

Cultivating
Religious Freedom, Diversity,
Inquiry, and Community



The Weekly Expression

Newsletter December 4, 2009

Upcoming Services:

December 6: "Who is Coming?"

Dr. Brent Smith

December 13: "How is it Coming?"

Dr. Brent Smith

**December 20: CHRISTMAS CAROL
CANTATA**

**December 24: 6 pm CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING
SERVICE**

December 27: "For the Time Being" Dr. Brent A. Smith

New Member Sunday

We will be recognizing new members during the worship service on December 6th, followed by a reception in foyer. If you joined All Souls (or would like to) during 2009 please contact Barb Lafler (wblafler@yahoo.com or 616-902-3288) or stop by the Welcome Table. To our longer standing members, please join us on this day in welcoming our new members.

Please also visit the website at www.allsoulscommunity.org and specifically the new calendar at <http://www.allsoulscommunity.org/Calendar/Calendar.htm> for this weekend's as well as important upcoming events. We also have a page on Face Book. Check it out!

**Notice of Semi-Annual
Congregational Meeting of
All Souls Community Church
Sunday, December 6th, 2009 –
12:30 PM**

A Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting of All Souls Community Church of West Michigan will be held following our regular services at 2727 Michigan St., Grand Rapids, MI on Sunday, December 6th, 2009 at 12:30 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. To review and approve the proposed 2010 operating budget of the church.

2. To approve the appointment by the Board of Trustees of Daniel Stegink as Interim President of the Board of Trustees of the church until the next semi-annual meeting of the congregation.

3. To approve the appointment by the Board of Trustees of Shelli Caswell as Trustee to serve out the term to which Cathie Benoit was originally elected.

Pursuant to the Bylaws, members shall vote in person, and no member has the right to vote by proxy, unless necessitated by extenuating circumstances and approved by the Board of Trustees.

By order of the Board of Trustees

Keith M. Johnson

Music Notes

Dr. Monique Salinas-Stauffer

I would like to take a moment and invite anyone who has ever thought about joining choir to really give it a chance and try it out! Choir is a marvelous way to get involved in the church and make wonderful friends. We sing a wide variety of music from Mozart to Broadway, and everything in between. You do NOT have to audition to be in the choir--you just have to like to sing and have fun! We meet on Thursdays from 7-9 pm at Ahavas and sing about 2 -3 times a month in the Sunday service. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to any choir member or talk to Monique at 890-1164. Don't forget to come to the Christmas Cantata on Sunday December 20 at Ahavas at 11 AM!!



SITE COMMITTEE



We are reconstituting the ASCC Site Committee. In keeping with our overall responsibilities for the church, The Board of Trustees would like to evaluate our options for where we hold Sunday worship and religious education. If you are interested in serving on the Site Committee, please email Dan Stegink at dstegink13@yahoo.com or call 616-246-6674.

NEWCOMER'S BOARD--Newcomer's Support

The Newcomer's Board will be trying a new initiative to involve the greater congregation in welcoming visitors. Newcomer's board members and other volunteers will staff the Welcome Table. When a visitor approaches the table, he/she will be greeted, given an information packet and an information card to fill out IF they wish.. The table worker will then introduce the newcomer to the scheduled support person, who will then continue making the person feel comfortable, by showing around the building, taking to RE, showing the sanctuary and offering to answer any questions and greeting on following Sundays. A list of suggestions will be available for the "helper" to assist with this task.

If you can to assist with this, please contact Barb Lafler at wblafler@yahoo.com or Glenda Ring at glendaring@netzero.com. A member of the newcomer's board will continue to send a welcome e mail, note or phone call to all who complete visitor cards.

Collecting Toiletries for DeGage Ministries

This holiday season, the children in the Religious Education program will be collecting much needed toiletry supplies for those who can't afford them. The children will be putting together toiletry "dopp kits" and delivering them to DeGage for their visitors. We are looking for TRAVEL SIZE shampoos, toothpastes, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, mouthwash, etc. We are also hoping for pairs of socks. If you would like to donate these items, there will be a colorfully decorated box on the RE table for you to drop items into. Also, if you'd like to make a cash donation towards the purchase of these items (we are also hoping to get small nylon bags at a dollar store to put the items in), that would be appreciated as well.

Thank you!
Lynn Shackelford



RENT A TEEN

Looking for a little extra help? Have some leaves that need raking or need some babysitting help?

