

Cultivating
Religious Freedom, Diversity,
Inquiry, and Community



The Weekly Expression

Newsletter

October 15, 2009

Upcoming Services:

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 Presentation

GIFTS - 2010 Annual Budget Drive

Commitment Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 2009 is Commitment Sunday. This year instead of Commitment Sunday kicking off our budget drive, we will wrap up the drive and present the pledge commitments for 2010. The early date is important to our ministerial search process. Your board of trustees will work with the Settlement Committee to prepare the minister's financial package. The financial package will be part of All Souls job posting that must be uploaded to the Unitarian Universalist Association web site before November 1. Please help us put together our best offer by making as generous a pledge as you can afford.

There is still time to RSVP for a pledge party by emailing or calling Mary Jo Burpee. If you would prefer to have an individual stewardship meeting you can also let Mary Jo Burpee know or email Meribeth Nudelman.

Pledge Parties

Sunday, Oct. 18, 12:30 PM, Burpee home – GR (Just off the Beltline near Knapp Corners)

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 PM, Coleman home – East Grand Rapids

Friday, Oct 23, 7:30 PM, Nudelman/Fields home – Ada (Off of Honey Creek)

Saturday, Oct. 24, 10:00 AM, Waalkes home – GR (Near church)

Sunday, October 25, 9:00 AM, Burpee home - GR (Just off the Beltline near Knapp Corners)

Contacts:

Meribeth Nudelman – 915-4757 – fieldsnmer@aol.com

Mary Jo Burpee – 774-3612 – mjburpee@comcast.net

6th Annual All Souls Community Church Silent Auction

The silent auction, 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**

Items for the auction are still needed, as well.

Religious Education Contribution to the All Souls Auction

Last year, the children and parents of RE contributed a couple of pieces of pottery to our annual silent auction. The kids did such a beautiful job painting the pieces! They were a huge hit, and caused quite a bidding war. Needless to say, we're doing it again. We would like parents in each class to contribute \$5 to the platter/bowl. The paint and firing time was donated. Heather Williams has two parents signed up to help design the platters and work with the kids: Rebecca Weaver for 5-8th grade. Rebecca Green for 1-4th. (Thank you, Rebecca and Rebecca!) We still need someone for Pre-K. We'd also like to see the 9th grade ROOTS class participate as well.

Please send your \$5 contribution to class with your child. If you have any questions, please e-mail Heather Williams at blossom1988@yahoo.com.

The platters will need to be completed by Nov 8th.

SOCIAL ACTION GROUP ITEM

WINTER CLOTHES DRIVE FOR SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CAMPUS (SWCC), GRPS

As a member of ASCC and the Social Action Group, I am leading, with a few other members, an effort to build a relationship with a local school, Southwest Community Campus (SWCC), a GRPS public school of choice. We hope to work with them based on needs expressed by them. Last year I did a survey with four key members of the SWCC staff to get some ideas about what the (most in need) students and their families might need. One was a classroom wishlist and the kindergarten teachers approached me with the below needs.

Over the next few weeks there will be a box in the lobby during services for a winter clothes drive for SWCC. We are collecting items for **kindergarten and 1st grade aged kids**.

Items needed are the following:

A) coats, mittens, hats, warm tights, socks and even underwear, sizes: girls 6-6x and 7/8; boys 5 and 6
New or gently used ok. A few children in each classroom come to school without the above items.

B) Classroom items needed: color printer paper, color printer cartridges HP57 tricolor and big bottle of elmer's glue.

I hope you can help us with these efforts. Thank you!
Georgine Linart Bello



x10452759 fotosearch.com

Religious Education/ 9th Grade Roots

"Thank you to all who purchased yummy baked goods made by our 9th Grade Youth ROOTS Group. Thanks to your generous donations, they made over \$95 towards their Boston trip! Your support is greatly appreciated."

Adult Education Presents Ethical Consumerism Community Forum

The Adult Education Board is proud to bring you another Community Forum this fall. The focus of these sessions is **Ethical Consumerism** –how the purchasing decisions we make can advance our principles of respect, dignity, and love for all souls. While we can only scratch the surface of this critical subject in the few sessions we have planned, we do have some excellent speakers lined up. This is not only a chance to become better informed as a congregation, but we believe an exciting subject that will attract many visitors. Not only add these dates and times to your calendar but please invite your friends and family to what we hope will be an informative and rewarding experience.

October 25: Fair Trade - presented by Global Infusion

Global Infusion is a local Grand Rapids business that specializes in items obtained via Fair Trade. Hear owners Joana and Beth discuss the “why” and “how” of this business model which strives to treat all people with dignity.

November 1: CSA - presented by Trillium CSA Farm

A local Community Supported Agriculture organization, Trillium Farm has become the destination for those seeking fresh, local, chemical-free produce. Farmers Michael VanderBrug & Anja Mast will discuss the many benefits of this exciting trend in food production.

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: Next Steps

Join us as the Adult Education Board of All Souls Community Church facilitates a discussion on next steps. Possible activities include forming a book club to learn more about Ethical Consumerism and movie night with the film “Food Inc.” Bring your ideas.

All presentations are 10:00am to 10:45am. For further information, please contact Bob Stone: (616) 889-7012 / bbstone@aol.com.

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. Mary Blackwell, mblackwell@mac.com, Dave Lester, davelester46@gmail.com, Andy Truax, atjr7777@sbcglobal.net

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, Greg Hopkins ghopkins52@comcast.net, or Cindy Coleman 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 and good will."

From ASCC Stewardship and Adult Education:

FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP



Agenda

- ▣ Life Stages:
- ▣ Young Families
- ▣ Mid Life
- ▣ Retirement
- ▣ Retirement Planning:
- ▣ Estate Planning
- ▣ Retirement Distributions
- ▣ Safety
- ▣ Gifting

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

Location: Ahavas Meeting Room

(Meeting room with small kitchen off hallway from foyer)

The presenter is a **financial advisor / registered investment advisor** with **23 years of experience** who works for a well-known brokerage and investment advisory firm in Fenton, Michigan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, please contact

Mary Blackwell: at mblackwell1938@mac.com / 616-891-1171

All Souls Community Church Communication:

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!

All Souls Community Church
of West Michigan
P.O. Box 150081
Grand Rapids MI 49515-0081
We meet at:
2727 Michigan Ave. NE
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)

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!