

# ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER

## STARTING A NEW YEAR Rev. Karen Bruno

While the rest of the world celebrates a New Year in January, I celebrate it in August.

When the most intense part of my other job is completed, I get to rest, renew and refocus. Camp ends August 1<sup>st</sup>. I will need most of August to recover! Also what starts anew each August is my 'contract/agreement' with the Board of All Souls. This year I have selected to reduce my time with All Souls.

September through May: I will speak the first Sunday of the month, and I will attend the Board Meeting and Worship on the third Sunday of the month. I will occasionally offer a class or mini retreat on a topic. I may attend additional worship times and all the 'extra events' as I am able. I will lead New Member classes as needed. If folks want discussion groups, I am available to do those on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday afternoons.

There is NO change to my availability for individual consultation or counseling to all Members and Active Friends of the church. Year round.

The addition of the "Pastoral Care Trustee" to the Board will allow me to share the duties of caring for members and friends. The current Pastoral Care Trustee is Judy Shaffer.

To help keep these two roles as clear as possible:

If you hear about a church member who is sick or having a difficult time - call Judy.

If you are concerned about a member who has suddenly stopped attending - call Judy.

If YOU, or a loved one, are going into the hospital and want to talk with me or have me visit - call me.

If YOU are going into the hospital and just want to tell the church about it - call Judy.

If YOU are going through a difficult time in your life and want to talk to me - call me.

If YOU are new to the church and want me to meet with you to talk about it - call me.

Basically if you want to talk to me, call me. For everything else, call Judy.

Of course, if Judy hears something that she wants me to get involved with, she will let me know.

Some topics/reasons you might contact me:  
Significant life changes: divorce, serious illness, hospitalization, surgery, a close friend or family member dies or is hospitalized, you are experiencing some kind of loss, stress or minor mental health concern or if you want to plan ahead for your funeral or end of life choices OR these same situations that are actively happening.

I look forward to another year of work and fellowship with All Souls.

Happy New Year!

# MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

## ...from Glenn Myers, President

To Members and Visitors:

Your Sunday morning experience at All Souls UU Church in Bellville depends heavily on the performance of the church board members and the work of a lot of people.

The Church Board of Maintenance (Board) consists of four officers and eight trustees, all members of the church. Within the parameters of the revised Church Bylaws, and between meetings of the congregation, the Board is in charge of the property of the church, its business affairs, and the administration policies.

For efficiency and clarity, each trustee has specific areas of responsibility in church management and may form Ad Hoc committees as needed to accomplish the task at hand.

The Board will meet regularly (third Sunday of each month at 9 a.m.) to decide policy matters and to monitor expenditures. Board meetings are open to visitors and church members who wish to address the Board.

The job of the President is to conduct Board meetings, to provide organizational help to trustees and to make sure church management work is getting done.

Our goal is to make your Sunday morning experience at All Souls UU Church the top of your week.

## ...from Ann Kilgore, Vice President

As the new Vice President, one of my duties is to chair the Committee on Ministry and Primary Conflict Resolution. I am asking for two members **not** on the Board to serve with me. Please let me know if you would consider serving. We would meet four times a year – more or less as needed. I shall pick on you until you agree! Thanks!

## ...from Chuck Rhodes, Past Treasurer

### Treasurer's Report: FY July 2013 through June 2014

Income:	\$30,658.77
Expenses:	\$31,154.11
Deficit:	(\$ 495.34)*

\*Due to the payment of  
UUA/OMD dues of \$1,000.0

## .....more messages

**...from Reed Richmond (reed2r@mac.com), Social Action Trustee**

While I was serving as President of the Board at All Souls, we had difficulty filling the role of chairperson for Social Action and Social Justice. But I had a standard answer when people would ask me who was in charge of Social Action: the congregation. Despite the fact that I now own the title of Trustee of Social Action, it is still the congregation that fills this role.

What have we accomplished as a church in Social Action for the past several years? Let me point to a few items:

- Annual Winter Harvest where donations are taken for the Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center
- Coins for Kenya, our ongoing monthly contribution for AIDS Orphans (managed by our good friend Aloys Kamwithi)
- Collections of books and school supplies for schools in Kenya
- Collection of school supplies for children in the Clear Fork Valley
- Women for Women, our ongoing monthly donation to help a woman overseas become financially stable for her family
- The Highway Clean-up program in its 20th year of sponsorship by All Souls
- The quarterly collection of recycle material that our good members Jackie and Brian Moore facilitate (and we thank you again).

