

Cultivating
Religious Freedom, Diversity,
Inquiry, and Community



The Weekly Expression

Newsletter February 25, 2009

Upcoming Services:

February 28: New Branches School,
256 Alger, SE *Community
Celebration of Being Together*

March 7: Dr. Brent A. Smith
Two Women

All Souls Community Celebration Sunday Service at New Branches School, 256 Alger SE on February 28th, 11am.

A brief worship service will be followed by intergenerational fun and games.

IN THE SPIRIT OF MAKING THE MOST OF OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED, ALL SOULS INVITES YOU TO A NON-KOSHER CELEBRATION. BRING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND A DISH TO PASS. NOTE TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL ALL SOULS COOKS: **TABLE SERVICE AND A NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE WILL BE FURNISHED BY COMMUNITY LIFE BOARD**

Suggestions as to potluck contributions:

A – B	SALADS – TOSSED, PASTA, VEGGIE, FRUIT
C – F	MAIN DISH, CASSEROLES, SOUPS, MEAT
DISHES	
G – R	EITHER A MAIN DISH OR DESSERT (YOUR
CHOICE)	
S	DESSERTS
T – Z	FRUIT, VEGGIES, CHIPS & DIP OR SALSA



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!*

9th Grade Youth Roots

Thank you to all of you who have supported the Youth Roots Boston Trip by purchasing a church t-shirt. The kids raised \$367.50! It was awesome to see so many people walking around wearing their shirts on Sunday. For those of you who missed out on the opportunity, we may have another sale in late spring, if there is enough interest.

So far the kids have raised \$572.87, through their various efforts. The total cost of the trip is over \$500 per person, and they will be going over Spring Break. In an effort to bring the costs down even more, the kids will be selling baked goods again this Sunday while we are at New Branches School. So empty out your coin jars and purchase some delicious goodies from our youth! Thank you for your support!

Healing Racism

We are gathering names for people interested in taking part in an amazing opportunity to learn about healing racism. The Institute for Healing Racism (IHR) has offered to facilitate a work shop for our church similar to their two day intensive training session. This class would be **limited to 20 people**. We will poll the people interested on what works best for schedules, but could possibly meet on a Friday evening and Saturday OR 2 – 3 hours after church on Sundays for several weeks.

If you are interested, please email kim_waalkes@yahoo.com as soon as possible, so that we can get a date worked out with IHR and schedule what works best for the majority of people interested.



All Souls Community presented Sonya Hughes of the Institute for Healing Racism with proceeds from our annual Auction on February 7, 2010

Coming Soon to the Weekly Expression!

“Ties that Bind” --weekly announcements regarding the Joys of Concerns of All Souls' members and friends will be returning soon. Please contact Danikristine80@yahoo.com soon, if you are interested in becoming involved with the gathering of this information.

Financial updates regarding the current status of our year-to-date income and expenses will be featured on an ongoing basis from the Stewardship Committee!

Mailing List Updates: If you have a teen or other family member that would like their own copy of the Weesky Expression sent electronically, please send their email address to Danikristine80@yahoo.com

New Opportunity from Ahavas Israel: Future Farmers at Ahavas

What are we doing? We're creating a unique opportunity to help local food banks and raise fresh produce for your family. The synagogue will create a community garden on a portion of its land. The size of the garden and what we grow depends upon the number of volunteers who step forward to help. We're encouraging families to participate. All are welcome!

Why are we doing this? We've seen a growing demand on local food banks. We want to help local food banks by growing fresh produce that will be donated to the Temple Emanuel Food Bank and other local food banks.

There are rewards for you if you help. You'll be able to experience the joys of gardening and help local families. (Prior experience in gardening is not necessary.) You'll also be able to enjoy some of the harvest with your family. 50% of what is grown will be donated to the food banks. The other 50% will be divided among the volunteers for their own use. If you don't want to take anything home, your share will be donated to the food bank.

It's really very easy. If you volunteer, you will be expected to work about one hour per week on the garden. We hope to have work parties on Tuesday mornings, Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. These times may change depending upon when you and our other volunteers are available.

We need your help. In addition to planting vegetables, we're also exploring bee keeping, wine making, and growing pumpkins for the kids. However, before we plow "the back 40," we're trying to determine the community's interest in working on this project. If you have an interest, please contact Rick Stevens at rste@aol.com or 956-9570. Thank you and please wipe the mud off your shoes.



Adult Education –Lenten Book Series

March 7-- Sermon: “Two Old Women and the Tribe” by Dr. Brent Smith

Book: “Two Old Women” by Velma Wallis - Paperback: 160 pages

Abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine, two old women are left to perish on their own. Although they've grown used to complaining and letting others do for them, the two resolve not to wait passively for death but to fight against it. With trapping skills they haven't used for years and strengthened by their bond of friendship, the two women survive the winter to ultimately come face to face with the members of their tribe, none of whom has fared as well as they. Utterly convincing in its details and resolution, this will offer listeners vivid insight into a Native American culture. At the same time, it rises above the particulars of time and place to become a metaphor with a message or inspiration not only for women or the elderly, but for all members of the human race.

