

Cultivating
Religious Freedom, Diversity,
Inquiry, and Community



The Weekly Expression

Newsletter

November 5, 2009

Upcoming Services:

November 8: “Not God's Team but Ours”
Dr. Brent Smith

November 15: emma's revolution

November 22: THANKSGIVING
FESTIVAL Dr. Brent Smith

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

Adult Education Opportunities

Ethical Consumerism Community Forum 10 am to 10:45 am

November 8: Buying Local - presented by **Local First** Local First is an organization that encourages a vibrant, sustainable West Michigan economy. Elissa Hillary from Local First will speak about environmental and other ethical aspects of purchasing locally.

November 15: Conscious Commerce - presented by **Clothing Matters** Since 1996, Clothing Matters has cultivated a world-class collection of responsibly manufactured apparel, in partnership with people committed to fair labor practices and policies that prevent pollution, conserve resources and promote social justice. Hear owner Marta Swain discuss how we can be more aware of the impacts of our purchasing decisions.

Stewardship and Adult Education: Financial Planning Workshop

Sunday, November 8 12:30 pm to 1:30pm

Location: Ahavas Meeting Room

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!

GIFTS – 2010 Annual Budget Drive

Note of Thanks

“May Your Life Preach More Loudly Than Your Lips” – William Ellery Channing

The Annual Budget Drive is officially over. A special thank you to Mary Jo and Chuck Burpee, Co-chairs of the drive. There are a few pledges that are still in process but as of Thursday, October 5, All Souls has pledge commitments from 66 members and friends totaling \$113,410. The pledges put us on our way to meet our operating expenses and to secure the future of All Souls. We had almost 87% of our members and friends make a pledge, our highest participating ever. This same group pledged \$106,720 last year.

We are grateful for each gift and the Board of Trustees is looking for ways to generate additional income to meet our \$135,000 goal, which is necessary to run a balanced budget without having to borrow from the investment account. We have had a few members and friends step up and increase their pledge commitment. If you have any room in your family budget to increase your commitment or make a one-time contribution toward the budget, please contact Meribeth Nudelman who would be happy to provide you with a new pledge form or answer any questions. Meribeth Nudelman 915-4757 – fieldsnmer@aol.com

For now, the most important thing we can all do is fulfill our 2009 pledge commitments and support the All Souls Silent Auction fundraiser on December 3. Because of the tremendous gift from San Chez Bistro, each ticket sold and each item auctioned is almost all profit. So, sell tickets to friends and support the auction in any way you can. The food is great and the event has always been a lot of fun.

Thank you for entrusting us with the confidentiality of your pledge and with the many personal stories that you shared with us during the budget drive.

In community and gratitude,

Meribeth Nudelman & Geoff Fields, Annual Budget Drive Chairs

All Souls Community Church 6th Annual Silent Auction

In the last two years the ASCC Silent Auction has raised over \$24,000 contributing over \$12,000 to our church and over \$5,000 to the Institute for Healing Racism. This is a HUGE fund raiser for our church and our greater community and we need your help and donations! We need your donations NO LATER THAN Nov. 11. We are also asking you to purchase tickets, sell tickets to family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Our 6th annual silent auction, with a portion of proceeds benefitting the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Institute for Healing Racism, will once again be held at San Chez Bistro located at 38 W. Fulton, Grand Rapids, Mi. 49503 on December 3rd, 2009.

The event will take place in the third floor ball room from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. San Chez Bistro has graciously donated the space and will also provide a delectable assortment of appetizers. There will also be a cash bar for your enjoyment.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at ascc.auction@yahoo.com or call 616 460-2983

Annual Seder Dinner

All Souls Community Church's eighth Annual Seder Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 22 from 6 to 8 PM at Ahavas Israel Social Hall. Dan and Cindy Schneider will be preparing a full evening meal and included are beverages and festivities related to celebration of the bonds of affection.

