

Cultivating
Religious Freedom, Diversity,
Inquiry, and Community



The Weekly Expression

Newsletter March 11, 2009

Upcoming Services:

March 14: Dr. Brent A. Smith *The Life of Pi and other Creatures*

March 21: Dr. Brent A. Smith *The Book Thief and the Thief*

March 28: The Ministerial Search Committee

Music Notes

Dr. Monique Salinas-Stauffer

Well we sure have been enjoying the wonderful spring weather! How about you?

Anyone out there play the trumpet??? We are looking for a trumpeter to play with the choir and occasionally with the instrumental group--How about it??

We are a fun group of people to work with, and we do a wide variety of music--if you play with us I guarantee a good time!

Just give me a call at 890-1164--Looking forward to hearing from YOU! Monique



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!*

Religious Education Opportunity

Lynn Shackelford, Your Religious Education Coordinator

Calling all Worldly Travelers!

On March 21st, Melissa Papke will be teaching a lesson in our 1st-4th grade class about explorers. She needs a helper who has traveled (somewhat extensively) outside of the U.S. Have you been to Europe? China? How about South America? The Middle East? If you have some momentos, souvenirs, and/or pictures from your worldly travels, we could use you! Please contact Lynn (lynnshack@gmail.com or 558-8781) if you can help Melissa. Thanks!



Upcoming Adult Education Readings –Lenten Book Series

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.

Kids Food Basket Fundraiser at Hudsonville Ice Cream in Holland

What started out as an idea for Religious Education has turned into a church-wide volunteer opportunity! Hudsonville Ice Cream is holding a special fund raising event for Kids Food Basket, and they need help. The event is from 5-7 p.m. (volunteers must arrive by 4 p.m.) at the Hudsonville Ice Cream plant in Holland, on Saturday, March 27th. Every volunteer will receive a special shirt, hat, pizza dinner, and ice cream. Hudsonville is also using this event to launch 12 new flavors - be the first to try them! Volunteers will be providing clean up, crowd control (they're expecting 700 people!), and serving ice cream.

If you're interested in helping (you must be at least 15 years old) please e-mail Lynn Shackelford (lynnshack@gmail.com) or Mary Blackwell (mblackwell1938@mac.com)
ASAP! Volunteers must be registered - no walk-ins!

All Souls Community Church welcomes its newest members.

So far in 2010, we've been enriched and strengthened by three new members joining our walk together. They are Dozier Fields, Jr. of Wyoming, and Andrea and Ryan Montgomery of Rockford. Please give them a warm welcome into our community.

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2727 Michigan Ave. NE
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general email:
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Dr. Brent A. Smith, Minister:
(616) 954-1673
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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)

March 2010- Calendar

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

Tuesday, March 9 7 pm: Branches X Meeting 7 pm: Covenant Board Meeting

Thursday, March 11 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas

Sunday, March 14 9:45 am: Children's Choir Rehearsal 11 am: Worship and Children's RE - The Life of Pi and Other Creatures - Dr. Smith 12:15 pm: Newcomers Board Meeting, Ahavas Classroom 12:15 pm: Lenten Sermon Book Discussion, Ahavas Meeting Room

Tuesday, March 16 6:30 - 9:00 pm: B2?! Meeting, Mary Blackwell's home

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

Thursday, March 18 6:30 - 8:30 pm: BOT Meeting, Ahavas Meeting Room 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas

Sunday, March 21 9:30 am: Adult Ed and Covenant Board Meeting, Ahavas Classroom #7 9:45 am: Children's Choir Rehearsal 11 am: Worship and Children's RE - The Book Thief - Dr. Smith 11:05 am: Chalice Circle for RE, Ahavas Meeting Room 12:15 pm: Lenten Sermon Book Discussion, Ahavas Meeting Room 12:15 pm: Music Board Meeting, Ahavas

Monday, March 22 7 pm: RE Meeting, Coffman's home

Tuesday, March 23 7 pm: Humanist Covenant Group

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

Sunday, March 28 9:15 am: Program Board Meeting 9:45 am: Children's Choir Rehearsal 11 am: Worship and Children's RE - The Ministerial Search 12:15 pm: Lenten Sermon Book Discussion, Ahavas Meeting Room

Thursday, April 1 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas **Friday, April 2** 6:30 pm: Good Friday Games Night, Couturier's home **Sunday, April 4** 11 am: Worship (Intergenerational) - The Shack and the Tomb - Dr. Smith

Tuesday, April 6 7 pm: Adult Ed Meeting, Walburn's home **Thursday, April 8** 7 pm: BOT Executive Meeting, Ahavas Meeting Room