

# ALL SOULS AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER

## REFLECTIONS

As my 3 years with you come to a close, it seems appropriate to reflect on our time together. From my first visit, I knew there was something special about this church. From that moment when I asked Judy, “Who’s your minister?”, and she said, “We don’t have one”, it’s been quite a journey. (And that was before the service had even started!)

You are all searching for meaning and companionship in life’s voyage. You have found each other to share in this discovery process. This caring and sharing creates the special feeling that can be experienced from the first moment someone enters the sacred space.

I started with grand plans, most of which fell by the wayside as time passed. In part, because my energies got pulled in another direction and, in part, because the church was not eager for my vision. No blaming, just divergent goals.

My goals changed.....

1. To hire a secretary.
2. To restructure the board.
3. To get new chairs in the basement.
4. To hang the principles on the wall in the sanctuary.
5. To help the church grow enough that it could hire a quarter time minister.

(And if I could say which one I am most proud of, it is hiring Shelley. She is the single most important reason the church is growing!)

That is enough for my tenure. There is much more to be done, but it’s now yours to envision, create and do. The people are the bricks and stones of the building. The secretary is the mortar that holds it all together. The Board is the foundation. And the minister is the architect and coach.

I leave you in good hands. Will and I have gotten to talk and share; he’s ready to lead the church to the next chapter of its long history.

Blessings to all of you on your individual and collective journeys.

Love to you all,  
*Karen*

(Please note that when a minister leaves a church, it is proper for that person to withdraw from the community in all ways. It’s a time for thinking about the future, not the past. It’s time to embrace new leadership, not hold onto the old. So you will not see me, and I will most likely be withdrawing from Facebook contact. Please know it is not that I don’t care, but that it is unhealthy for churches to have a feeling of split loyalties. If there is something you want me to be involved in, talk to Will first. Thanks.)

# MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

...from Glenn Myers, President

## THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS - NOT EASY

According to the fifth Principle, we UUs affirm and promote the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large. That's a mouthful at the least, but it has a wholesome American flavor.

The problem is, there are winners and losers when issues are decided by a majority vote. The winners get their way, the losers do not. The success of the process depends on the behavior of the losers -- whether they can accept the results and support the decision of the majority.

Members of a UU Church are pledged to support the seven Principles, the fifth one addressing the democratic process. Therefore, UU Churches should not have any problems in making policy and business decisions. Right?

All of this seems pretty reasonable, but it flies in the face of another principle, not one of the seven. It is the perception of UU folks that they have a hard time making decisions about anything, a perception often heard from self-deprecating UUs themselves. Ergo, the hedge, consensus.

Popular among UUs is decision making by consensus rather than by vote. As an example, I propose a scenario of Board meeting in which members are discussing and discussing more, a controversial issue - no one is willing to present a motion and, finally when everyone is tired of talking about it, one of the Board members suggests a solution. The boardroom gets quiet and the chairman says, "OK, do we all agree on this solution?" No one objects. The issue has been decided by consensus. Actually the decision was made by two people, the member making the suggestion and the chairman who recognized it. The other Board members did not have to go on record one way or the other - their representation of the Congregation membership that elected them was nonexistent. If the comfort of not having to make a personal decision is more important . . . but who knows what the decision would have been if the issue had been put to a vote.

My point in this is not to put anyone down, but to suggest the democratic process as the better way to make decisions, even though it's not easy. All Souls health and growth depend on keeping up with the times, and this requires new ideas. Change is always difficult and decisions made by consensus are more likely to be conservative, often keeping a church stuck in the past.



