

Cultivating  
Religious Freedom, Diversity,  
Inquiry, and Community



# *The Weekly Expression*

*Newsletter*

*October 1, 2009*

## Upcoming Services:

**October 4:** “The Generous & Abundant Life,” Dr. Brent A. Smith at  
NEW BRANCHES **256 ALGER ST, SE**

**October 11:** “The Office”  
Dr. Brent Smith at NEW BRANCHES  
**256 ALGER ST, SE**

**October 18:** “Ministers, Ministry and Movin' On,” Dr. Nana Kratchovil

**October 25:** “Tis a Gift,” Dr. Brent A. Smith

**November 1:** The All Souls Search Committee

### Special Note:

All Souls Community Church services will NOT be held at Ahavas Israel on September 20, October 4th and October 11th. Instead we will be having Worship Service and Religious Education at New Branches School, 256 Alger, at 11:00 AM.

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!

## Covenant Groups and Your Covenant Board

By Mary Blackwell

Covenant groups usually consist of 10-16 people who covenant together to foster spiritual growth, serve All Souls Community Church and serve the greater community. The groups meet routinely at a place decided by the group which may or may not be at a member's home. The subject or theme for the meeting as well as leadership is determined by their choice.

The purpose of the Covenant Board is to determine policy and recommend content of all Covenant groups; to recommend an annual budget for the Covenant Board; and to work in conjunction with the Minister to facilitate the creation of new Covenant groups, to nurture the strength of existing Covenant groups, to publish and disseminate Covenant group materials when required, and to identify, recruit, train, and nurture leaders of Covenant groups.

At present we are a board of three. Dave Lester, Chair, Mary Blackwell, Recording Secretary, and Andy Truax. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 p.m. for a short effective meeting with a written agenda. Recently our meetings have been at the Cascade Library. We would very much like to have one more member of the board. So, if you are interested in joining us, please contact Dave, Andy, or myself. In the last couple of years we have updated our by laws, formulated a written Covenant board policy, held a mixer, sponsored an annual picnic, encouraged the various groups to select a name for their Covenant group, supported the formation of an interest group, assisted in getting another branches group up and running, created a Facebook page for the Covenant leaders (to be rolled out soon), provided a list of social action suggestions to the groups, and many other activities.

Recently the Covenant board was contacted by B4 All Souls (an active Covenant group) asking for our help with obtaining new members. So, if you are interested in joining a Covenant group, B4 would welcome your participation. The group meets every month at a member's home. Contact Dave Lester for more information.

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## All Souls Community Church Directory

### Note from Teri Davis

The new ASCC photo directory is taking shape. If you have a digital photo you would like to use please email your photos to [jazzebloos@msn.com](mailto:jazzebloos@msn.com) with ascc and your family name in the subject line (ex. "ascc davis"). Photos will be taken at Ahavas as needed by appointment with Teri Davis. Simply call my cell (616-262-7829) and I will plan to meet you before or after service on a Sunday.

Please report any changes to your information by using the above email and subject line.

## Volunteer Opportunities

from Cindy Coleman

ASCC is looking to fill the two valuable and effective roles that Sue Belaski has done for years as the Church Archivist and Facilitator of Orders of Service. We would like to **thank** her for her dedication and loyalty all these years.

The **Archivist** will continue to collect the valuable tidbits of information about our church as we grow and develop. (The several bins she has collected can be stored with you, or elsewhere.)

The **Orders of Service** are prepared once a month. The task involves some computer skills and about 3 hours of your time. Please contact Brent Smith [basmith525@aol.com](mailto:basmith525@aol.com), Greg Hopkins [ghopkins52@comcast.net](mailto:ghopkins52@comcast.net), or Cindy Coleman [ccoleman@provide.net](mailto:ccoleman@provide.net) if you are interested in more information about these important roles in the collection and distribution of communication as the legacy of All Souls Community Church continues, so "that we may speak to the world in words and actions of peace an good will."

## All Souls Community Church ROOTS Program

The next Roots Classes will be held on Sunday evenings from 6-8pm at Ahavas on October 25, November 1, 8 & 15. Child care will be provided but we ask that you let us know the number & ages of children so we can plan appropriately. If you are interested and have not signed up yet please stop by the Newcomers' Table.

We are in need of a child care provider to assist us during the Roots Classes (Oct 25, Nov 1, 8 & 15 from 5:45-8:15pm). One of the Newcomer Board members will be there but we will need one youth (or adult) to help out. If you are interested please stop by the Newcomers' Table or contact Barb Lafler (616-902-3288) or [wblafler@yahoo.com](mailto:wblafler@yahoo.com).