Please plan to join your family and friends for this special evening. Tickets can be purchased before or after services on November 8th or 15th, or reserved by email to Shelli Caswell at scaswell@nvps.net by November 18th. Ticket prices are \$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 for children and \$30.00 for families. Reserve the date!

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.



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 j3ffwil1iam5@gmail.com or call 682-1329 to setup an appointment. **Thank you** from your Coming of Age group.

New board member and president of the Board of Trustees

At the October 22nd meeting of the Board of Trustees, two very important additions were made to our board line-up.

First, Mr. Daniel Stegink was appointed Interim President of the Board of Trustees, and you will have the opportunity to confirm this appointment at our December Congregational meeting. As you may recall, we did not have a candidate for this position at the time of our last Congregational Meeting. Dan has agreed to serve in this role for the remainder of the term (until July 1, 2010), if you confirm his appointment. Thank you, Dan, for accepting this challenge!

Second, Ms. Shelli Caswell was appointed to the board to fill a vacancy created by a resignation this summer. Shelli will serve the remainder of the term to which Cathie Benoit was originally elected, if confirmed at the December Congregational Meeting. Thank you, Shelli, for bringing your energy and enthusiasm to the Board of Trustees!

Newsletter Guidelines

"Criteria for Items in the Weekly Expression"

All Souls Community Church (ASCC) welcomes news and information for its weekly newsletter.

- Items may be submitted electronically to weeklynews@allsoulscommunity.org (Currently at Danikristine80@yahoo.com) for consideration.
- Submissions should be written exactly as intended for publication and submitted by Wednesday noon for the current week's distribution.
- Brevity is appreciated; submissions are subject to editing.
- Items submitted for publication must not involve fund-raisers or other activities that do not directly relate to ASCC.
- General items will be published no more than three times. The submitter should indicate which week(s) the piece should run.
- Personal e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and mailing addresses should be included only with that person's consent.
- Requests for "Addendum" mailings will be considered only when critical church activities are put at risk by the lack or delay of announcement. It is critical that items be submitted by the posted deadlines. Overuse of church e-mail can be considered SPAM and may result in people wanting to be removed from our mailing list.
- The item must not promote ideas opposing the affirmations of the Unitarian Universalist Association (<http://www.uua.org/aboutuua/principles.html>)

Approved by the Board of Trustees on June 1, 2004

emma's revolution leading worship on Nov 15!

All Souls welcomes musical guests emma's revolution to Grand Rapids to participate in the morning worship service. Check out their website at www.emmasrevolution.com for more information, clips. other dates in Lansing (10/23) and Traverse City (11/13) and cool 'peace wear'!

"Emma's Revolution stands out among those voices that deliver a nudge to our conscience and our sense of who we could be."



The Board of Trustees has agreed that, in conjunction with this performance, we will donate the plate collection to the LGC Network *PLUS program. A description of this program is given below. Be aware that any checks or money that are designated (in an envelope or on the "memo" of your check) as going toward your PLEDGE on November 15 will, in fact, be applied to your pledge. All checks and monies collected that are not designated toward your pledge will be part of our donation to this fine cause. We look forward to seeing you on November 15 for a wonderful service and support of this part of our West Michigan community.

**PLUS-People Like US:*

A safe place for youth to socialize, discuss issues, make friends, and find support to embrace their true selves...Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Straight, Transgender, or Questioning.

The PLUS Group is for teens and young adults, ages 14-23, and meets weekly at the Atlas Avenue Community Center in Eastown.

The goals are to provide a safe environment for youth to feel comfortable asking questions, accessing information, linking to resources, experience being "out" with a sense of pride, and promoting healthy relationships.

The mission statement of the LGC Network: "To serve the LGBT community of West Michigan through networking, referrals, and resources."

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We meet at:
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Grand Rapids, Michigan

general email:
info@allsoulscommunity.org

newsletter email:
Danikristine80@yahoo.com

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



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

