

Cultivating  
Religious Freedom, Diversity,  
Inquiry, and Community



# *The Weekly Expression*

## *Newsletter January 8, 2009*

### Upcoming Services:

**January 10:** Dr. Brent A. Smith -  
*Passed Through the Fire*

**January 17:** Ministerial Search  
Committee Presents: **Beyond Categorical  
Thinking** with Rev. Laurie Thomas –  
*Crossing Borders*

**January 24:** Dr. Brent A. Smith - *The Center of All Things*

**January 31:** To Be Announced

### **Guest Speaker for January 17<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Laurie Thomas**

*A proven leader in the disability community for nearly 25 years, Rev. Laurie Thomas has worked in two Centers for Independent Living and for United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan. She is the author of Proud Voices: A Short History of the Disability Rights Movement in Michigan (1960-1980). Laurie has also written a curriculum, "Perspectives on Disability." Last year she served as interim minister with the Unitarian Fellowship of London, Ontario. Rev. Thomas is a person who happens to have a disability. She has a Masters of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary, and has her credentials from the Unitarian Universalist Association. Laurie is an ordained community minister, has a relationship of affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing. She is dedicated to the dismantling of ableism and to the inclusion of all people.*

Please also visit the website at [www.allsoulscommunity.org](http://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!

## COMMUNITY LIFE AT ALL SOULS

**First, a note of thanks to Linda and Amy Busby for chairing the Community Life Program!** Due to scheduling conflicts, they have resigned, but we are hoping they will remain on the board, and will reconsider the position again at a point when childcare and time constraints are lessened. They came on board in the summer with an ambitious list of activities for the year, and we hope their replacement will be found soon, so that meetings and planning can resume. On Sunday, February 28th, we will be out of Ahavas again, so that means a potluck may be in the cards!?!

Please contact one of us to state your interest, and you will be welcomed into the Program Council fold of volunteers! Our PC meetings are on the 4th Sunday of the month at 9:15 at Ahavas. (That's right, our next meeting is this Sunday, December 27.) We are looking forward to an exciting year, with planning for 2010 events beginning this week.

Happy Holidays, Happy New Year!

Cindy Coleman ccoleman@provide.net  
and Jock Ambrose jockambrose1@comcast.net

## Music Notes

### *Dr. Monique Salinas-Stauffer*

*A hearty congratulations and thank you to all musicians and thespians involved in the wonderful Christmas Carol Cantata and Christmas Eve services. Choir, you sang sweetly, musically, and spiritedly! What a joy to conduct you!! You are the best!! Instrumentalists and keyboard, your artistry never fails to inspire me and move me--you add so much to our musical experience at ASCC! Thespians--you were moving, delightful, and wonderfully dramatic! Your interpretations added life and lilt to the story. Children's Choir, your song was sweetly sung, and soloists you were marvelous! Soloists and Duets, your music on Christmas Eve was true, inspired, and beautiful! Brent, your script was perfect for the Christmas Carol Cantata! You distilled Dicken's masterpiece in a form that worked wonderfully for All Souls. Thank you all for all your hard work, and in Tiny Tim's words GOD BLESS US! GOD BLESS US EVERYONE!*



## Beyond Categorical Thinking

### Mike Harris, All Souls Search Committee

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Two important events will occur for us during the week of January 17. Both of these events are part of a program called Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT).

**First, on Martin Luther King Sunday (Jan 17)**, The Reverend Laurie Thomas will deliver a sermon entitled "Crossing Borders" She has spoken at our church in the past and she is dedicated to dismantling ableism and to the inclusion of all people.

**On the following Thursday evening, January 21**, Reverend Keith Kron will lead us in a Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the ministerial search process. **Child care will be available during this workshop, so that all that are interested may participate fully.**

During the BCT visit, we will learn more about our institutional culture, examine ways to be more inclusive in our consideration of ministerial candidates, and bring to the surface subtle and often unintentional, unconscious biases members hold that may result in a decision not to select a minister who would be the best fit for our ministerial needs.

I see participation Beyond Categorical Thinking process both as an opportunity and an obligation. It is an opportunity to become a more welcoming congregation, a common theme in many of our cottage meetings and surveys. I also see it as an obligation of a congregation who identify as practicing religious liberals.

### *Keith Kron, Workshop Presenter for January 21<sup>st</sup>*

Rev. Keith Kron is the Director of the Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns for the UUA. He has visited over 400 congregations in his 14 years of working for the UUA, and done over 100 Beyond Categorical Thinking visits. He is a graduate from Starr King School for the Ministry, where he also has taught an online class on children's literature. He is an avid tennis and Scrabble player and currently lives in Blaine, WA.

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All Souls Community Church  
of West Michigan  
P.O. Box 150081  
Grand Rapids MI 49515-0081  
We meet at:  
2727 Michigan Ave. NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

general email:  
[info@allsoulscommunity.org](mailto:info@allsoulscommunity.org)

newsletter email:  
[Danikristine80@yahoo.com](mailto:Danikristine80@yahoo.com)

Dr. Brent A. Smith, Minister:  
(616) 954-1673  
[basmith525@aol.com](mailto:basmith525@aol.com)



Visit Us Online!  
[www.allsoulscommunity.org](http://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)

### January 2010- Calendar

**Sunday, January 3** 11 am: Worship (all ages in Sanctuary) - The New Year for All Souls - Dr. Smith

**Tuesday, January 5** 7 pm: Adult Education Monthly Meeting, Walburn home

**Thursday, January 7** 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas

**Sunday, January 10** 9:30 am: Newcomers Program Board Meeting, Ahavas 11 am: Worship and Children's RE - Passed Through the Fire - Dr. Smith

**Thursday, January 14** 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas 7 pm: Executive BOT Meeting

**Sunday, January 17 - King Sunday** 11 am: Worship and Children's RE - Crossing Borders - Rev. Laurie Thomas 12:15 pm: Music Board Meeting, Ahavas

**Monday, January 18 - MLK Jr. Day** 5 pm: Covenant Board Meeting, Cascade Library

**Tuesday, January 19** 7:30 pm: Branches X Meeting, Glenda Ring home 7 pm: RE Board Meeting, Jeff Williams home

**Thursday, January 21** 6:30 pm BOT Meeting, Ahavas Meeting Room 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas **7 pm: Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop - Rev. Keith Kron, Ahavas Chapel**

**Sunday, January 24** 9:15 am: Program Council Meeting, Ahavas 11 am: Worship and Children's RE - The Center of all Things - Dr. Smith 11:05 am: RE Chalice Circle, Ahavas Meeting Room

**Tuesday, January 26** 7 pm: Humanist Covenant Group

**Thursday, January 28** 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas

**Sunday, January, 31** 11 am: Worship and Children's RE - TBA

**Tuesday, February 2** 7 pm: Adult Education Monthly Meeting, Walburn home

**Thursday, February 4** 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas