

Cultivating  
Religious Freedom, Diversity,  
Inquiry, and Community



# *The Weekly Expression*

*Newsletter March 18, 2009*

## Upcoming Services:

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

**March 28:** The Ministerial Search Committee

**April 4 – Easter Sunday** Dr. Brent Smith  
*The Shack and the Tomb*

### ***Brent Smith Goes to Grand Valley (taken from Heartland District Online News)***



*The Rev. Dr. Brent A. Smith, consulting minister to All Souls Community Church of West Michigan in Grand Rapids, has just accepted a full time faculty appointment at Grand Valley State University. Brent's position will allow him the opportunity to help Grand Valley establish a Religious Studies major and eventually a Religious Studies Department.*

*How exciting that "one of ours" will be on the ground floor helping design a new program to help inform people about the diversity of religious expression in our country. The other good news is that we will not lose Brent from our District. Since his arrival, he has been actively involved on the District Growth Committee for a number of years and as the President of the Heartland UU Ministers Association Chapter for the past couple of years.*

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!*

## Support for Visitors and Newcomers

The Newcomers' Board is looking for table volunteers as well as newcomers support volunteers. If you are interested in making visitors and newcomers feel welcome and wanting to be part of our congregation please contact Barb Lafler (wblafler@yahoo.com / 616-902-3288), or drop by the Newcomers Table for more information and to sign up for a date to help out.



## Correction for the Kid's Food Basket Fundraiser

Last week's information about the Kids Food Basket fund raiser was inaccurate. Volunteers are needed for TWO nights: Thursday, March 25th and Saturday March 27th. You may volunteer for either or both evenings (they are both from 4-7 p.m.). Again, here are the details:

Kids Food Basket Fund Raiser at Hudsonville Ice Cream, Holland, MI  
Thursday and Saturday, March 25th and 27th, from 4-7 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to serve ice cream, clean up, and crowd control for the event.

Hudsonville will be unveiling 12 new flavors at this event! Yum!

Volunteers will receive a polo shirt, a hat, pizza dinner, and ice cream.



The event starts at 5, but all volunteers are need at 4 for orientation and job assignments. NO WALK-INS! You must register as a volunteer ahead of time. Please contact Lynn ([lynnshack@gmail.com](mailto:lynnshack@gmail.com)). Volunteers must be at least 15 years of age. Teens: your friends are welcome to come with you, as long as you register them! Thanks! :)

## Upcoming Adult Education Readings –Lenten Book Series

**March 28--** Discussion Group Immediately following service - **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.

# Religious Education Opportunity

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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](mailto:lynnshack@gmail.com) or 558-8781) if you can help Melissa. Thanks!

## Music Notes

Dr. Monique Salinas-Stauffer

*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*



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**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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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)

### *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