There may be something I missed, but I'd like to add that no other church in this area has as many speakers coming to us for Sunday Services who speak out on social action and keep us informed of ongoing events.

So what does the future hold now that someone holds the "official" title?

First, all of the items I have mentioned above will continue (I am assuming the Moore's will continue in the recycle capacity). I think we all can agree that those projects are important.

Second, I have some projects in mind. Some are immediate and others are going to be long-term on-going projects.

Here's the first one, and it's a one-time deal. I hope you'll mark your calendar now and plan to attend: "Godzilla" is coming to Bellville All Souls. Well, to be more precise, "Gojira" is coming. "Gojira" is the name of the 1954 Japanese movie that became known as "Godzilla" when it was made for U.S. audiences. The original "Godzilla" ranks along with "All Quiet on the Western Front" as one of the best anti-war movies ever made. While "All Quiet on the Western Front" is about the horror and mindlessness of war, "Godzilla" is a warning about the terror of modern warfare and the nuclear nightmare that could result (entirely different than "Fail Safe" but with the same potent message). If you thought "Godzilla" was just a cool monster movie, you are in for a shock. This is an absolute 'must see' movie in its original (no Raymond Burr) release (subtitles for those who don't speak Japanese). Also, this movie has a memorable soundtrack - the iconic music is not to be missed.

.....and more

“Godzilla” will be playing at All Souls on Thursday, September 4, at 7:30 p.m. on the big screen in the sanctuary. Popcorn will be provided. This will be open to the public and there will be no admission fee (donations accepted). The 2014 version of “Godzilla” will be coming out on DVD/Blu Ray about this same time, and we are timing our showing to maximize the publicity. If there is enough interest, we could have a second showing after church service on September 7.

Two other projects will be ongoing:

1) I am currently looking into the process of what is involved in getting the church certified as a "Welcoming Church". From what I've been able to gather so far, this will be a long process with many steps. More information to come. Please see me if you have any questions about what a "Welcoming Church" designation means (Rev. Karen Bruno spoke on this topic on August 3, and it is on the church website under "Goodies" -- audio tapes of speakers). Ultimately, this will require a vote by the congregation before we start this process.

2) We will be joining other UU churches (and other similarly-minded churches) throughout the U.S. in supporting the creation of a Department of Peacemaking in the federal government. This is currently pending in the House (H.R. 808) but needs vocal advocacy to get this project before Congress. It was introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Lee in February 2013. Some of you may have heard similar leaning from Dennis Kucinich when he was a Congressman, but this one has at least got some legs under it. I will have more information on this in the next newsletter. It's all very exciting.

There are, of course, other short-term projects that will come up over my two-year tenure in this Board position, and I welcome input from all on where to focus our energy. Remember, if you have an idea, bring it to me. And if you have a Social Action idea, I will expect you to lead, and I will help push the congregation to follow.

Looking forward to working with you all.

**...from Bruce Kilgore, Fellowship Trustee**

A big thank you to all who helped, made food or made a monetary donation for the Street Mart Luncheon. Please mark your calendars for our next money making event.

**Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale  
Saturday, November 8**

Appreciation to all who have signed up for coffee hour snacks, kitchen clean-up and social room clean-up.

Another upcoming event is the club table display for the Bellville Street Fair, to be in place September 10 at 4:00 pm. Please drop off your garden's vegetables and flowers and fruits, nuts, etc. on or before September 10.

.....messages continued

**...from Chuck Rhodes, Building & Maintenance Trustee**

Projects Completed FY 2013/2014

- replaced one basement window
- repaired vestibule wall and window support
- kitchen renovation

The kitchen is greatly improved thanks to the generous contributions by Sandy Macpherson & L.D. Ball, Mike Garber & Family and an Anonymous Donor.

**...from Judy Shaffer, Pastoral Care Trustee**

The following people would probably like a “How Ya’ Doing Card”.

Mary Ellen Black	Tom Miller	Ruth Moody	Arlyn Williams
8040 Thayer Rd.	920 Sharon Valley Rd. #311	5215 Teeter Rd.	802 N. St. Rd. #4
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050	Newark, OH 43055	Bellville, OH 44813	Attica, OH 44807

**...from Brian Moore (419-589-7707 - midohiosupply@neo.rr.com - Facebook), Pulpit & Worship**

I would like to extend an invitation to anyone in the congregation who would like to be in our leader rotation to lead our Sunday service about once every 6-7 weeks. You would be in charge of picking a reading for Call to Worship and Chalice Lighting and choosing the hymns, responsive readings, the affirmation, and the closing words. This is a great way to become more of an active member of our congregation as well as exercising your own creativity to the order of service.

