

Cultivating
Religious Freedom, Diversity,
Inquiry, and Community



The Weekly Expression

Newsletter

November 19, 2009

Upcoming Services:

November 22: THANKSGIVING
FESTIVAL Dr. Brent Smith

November 29: “What is Coming?” Dr.

Christening and Dedication of Children

On Sunday, November 22, as part of the morning worship for the Thanksgiving Festival, we will have our Ceremony for the Christening and Dedication of Children. If you would like you and your child to participate, please contact Dr. Smith at 304-9637, or Basmith525@aol.com. He can send you a copy of the service with explanation. It is a service for infants, toddlers, or young children, which, in the case of infants, includes a "naming" portion, and for all a dedication of the congregational community and parents to collaborate in the raising of our children.

Youth Group Parent Open House

*10th-12th graders and their parents are encouraged to attend the Youth Group Open House on **Sunday, November 22nd, immediately after services in the meeting room at Ahavas**. Come find out about the goals for this building year, and meet the new Youth Group advisors, Maggie Johnson and Mike Willcox.*



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!

Update on Adult Education: Ethical Consumerism

Bob Stone

The presentation by Marta Swain of Clothing Matters was the perfect start of a fantastic day at All Souls this past Sunday. The samples of the fair trade merchandise she brought amazed and delighted everyone. She graciously agreed to make her clothing samples available after the well-attended service with emma's revolution. The lobby after the service felt like a bazaar with the large crowd, fair trading clothing, peace activist merchandise, and ticket being sold for the upcoming Seder and Auction. All Souls was certainly the place to be this past Sunday.

While we have completed our Sunday morning series on Ethical Consumerism, we have only begun the process of converting our new knowledge into action. Join us this next Saturday in the first of our follow-up activities. We are planning a shopping trip to the East Hills retail district (intersection of Lake, Diamond, and Cherry) on **Saturday, November 21, starting with lunch at Marie Catrib's at 12 noon**. This area has several fair trade retailers, including Forum presenter Marta Swain's Clothing Matters. She has offered us an on-site tour to augment the Forum presentation. Global Fusion and Hopscotch Children's Store have also agreed to discuss how they are implementing Fair Trade principles. We hope to finish our tour around 3-4pm. We hope everyone can join us as this will give us a chance to exercise our UU principles while getting a start on our holiday shopping.

As Saturday at Marie Catrib's can be VERY busy, we need to have an estimate of the number of people who plan on attending so, as much as possible, we can accommodate everyone for lunch. Also, please understand that if you arrive late, we may not be able to save seating. So, if you are planning on attending, RSVP Bob Stone at bbstone@aol.com or (616) 889-701. PLEASE, this is for estimating purposes only – do not let a lack of RSVP be your reason for not coming. You can also plan on joining us for the tour which we hope to start by 1pm. This will be lots of fun.

Annual Food Drive to benefit the food pantry at Salvation Army

Lynn Shackelford

Sunday, November 22nd will be our annual Thanksgiving service. Once again, the children in RE will be coming to service, shopping carts at the ready, to receive donated food items for the food pantry at the Salvation Army. So please bring a canned good or other item (or a grocery bag of food - we'll take as much as you want to give!) to the service on the 22nd. I've asked Salvation Army what items they are in most need of, and here's the 'wish list:'

Canned vegetables and fruit

Canned or bottled juice (not grapefruit)

Muffin Mixes

Pasta

Jarred or canned pasta sauce

This year, they might also have many more families coming to them for their Thanksgiving ingredients. Please consider donating:

stuffing mixes

canned pumpkin pie filling or canned pumpkin

canned yams

cranberry sauce

Also, there is a great need for non-food items such as toothpaste, toilet paper, paper towels, deodorant, razors, shampoo, soap, dish soap.

I'm also in need of a couple of people with SUV's or vans to help deliver the food items the next morning. We are delivering the food/toiletries to the Salvation Army (on the corner of Fulton and Fuller) at 10 a.m. on Monday the 23rd. If you can help with that, please contact me at lynnshack@gmail.com.

Thank you, and Thank you to Kim Waalkes for organizing this event once again.