Look no further than your own 9th grade Coming of Age group. Two teens are available for two hours Saturday or Sunday afternoons starting on November 21st. This is light labor work (no furniture moving) consisting of activities such as yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dog walking, babysitting, wrapping present, Christmas decorating, and even light house work or garage cleaning.

These teens do excellent work. Ramah recently hired them for some extra help and here is what she had to say:

"Many thanks to two of our great teens, Jenna Williams and Abby Bee, who did a terrific job on my messy/ugly garage this past Saturday, transforming it, with their elbow grease, to a space that makes me smile. The holidays are upon us, so if you need a home spruce up project done, this is could not be easier or have a better outcome!"

This is a Pay What You Feel service where you decide how much to pay for the service that was performed. All money collected will go to help pay for the cost of the annual spring Boston trip.

If interested, please contact Jeff Williams at j3ffwilliam5@gmail.com or call 682-1329 to setup an appointment. Thank you from your
Coming of Age group.

Coming of Age group takes a trip to Chicago!

Heather Williams

In November, three of the four ASCC 9th Graders (Jenna, Abbey and Spencer) took the annual trip to Chicago to see the UU sights. Dave Bee and Laura Wright chaperoned the young adults – who were perfect ambassadors for All Souls. Lynne and Andy Shackelford also made the rounds with the group. The group visited the Unitarian Church in Oak Park (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright) and were given a personalized tour of the church by Reverend Taylor. After the tour the group ate lunch, shopped, and enjoyed ice cream cones in Oak Park's downtown – before heading to a tour of Wright's home and studio a few blocks away. The home was wonderful and the whole group was really impressed by Oak Park and its wonderful downtown and neighborhoods filled with beautiful homes. On Sunday, the group was able to hear the Reverend Lee Barker preach at First Unitarian in Chicago's beautiful Hyde Park neighborhood and received a nice tour of the Church and Meadville Lombard after the sermon.

The highlight of the trip was the warm welcome they received from the First Unitarian's members. They also thought the Crypt, the many symbols, and the whole church was really cool. Thanks to those of you who have supported our Coming of Age group by participating in their fund-raising efforts so that they can continue to grow through experiences like these.

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Dr. Brent A. Smith, Minister:
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Visit Us Online!
www.allsoulscommunity.org

All Souls Community Church is a church dedicated to religion, but not to a creed. It is a liberal religious community of free individuals of all ages walking together in relationship to one another, to our larger community and to the transcending mystery of the universe. Our community is based on open communication, democratic process and a belief in the capacity for goodness in all people. Our spiritual health and our growth as a church community are intimately connected with the spiritual growth and development of our children. We pledge to develop our church community with this always in mind. This church aims at celebrating and cultivating community, a sense of inquiry, moral character and insight, religious freedom, and helpfulness to humanity. That is, it aims at liberating and cultivating the human spirit.

Upcoming Events

(ALL EVENTS HELD AT AHAVAS ISRAEL AT 2727 MICHIGAN AVE. NE, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

December Calendar

Sunday, December 6

10:15 am: Adult Choir Warmup
11 am: New Member Sunday
11 am: Worship and Children's RE - Who is Coming?
Dr. Smith
12:30 pm: Congregational Meeting, Ahavas Social Hall

Tuesday, December 8

7 pm: Stewardship Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 10

7 pm: Executive BOT Meeting, Ahavas
7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas

Sunday, December 13

9:30 am: Newcomers Program Board Meeting, Ahavas
10:15 am: Adult Choir Warmup
11 am: Worship and Children's RE - How is it Coming? -
Dr. Smith
Youth Group Sledding / Tubing, Pando Winter Sports Park

Thursday, December 17

7 pm: BOT meeting, Ahavas
7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas

Saturday, December 19

Adult Choir Performance - Christmas Carol Cantata,
Covenant Village Retirement Center

Sunday, December 20

10:15 am: Adult Choir Warmup
11 am: Worship (all ages in Sanctuary) - Christmas Carol
Cantata - Dr. Smith

Youth Group Caroling, Porter Hills Retirement Community

Tuesday, December 22

7 pm: Humanist Covenant Group

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

6pm: Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service - Dr. Smith
Goodwill offering to purchase warm apparel for students in
need at Southwest Community Campus in Grand Rapids

Friday, December 25 - Christmas

Sunday, December 27

9:15 am: Program Council Meeting, Ahavas
11 am: Worship (all ages in Sanctuary) - For the Time
Being - Dr. Smith

Thursday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

Friday, January 1, 2010 - New Year's Day