I would like to ask all members to feel free to approach me with your ideas for future speakers. Also, if you feel qualified to speak on a subject that would be connected to any of our 7 principles, please consider the opportunity to share.

As your new Pulpit & Worship Trustee, I want to extend an invitation to all for feedback. If you really like a speaker, please let me know. If you did not like a speaker, please tell me why; but, keep in mind that All Souls is always about diversity. I always tell visitors that you can never judge our church on any given Sunday service, because every Sunday offers something new and different and enlightening.

I was 42 years old when I found All Souls and never had a spiritual home until then. Today, I'm a very proud member and your Pulpit & Worship Trustee. I have a deep love for this organization and everything it stands for. We are a unique group of people who stand up for an educated belief system whose foundations are built on love and compassion for people and environment. I want everyone to know that you are part of something very special in this community. And, I will do my best to make All Souls the place to be each and every Sunday morning to recharge your spiritual batteries and share fellowship with a group of awesome and spectacular people.

...from Liz Hansen, Religious Education Trustee

### **Religious Education Year in Review**

All Souls had an interesting and exciting year of religious education. Our "school year" officially started off at 9 am on October 6 for both the youth and adults. The youth started "Love Connects Us", a curriculum from the UUA for children in grades 1 - 6. The adults started, at the same time, with "Evolutionize Your Life", a 2 session video by Michael Dowd which included discussion. Also in October, Dr. Walt Kania presented a 3 part evening class on "The Psychology of Religion and Spirituality". While the youth continued the same curriculum throughout the school year, the adults had a variety of different topics.

In November, the adults worked on the "21 Day Gratitude Challenge", which included reading the book "Gratitude Works: A 21 Day Program for Creating Emotional Prosperity" by Robert Emmons and journaling our gratitudes daily for 21 days using different techniques. After Thanksgiving, we took a winter/holiday break and kicked off the year with our own Lowry Gilbert (daughter of Jay Gilbert & Renie Maginniss). Lowry's presentation, "Giving", was about her experiences with the Peace Corp in Togo, Africa. In January & February, the adults moved on to "Consider the Conversation". In this class, we watched a DVD by the same name and discussed end of life decisions. March and April the adults worked with a curriculum from the UUA "Articulating Your UU Faith", this 5 session class ended with the participants designing & leading a worship service to share what they learned during their class. Lisa Kreischer was scheduled to present a 6 session evening workshop early this summer on Nonviolent Communication, but we rescheduled to the fall due to a lack of participants signed up. Our final Religious Education offering for our "school year" was a 3 session summer school class for ages 10 and above using the book "Muhammad: The Story of a Prophet & Reformer". This class was very well received, and we will continue to study Islam in the fall.

I want to express my sincere thanks to all of our teachers/facilitators this year. For the youth, Jenny Bartsch & Jackie Moore were our teachers (and have been as long as I've been attending All Souls - 5+ years!). For the adults, Reed & Joan Richmond, Dr. Walter Kania, Lowry Gilbert, and Glenn Myers all stepped up and helped teach/facilitate our classes this year! (I apologize if I missed someone.) THANK YOU!! Without facilitators and teachers we would have no Religious Education program!

I want to share with the entire congregation a few of the challenges we've had in the last year in terms of RE, in particular the youth program. Our biggest challenge has been not very many kids available to come to RE. A couple of years ago we lost a few families (moving, etc.) and with them a handful of school aged kids. On top of that, we've gained a few families with younger kids. There is no single curriculum (that I know of) that can cater to both preschoolers and middle schoolers, so that is another big challenge. Another challenge is that since we can't rely on good ole guilt to get our members to church each and every week, attendance can be variable, and it's hard for our faithful teachers to prepare lessons not knowing if there will be no kids or 5 kids.

## .....RE message continued

The final challenge is recruiting more teachers. We are in risk of burning out our teachers. They have been teaching the kids for such a long time, we really need to get more of the congregation engaged in working with our youth.

SO, what do we do in the face of all these challenges? Well, we've come up with a few ideas for next year. If at first you don't succeed...try, try again!

