

Cultivating
Religious Freedom, Diversity,
Inquiry, and Community



The Weekly Expression

Newsletter

October 22, 2009

Upcoming Services:

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

November 1: The All Souls Search
Committee Presentation

GIFTS 2010 Annual Budget Drive

**“You don’t have to be wealthy, just make a
commitment to what you believe in and give what you can”**

From a G.R. Art Museum marketing piece

Commitment Sunday - October 25, 2009

Come join us for Commitment Sunday. We hope to have all pledge commitments by the end of the service on Sunday, October 25. We need to know our pledge commitments to draft our 2010 budget and construct the strongest financial package to attract an outstanding new minister to All Souls. Please help us to put together our best offer by making as generous a pledge as you can afford. As of Wednesday morning, October 21, 2009, we have pledge commitments of \$35,332, representing 17 pledges and a 9.6% increase over what this group pledged last year. This is an average gift of over \$2,000! We have 4 pledge parties to go, how can you help to secure the future of All Souls?

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 forms will be available at church on Sunday.

Pledge Parties

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

Sunday, October 25, 10:00 AM, Ahavas – NOTE TIME CHANGE

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

Adult Education Presents Ethical Consumerism Community Forum

The Adult Ed Board is proud to announce we have a excellent speaker signed up for the final session of our Community Forum: Ethical Consumerism scheduled for Nov 15. Marta Swain from Clothing Matters, a local retailer, will speak on what she calls Conscious Commerce, also known as Fair Trade. Come hear her discuss how we all need to be more aware of the impacts of our purchasing decisions. This is an exciting addition to the other two sessions: Nov 1 with Trillium Farms, a local example of Community Sponored Agriculture and Nov 8 with Local First, an organization dedicated to a vibrant local-based economy. Tell your friends and family to join us for what promises to be a very exciting and informative Forum series.

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: 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.

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

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!

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."



Volunteer Opportunities

from Cindy Coleman

Because of the volunteer spirit and efforts of Carol Couturier, our Orders of Service will continue to be prepared each month, in coordination with Brent Smith. Thanks to Carol (and Sue Belaski's past efforts), this communication tool and tradition lives on for All Souls Community Church.

A volunteer **Archivist** is still needed to continue to collect valuable pieces of information about our church as we grow and develop. (The several bins Sue has already collected can be stored with you, or elsewhere.)

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 the Archivist's role.

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
of West Michigan
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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



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!