Music Notes

The choir is in full swing preparing a BEAUTIFUL Christmas Cantata for Christmas Sunday, December 20. Repeating last year's theme, it will be on Dicken's A CHRISTMAS CAROL, and will feature lovely Winter and Christmas music and readings reflecting on this beautiful story and the season. Please mark this date on your calendar and invite your family and friends to come! Some of the wonderful music includes a contemporary Christmas madrigal *Throw Open Your Shutters*, a fresh and new setting of *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*, a lovely setting of *Silent Night* as a quodlibet with *In the Bleak MidWinter*, and others. You won't be disappointed! We look forward to seeing YOU there!

All Souls Community Church 6th Annual Silent Auction

Only 2 weeks left to purchase your tickets for auction! Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. You can purchase tickets at the auction table in the lobby this Sunday and next. If you've never been to the auction, this is the year to attend. The auction promises to be a night full of fun, exceptional food, and fabulous people!

If you can't make the auction this year, don't fret. You can still participate in the church's biggest fundraiser by having someone bid for you the night of the auction or by participating in the **All Souls Only One Chance Bid Auction**, which begins today. The WE e-mailing includes a sneak peek spreadsheet (see Auction Donations 2009 for Weekly Expression 11-22-09) of some of the many great items we will be auctioning this year.

ATTENTION ALL CHALICE LIGHTERS AT ASCC!



You should have received your final request for this year in October. Please remit the amount you pledged as soon as possible. And, if you already sent a check, thank you!

The Chalice Lighter program in the Heartland District benefits congregations to realize their dreams by providing grants. ASCC has been a recipient in the past to assist with hiring a choir director and a religious education coordinator.

If you are not currently enrolled in the program or want information, please contact Mary Blackwell at 616-334-8811 or by e-mail at mblackwell1938@mac.com. I would be happy to answer your questions, send you a brochure, and help you with enrollment.

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



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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)

November Calendar

- 1** 9:45 am: Children's Choir rehearsal, 10:00 am: Adult Education Community Affairs Forum: Ethical Consumerism Meeting Room, 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** – Search Committee Presentation and Children's Halloween Party 6 to 8 pm ROOTS class for newcomers and visitors
- 3** 7 pm: Adult Education Board meeting, Walburn home,
- 5** 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal at Ahavas
- 8** 9:45 am: Children's Choir rehearsal, 10:00 am: Adult Education Community Affairs Forum: Ethical Consumerism Meeting Room, 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** – Dr. Brent Smith and RE Celebration Circle with PT Barnum 12:15: Newcomers Program Board meeting, Classroom 7 12:30: Financial Planning Workshop, Meeting Room 6 to 8 pm: ROOTS class for newcomers and visitors
- 10** 7 pm: Covenant Board meeting 7 pm: Stewardship Committee Meeting
- 11** Veteran's Day
- 12** 7 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm: Executive Board of Trustees meeting
- 14 to 15** Youth Roots (9th grade) Chicago trip
- 15** 9:45 am: Children's Choir rehearsal, 10:00 am: Adult Education Community Affairs Forum: Ethical Consumerism Meeting Room, 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** – emma's revolution 6 to 8 pm ROOTS class for newcomers and visitors
- 19** 6:30 pm: Board of Trustees meeting 7 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 22** 9:15 am: Program Council meeting 9:45 am: Children's Choir rehearsal 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** - Dr. Brent A. Smith, **Thanksgiving Festival (all ages in Sanctuary)** 6 pm: **Thanksgiving Seder Dinner**, Ahavas Social Hall
- 24** 7 pm: Humanist Covenant Group
- 26** Thanksgiving Day
- 29** 11 am: **WORSHIP (no Children's RE)**: Dr. Brent Smith
- Wednesday, December 2**
7 pm: Community Life Dinner Out
- Thursday, December 3** 6 pm: All Souls Community Church Silent Auction, San Chez, third floor 7 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal

10th Annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service

**Monday, November 23rd
7:00 p.m.
Fountain Street Church**

Join us for praise, sacred writings, chants, hymns, meditation, reflection, and more as representatives from the world's great spiritual traditions gather to give thanks.

Everyone is welcome!

Join us for refreshments following the Service.
To respond to the needs in our community, a free will offering will be taken and donated to ACCESS of West Michigan.

Participants – All Souls Community Church, Baha'i Community, Center for Inquiry, First United Methodist Church, Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters, Islamic Center of West Michigan, Sacred Space & Lakeshore Interfaith Institute, Shir Shalom Choir, Temple Emanuel, West Michigan Hindu Temple Society, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Fountain Street Church 24 Fountain Street N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503
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