### **The Future of our Religious Education Program**

We'll be moving the youth RE back to during the worship service (instead of 9 am). We will also be running 2 different youth RE classes, one for grade school and one for middle school and above. I believe we have found classes that are so easy to run anyone could walk in the day of the class with little to no preparation and teach! The classes will only be one time a month for each age group, and the congregation will be invited to sign up to facilitate these classes.

The curriculum we have chosen for the school age youth is titled "Dr. Seuss Changed My Life", developed by Cathy Cartwright, Director of Children's RE at First Unitarian Church in Portland, Oregon. From the course introduction, "Dr. Seuss' stories are more than just catchy poems; they often wrestle with serious philosophical and moral dilemmas, whether it is Horton discovering the very essence of life or the Lorax teaching us about morality, thoughtful issues concerning the environment and anti-consumerism in The Lorax (1971) . . . "

For the middle school and high school kids, we are going to try out "Popcorn Theology", which takes the concept and popularity of movie night to explore issues of theology and ethics for Unitarian Universalists. A short video clip is viewed and discussion and activities will follow.

For both of the youth classes we will be asking for volunteers to sign up to facilitate these classes. Liz will make sure that you have a copy of the lesson plan well in advance of your assigned session so that you feel comfortable leading the class. And you can always sit in on a class before your assigned time to see how it usually is run. This is a wonderful opportunity for all members of All Souls to get to know the younger folks in our congregation, as well as for the youth to get to know more of the adults!

For adult religious education, this year we'll probably have a mix of classes that are presented before service and after service on Sundays. Classes led/facilitated by members of our own congregation on topics that are near and dear to their hearts. If you have a topic you want to present, please contact me (Liz)! We are also hoping to get some of our speakers to present even more detail about their topic, potentially after the service. If you know of a specific topic you'd like to see included in the adult RE program this year, please let me know as soon as possible. I'd love to have most of the details worked out for the year before the arrival of Baby Hansen #3 (mid-August)!

.....and more RE

**One final RE announcement!**

"Speaking Peace: The Art & Science of Compassionate Nonviolent Communication (NVC)"

Presented by Lisa Kreischer. Wednesdays, Sept. 3 – Oct. 8, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm.

This foundations class will equip you with the four essential elements of Compassionate Nonviolent Communication, as developed by Marshall Rosenberg. This class will be led by Lisa Kreischer, an NVC practitioner and a member of the Program Resource Committee of the Columbus-based Center for Compassionate Communication. The class is open to anyone who wants to develop their communication skills in order to have more meaningful and effective relationships with friends, family members and co-workers. The fee is \$60 - scholarships & financial aid available. We don't want anyone to miss this class for financial reasons! Fliers with more details are available on the bulletin board in the basement - look for the Religious Education area!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**

Ann Kilgore – August 3  
Camden Carson – August 4  
Ruth Moody – August 4  
Sylith Waltz – August 4

Fate Christian – August 9  
Linda Wilson – August 10  
Kristi Ehrmantraut – August 12

Mary Anne Weeks – August 23  
Lillian Sprague – August 24  
Joan Richmond – August 25

.....clip and save.....

**JUST SO YOU KNOW**

**SPEAKERS FOR AUGUST**

August 3: Rev. Karen Bruno  
August 10: Dr. Walter Kania  
August 17: David FitzSimmons: Curious Critters  
August 24: Jim Scott: UU Composer, Poet,  
Performer & Activist  
August 31: Blessing the Animals & Pot Luck Picnic  
at Meadow Rise Farm

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sangha Sit & Dharma Talk:** August 11 @ 6:30  
**Board Meeting:** August 17 @ 9:00 am  
**Popcorn and a Movie:** the original "Godzilla"  
Thursday, Sept. 4 @ 7:30 pm  
On the Big Screen at All Souls  
Free Admission

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**SPEAKING PEACE: THE SCIENCE OF COMPASSIONATE NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION**

Six week class led by Lisa Kreischer. Wednesdays - Sept. 3 through Oct. 8 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm.  
For detailed information, please contact Liz Hansen: lizhugenb@hotmail.com or 614-378-6476.

**Karen Bruno, Minister**  
revkarenbruno@gmail.com  
419-612-9318

**Glenn Myers, Board President**  
glennmarq@yahoo.com  
740-501-5990

**Judy Shaffer, Pastoral Care Trustee**  
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