiday and will come back with renewed hope and energy to make this church a place where people want to come and bring their families. Do not forget to sign up for the fundraising soup lunches in January and February put on by Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson. They are fun to attend with plenty of good food and conversation and help to support our church with a donation. Details of the lunches can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

This is my last term and I will be leaving the office of President in February but I know I will be leaving it in good hands. Thanks for all of your support and I will see you in church.

John Upcott

President

Important Dates

Jan. 9 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Jan. 12 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal

Jan. 12
Non-financial Annual Reports Due

Jan. 19 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Jan. 22 11 am
Soup Luncheon Fundraiser
Games at 10 am

Jan. 26 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal

Jan. 26 Noon
Social Responsibility Meeting

Jan. 26
Financial Reports Due

Jan. 28
February Newsletter Reports Due

Financial Report

Many thanks to all who attended the Congregational Meeting on the Budget on Dec. 8. It is always a comfort going into the New Year with a properly approved budget!

Bobbie Baylis
Finance Trustee

Social Responsibility Committee Report

As part of the development of an Honour Statement for our church, we want to learn more about the traditional culture that such a statement celebrates. Our speaker on January 12 will offer some insights, and the Caldwell National will be the beneficiary of donations raised at the annual International Dinner, on March 8. That service will be another opportunity to learn more about this rich heritage.

Rev. Rod and Bradley (See picture on the left) helped serve at a holiday Monday Meal, hosted weekly by the Leamington United Church. We at Olinda want to help make these meals possible. It costs about \$200 to fund a meal, and such a contribution will be very welcome in January or February. Committee members are encouraged to approach Rev. Rod about volunteering to serve individually.

Submitted by Bobbie Baylis
Secretary, SRC



Caring Committee Report

Let there be light on this New Year. Let there be a new cheer in the air and in your hearts. WELCOME 2020!

The committee had a busy month visiting all our congregants unable to attend church. Ten cookie boxes, accompanied with red and white carnations were delivered, along with a short visit from us and Rev. Rod and Sarah. Despite the flu outbreak in two of the facilities, packages were delivered. Wishing all a speedy recovery.

June Blacker had a welcoming visit with Don and Sylvia Dotzert and Ray and Laurie Stone with Emil and Eunice Buhne, all are doing as well as can be expected. Evelyn Fisher was well enough to attend the Christmas Eve service, thanks to the Stone family.

Visited Buster and Carabel Ringrose at their temporary residence, Southgate Retirement Home in Kingsville; they are adjusting very well.

May this New Year be a step forward, in leading you to new adventures, new roads to explore and new success to reach.

Happy New Year All!

Submitted by Linda Upcott

Christmas Families

Thank you for your generosity in contributing to a happy Christmas for three families, a single mom with one child, another single mom with three children and a couple with one child.

Your generosity enabled John and Linda Upcott to purchase items on the wish list which included clothes and other necessities with \$200 in grocery gift cards to each family.

Thank you.

Helen Moore

Treasurer

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

Property Report

Finally, and long overdue, I had the kitchen sink tap replaced. At times I thought we had the problem corrected, to learn I didn't. Sorry the people working at the sink had to put up with such an inconvenience. Also, the light fixture over the bulletin board in the refreshments room needed to be replaced, so that has been completed. I think that is it for this year.

I wish all a Happy New Year.

Laurie Hylton, Property Trustee

Annual Report Deadlines

Many of you have reports to submit for the Annual Report, which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on Feb. 23. Our tradition is that the report be available two weeks before the meeting. This is a large document and takes time to assemble and print, so please try to get your reports to the Secretary and Printing Assistant by the following dates:

Jan. 12

Non-financial Annual Reports due to Ray Stone and Bobbye Baylis

Jan. 26

Financial Reports due to Ray Stone and Bobbye Baylis.

Feb. 9

Annual Reports available for Congregation

Feb. 23

Annual Meeting

Nominating Committee Report

At the December 12th Board Meeting, a motion was made to hire a bookkeeper so the responsibilities of the Treasurer are much reduced. The new duties of the treasurer are mostly counting and depositing money, paying bills by cheque though many are now paid by debit, requesting a bank statement at beginning of each month, submitting all info to bookkeeper in Essex, picking up a statement for board meeting a few days later and reporting to the Board. If you wish you can choose someone to assist you and share the Sunday duties in particular.

If you are interested and would like more detail, please see Helen Moore. Please let us know of your interest, it will be much appreciated and we thank you for giving this your consideration.

Carol Hylton, Cathy Dewhurst, Jane Innerd.

Membership Committee Report

Happy New Year to all! After a great start to our fall church season, we have a wonderful soup luncheon to look forward to on January 22nd. Thanks to Toni and Elaine for their hosting and fine culinary skills, several members and friends of the church have another opportunity to socialize and help support our church at the same time. Guests are welcome too so if you know someone who might enjoy attending this form of fellowship along with a hearty bowl of soup, please bring them along. The suggested donation of a \$15.00 donation is worthwhile.

The December 2019 edition of the Church Directory is now ready to be picked up at the church. You will find copies on the hall table as you enter. If you'd like your directory mailed, please let me know by email or phone. A great deal of gratitude is owed to Bobbye for doing most of the work on this task. The updated November Telephone Tree list is also on the hall table for you to take home.

At our December 4th membership meeting we held a discussion on the value of including a Memorial List in the Annual Report. The Legacy List was initiated in October 2017 as a way to remember people in the church who were no longer active for a year or more. Since that time names of inactive people have been transferred from the Membership List to the Legacy List after the process is carried out of sending an individual a Letter of Inquiry. This was done in order to keep our actual membership number accurate. The purpose of creating a Memorial List would be to remember and honour dear friends and beloved members of the church who have passed away. It will become an internal document maintained by the Membership Committee which we hope to start in the New Year. This will mean members of the committee will be reviewing some records in the archives and asking current church members for year of death of a family member who belonged to the church. It is possible we might not be able to determine year of death but their names are what really matter anyway. This may be an ongoing project for awhile but in time it will be nice to have this record as a way to cherish our ancestors and help keep their memories alive. In their own way they all contributed to help make this church what it is today.

Best wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year,

Lorie Lyons
Trustee



Happy New Year 2020