## GIFTS – 2010 Annual Budget Drive

All Souls Community Church of West Michigan is truly a gift. It provides us with a place to seek spiritual fulfillment. Of course, our church exists because of the many gifts we receive from members and friends – gifts of time put in by so many volunteers, gifts of creativity and music, gifts of ministry, leadership and education, gifts of community and, yes, gifts of financial support.

### *Pledge Parties*

This year's budget drive will be conducted through "pledge parties." Please look at the party schedule and select a party that works best for you. Then call or email Mary Jo Burpee -774-3612 – [mjburpee@comcast.net](mailto:mjburpee@comcast.net). We picked a variety of days, times, and places so everyone will be able to participate.

### *The Gift of Candor*

We need your help, first and foremost by attending a pledge party and second, to pledge as generously as you can afford. The Church has vital needs: among them, our search for a called Minister, which is anticipated to cost \$10,000; maintaining our music program and religious education programs; and meeting our salaries and daily operating expenses. We need your help for All Souls to continue to liberate and cultivate the spirit and to become the home for liberal religion in West Michigan.

### **PLEDGE PARTIES:**

Monday, Oct. 12, 7:00 PM, MacKeigan home SE, Grand Rapids 49506

Tuesday, Oct 13, 7:30 PM, Hopkins home Ada 49301

Friday, Oct 16 at 7:00 PM at the VanDragt home NE Grand Rapids, 49525

Sunday, Oct. 18, 12:30 PM, Burpee home, Grand Rapids NE 49525

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 PM, Coleman home, E. Grand Rapids 49506

Friday, Oct. 23, 7:30 PM, Walburn home (Branches 10) Party is Full

Friday, Oct 23, 7:30 PM, Nudelman/Fields home NE, Ada 49301

Saturday, Oct. 24, 10:00 AM, Waalkes home NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Sunday, October 25, 9:00 AM, Burpee home NE, Grand Rapids 49525

Please select the party that best fits your schedule and email or call Mary Jo Burpee to make your reservation. The party coordinator will be in touch to confirm your party and provide you with directions.

Any questions please call:

Geoff Fields – 336-1017 – [gfields@dickinsonwright.com](mailto:gfields@dickinsonwright.com)

Meribeth Nudelman – 915-4757 – [fieldsnmer@aol.com](mailto:fieldsnmer@aol.com)

Chuck and Mary Jo Burpee – 774-3612 – [mjburpee@comcast.net](mailto:mjburpee@comcast.net)

Further information will be available through the Weekly Expression and the All Souls website at [www.allsoulscommunity.org](http://www.allsoulscommunity.org)

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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)

### October Calendar

**4 AT NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL, 256 ALGER ST, SE**  
10:15 am: Adult Choir Warmup, 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** - Dr. Brent A. Smith

**5** 7 pm: Adult Education Board meeting, Walburn home, 6223 Cascade Pt, GR 49546

**6** Adult Education Board Meeting

**8** 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal and BOT Executive meeting

**11 AT NEW BRANCHES SCHOOL, 256 ALGER ST, SE**  
Religious Education Fun Day, 9 am: Newcomers Board meeting, Real Foods Cafe, 10 am: Adult Music Retreat, Isaac Walton Retreat Center, 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** - Dr. Brent A. Smith, 12:15 pm: "Olden Days" NON KOSHER Potluck Lunch

**13** 6:30 pm: Community Life Game Night, 7 pm Covenant Board meeting, Cascade Library, 7 pm Stewardship Committee Meeting, Vines home, 863 Giddings Ave SE

**15** 7 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm: Board of Trustees meeting, Ahavas

**18** 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** - Dr. Nana' Kratchovil, 12:15 pm: Community Life Halloween Gift Bags, 12:15 pm: Music Board meeting, 6 pm: High School Youth Group, Ahavas

**20** 7 pm: Covenant Clearwater Revival, Zimmerman home, 852 Giddings Ave SE

**21** 7 pm: Community Life Dinner Out

**22** 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas

#### **Sunday, October 25 - Commitment Sunday!!!**

9:15 am: Program Council meeting, 9:45 am: Children's Choir rehearsal, 9:45 am: Adult Education Community Affairs Forum: Ethics of Food, Part 1, with Ms. Elissa Hillary from Local First, Meeting Room, 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE** - Dr. Brent A. Smith & **Children's Choir Sings!** 6-8pm: ROOTS class for newcomers and visitors, Ahavas, 6 pm: High School Youth Group, Ahavas

**29** 7 - 9 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal, Ahavas

**Sunday, November 1** 9:45 am: Adult Education Community Affairs Forum: Ethics of Food, Part 2, Meeting Room, 10:15 am: Adult Choir Warmup, 11 am: **WORSHIP AND CHILDREN'S RE: All Souls Search Committee**, 6-8pm: ROOTS class for newcomers and visitors, Ahavas

**The Revolution is coming on November 15!**