Discussion Group: Immediately following service

March 14-- Sermon: “The Life of Pi and other Creatures” by Dr. Brent Smith

Book: “Life of Pi” by Yann Martel - Paperback: **326** pages (Note length of book)

A fabulous romp through an imagination by turns ecstatic, cunning, despairing and resilient, this novel is an impressive achievement "a story that will make you believe in God," as one character says. The peripatetic Pi Patel spends a beguiling boyhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper. Growing up beside the wild beasts, Pi gathers an encyclopedic knowledge of the animal world. His curious mind also makes the leap from his native Hinduism to Christianity and Islam, all three of which he practices with joyous abandon. In his 16th year, Pi sets sail with his family and some of their menagerie to start a new life in Canada. Halfway to Midway Island, the ship sinks into the Pacific, leaving Pi stranded on a life raft with a hyena, an orangutan, an injured zebra and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. After the beast dispatches the others, Pi is left to survive for 227 days with his large feline companion on the 26-foot-long raft, using all his knowledge, wits and faith to keep himself alive. The scenes flow together effortlessly, and the sharp observations of the young narrator keep the tale brisk and engaging. Martel's potentially unbelievable plot line soon demolishes the reader's defenses, cleverly set up by events of young Pi's life that almost naturally lead to his biggest ordeal.

Discussion Group: Immediately following service

Adult Education –Lenten Book Series (Continued)

March 21-- Sermon: “**The Book Thief and the Thief**” by Dr. Brent Smith

Book: “**The Book Thief**” by Marcus Zusak - Paperback: **576** pages (Note length of book)

Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids, acid-tongued mothers, and loving fathers who earn their living by the work of their hands. The child arrives having just stolen her first book—although she has not yet learned how to read—and her foster father uses it, *The Gravediggers Handbook*, to lull her to sleep when she's roused by regular nightmares about her younger brother's death. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: the boy Rudy, the Jewish refugee Max, the mayor's reclusive wife (who has a whole library from which she allows Liesel to steal), and especially her foster parents. Zusak not only creates a mesmerizing and original story but also writes with poetic syntax, causing readers to deliberate over phrases and lines, even as the action impels them forward. Death is not a sentimental storyteller, but he does attend to an array of satisfying details, giving Liesel's story all the nuances of chance, folly, and fulfilled expectation that it deserves.

Discussion Group: Immediately following service

March 28-- Ministerial Search Committee Update – No Lenten Series sermon

Discussion Group: Immediately following service - “The Shack” - See April 4th for book details

As no discussion group will be scheduled for Easter Sunday, the group will discuss the book scheduled for Easter, this Sunday instead.

April 4 – Easter Sunday

Sermon: “**The Shack and the Tomb**” by Dr. Brent Smith

Book: “**The Shack**” by William P. Young – Paperback: 256 pages

Mackenzie Allen Philips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant "The Shack" wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him.

Discussion Group: No discussion group scheduled. This book will be discussed March 28.



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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)

February 2010- Calendar

Sunday, February 7 9:45 am: RE Knitting Lessons, Ahavas Room 7 - RSVP to Lynn Shackelford 9:45 am: Children's Choir Rehearsal 10 am: High School Youth Parent Meeting 11 am: Worship and Children's RE - The State of the Church - Daniel Stegink

Tuesday, February 9 7:30 pm: Branches X Meeting

Thursday, February 11 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas 7 pm: BOT Executive Meeting

Sunday, February 14 - Valentine's Day - Bring a Bear for a Haitian Child 9:45 am: RE Knitting Lessons, Ahavas Room 7 - RSVP to Lynn Shackelford 9:45 am: Children's Choir Rehearsal 11 am: Worship (Intergenerational) - Standing on the Side of Love - Dr. Smith Children's Choir Sings RE Valentine Party 12:15 pm: Unitarian Universalism 101 - Dr. Brent Smith & Newcomers Program

Wednesday, February 17 6:30 - 7:30 pm: B2?! @ Kids Food Basket, 1203 Butterworth SW - Contact Jackie Vines for further information

Thursday, February 18 6:30 pm: BOT Meeting, Ahavas Meeting Room 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas

Sunday, February 21 9:45 am: RE Knitting Lessons, Ahavas Room 7 - RSVP to Lynn Shackelford 9:45 am: Children's Choir Rehearsal 11 am: Worship and Children's RE - The Jefferson Bible - Dr. Smith 11 am: RE Chalice Circle with Joseph Priestly and Charles Darwin, Ahavas Meeting Room 12:15 pm: Covenant Board Meeting, Ahavas 12:15 pm: Lenten Sermon Book Discussion, Ahavas Meeting Room 12:15 pm: Music Board Meeting, Ahavas

Tuesday, February 23 7 pm: Humanist Covenant Group

Wednesday, February 24 6:30 pm: Community Life Game Night (all ages welcome), Couturier home, RSVP to Carol or Matt

Thursday, February 25 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas

Sunday, February 28 - at New Branches School, 256 Alger St, SE 9:30 am: Program Board Meeting 11 am: Worship and Children's RE - Watch for Details 12:30 pm: "Old-Fashioned" Potluck Luncheon

Tuesday, March 2 7 pm: Adult Education Monthly Meeting, Walburn Home **Thursday, March 4** 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas **Sunday, March 7** 9:45 am: RE Knitting Lessons, Ahavas Room 7 - RSVP to Lynn Shackelford 9:45 am: Children's Choir Rehearsal 11 am: Worship and Children's RE - Two Women - Dr. Smith Children's Choir Sings 12:15 pm: Lenten Sermon Book Discussion, Ahavas Meeting Room