

Cultivating
Religious Freedom, Diversity,
Inquiry, and Community

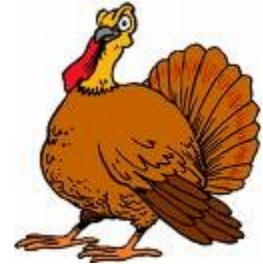


The Weekly Expression

Newsletter

November 25, 2009

Upcoming Services:



November 29:
“What is Coming?” Dr. Brent Smith

Music Program Breakfast

The music department is hosting a breakfast meeting on Saturday, November 28 at 9:00 a.m. We will get together at the Sundance Grill at 40 Pearl St NW to talk about all the various ways the music program can be used to grow our church community. This is open to anybody who wants to join us. Please feel free to stop by and have a cup of coffee or a fabulous breakfast and share your ideas with others. No RSVP is needed. If you have questions or ideas, please talk to Monique Stauffer or Vicki MacConnell.

New Member Sunday

We will be recognizing new members during the worship service on December 6th, followed by a reception in foyer. If you joined All Souls (or would like to) during 2009 please contact Barb Lafler (wblafler@yahoo.com or 616-902-3288) or stop by the Welcome Table. To our longer standing members, please join us on this day in welcoming our new members.

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!

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!

Coming of Age group takes a trip to Chicago!

Heather Williams

In November, three of the four ASCC 9th Graders (Jenna, Abbey and Spencer) took the annual trip to Chicago to see the UU sights. Dave Bee and Laura Wright chaperoned the young adults – who were perfect ambassadors for All Souls. Lynne and Andy Shackelford also made the rounds with the group. The group visited the Unitarian Church in Oak Park (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright) and were given a personalized tour of the church by Reverend Taylor. After the tour the group ate lunch, shopped, and enjoyed ice cream cones in Oak Park 's downtown – before heading to a tour of Wright's home and studio a few blocks away. The home was wonderful and the whole group was really impressed by Oak Park and its wonderful downtown and neighborhoods filled with beautiful homes. On Sunday, the group was able to hear the Reverend Lee Barker preach at First Unitarian in Chicago's beautiful Hyde Park neighborhood and received a nice tour of the Church and Meadville Lombard after the sermon.

The highlight of the trip was the warm welcome they received from the First Unitarian's members. They also thought the Crypt, the many symbols, and the whole church was really cool. Thanks to those of you who have supported our Coming of Age group by participating in their fundraising efforts so that they can continue to grow through experiences like these.

RENT A TEEN

Looking for a little extra help? Have some leaves that need raking or need some babysitting help? Look no further than your own 9th grade Coming of Age group. Two teens are available for two hours Saturday or Sunday afternoons starting on November 21st. This is light labor work (no furniture moving) consisting of activities such as yard work, leaf raking, snow shoveling, dog walking, babysitting, wrapping present, Christmas decorating, and even light house work or garage cleaning.



These teens do excellent work. Ramah recently hired them for some extra help and here is what she had to say:

"Many thanks to two of our great teens, Jenna Williams and Abby Bee, who did a terrific job on my messy/ugly garage this past Saturday, transforming it, with their elbow grease, to a space that makes me smile. The holidays are upon us, so if you need a home spruce up project done, this is could not be easier or have a better outcome!"

This is a Pay What You Feel service where you decide how much to pay for the service that was performed. All money collected will go to help pay for the cost of the annual spring Boston trip.

If interested, please contact Jeff Williams at j3ffwi1liam5@gmail.com or call 682-1329 to setup an appointment. Thank you from your Coming of Age group.

***ASCC 6th Annual Silent Auction Thursday, December 3rd at
San Chez Bistro from 6-9 pm.***

Don't forget to **BRING YOUR CHECKBOOKS** this Sunday. This is the last opportunity to purchase tickets for next week's Silent Auction. The auction committee has worked very hard to make this year's auction a success, but its success really depends on you. Without people there purchasing these graciously donated items, the church can't raise money. At this point, we have only sold 33 tickets, 67 short of years' past. Help make this year's auction our best ever, and purchase your tickets today! You won't regret it! Attached is the updated list of auction items. (Auction Donations 2009 for WE) If you can't be at church on Sunday but still want to purchase tickets, give Kim a call at 460-2893 to reserve them.

All Souls Only One Chance Bid Auction ends this Sunday! If you haven't already placed your bid, please take a look at some of the great things ASCC members have to offer. You may turn in your completed bid sheet at the auction table this Sunday or email your bid to ascc.auction@yahoo before Tuesday, December 1st. Winners will be posted at the Silent Auction and at church on Sunday, December 6th. Winners need not be present to win. Print off the attached bid form or pick one up at the auction table. You only get **one** bid, so **BID HIGH!**



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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Dr. Brent A. Smith, Minister:
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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