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF  
**LOVE**

***"WE TAKE INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY SERIOUSLY"***

## JUNE TREASURER'S REPORT

	JUNE	Y-T-D
<b>INCOME</b>		
Pledges	2,001.00	24,913.00
Offerings	585.00	6,909.76
Donations - Maintenance Fund	0.00	3,080.00
Kenya Coin Collection	130.35	937.43
Chair Fund	10.96	1,233.96
Rummage Sale	55.00	2,258.40
Recycle	40.88	344.63
Minister's Discretionary Fund	0.00	-70.00
Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,229.40</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,823.19*</b>	<b>40,836.58</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,560.65**</b>	<b>40,813.02</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>-1,737.46</b>	<b>23.56</b>

\*A monthly income of \$3,039.33 is required in order to meet annual expenses of \$36,472.00

\*\*Expenses Other than "Usual"

Sign - \$1,950.00

Sign Permit - \$51.00

## JUNE PLEDGE REPORT

Total Members	27
Total Pledges	22
Average Attendance	60

	JUNE	Y-T-D
Amount Pledged	1,659.00	22,993.00
Amount Received	<u>2,001.00</u>	<u>24,913.00</u>
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>342.00</b>	<b>1,920.00</b>

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

At the summer bazaar, two of the round tables and eight extra folding chairs were sold. To replace the round tables, we purchased a molded, composed table that is of the same size, but much lighter and easier to move.

The chair lift was out of order for a couple of weeks. It needed a new transformer and two batteries that had to be ordered from the manufacturer. SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.

The front door lock was serviced and rekeyed. This should eliminate the problems we have had of locking and unlocking the door.

With the weather improving, it is time for outside painting. The basement windows and front door need painted this summer. I am seeking volunteers who enjoy painting. We will provide equipment and supplies. You can paint at your convenience. Those who would be interested, please contact me for scheduling the work.

I saved the good news for last. THE NEW CHURCH SIGN HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND ERECTED. 😊😊😊😊 Thanks to Jay Gilbert, Levi Waltz, L.D. Ball and Savannah Macpherson, the old sign was removed and the new one put up in a day and a half. Special THANKS to Jay and Levi who did yeoman work.

This project began about five years ago, when Jean Green thought we needed a new church sign. Her family honored her wishes by donating money received at her funeral to start a sign fund. Since then, others have contributed to the fund, particularly Mrs. Elizabeth Richmond, Reed's mother, which allowed us to purchase this beautiful sign. The original design concept was created by Brian Bartsch. The sign committee worked with Sign Graphix and developed what we now have in front of the church. The sign committee members are Mike Garber, Ann Kilgore, Bruce Kilgore, Sandy Macpherson, Reed Richmond, Chuck Rhodes and Judy Shaffer.



**Jay Gilbert & Levi Waltz**



**Jay Gilbert, L.D. Ball, Savannah Macpherson and Levi Waltz pose with the new sign.**

**...from Liz Hansen, Religious Education Committee Chair**

Will Humphrey will continue to lead Adult RE, viewing TED talks and discussing on August 2 & 9.

Children's RE will continue with the UUA curriculum "World of Wonders". The kids will have class each Sunday during the service.

Did you know one of the sources of our living tradition is: "Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit"? I wonder how many folks have ever studied Humanism? I know my understanding is about as deep as the reference to it being one of the sources of our beliefs. I have wonderful news for those interested in gaining a little deeper understanding. There is a nice "Introduction to Humanism: A Primer on the History, Philosophy, and Goals of Humanism" available for free from the Kochhar Online Humanist Education website, which is a program of The Humanist Institute. From their website (<http://cohe.humanistinstitute.org/introduction-to-humanism/>):

**By the time you've finished the two lessons of this module, you'll have a general understanding of what humanism is (and what it is not!), the role of humanism in history, the core principles of humanism, and what humanism offers the individual and society. We hope this course will inspire you to delve deeper into the rich culture of humanism by exploring other courses.**

So, if you are interested in leading this online class (maybe 4 sessions), PLEASE let me know! After Will's class is finished, we have nothing else lined up for the adults. I am in DESPERATE need of facilitators...without facilitators there is no adult RE program! I can work with you to find something you are comfortable doing on a topic you find interesting. Some classes require some advanced preparation, but many classes all you need to do is start a video or ask a couple questions and let the conversation develop. Thanks in advance, I look forward to another year of exciting and thought provoking Religious Education classes! If you are interested in being a facilitator, feel free to talk with me at church, email me at [lizhugenb@hotmail.com](mailto:lizhugenb@hotmail.com) or call me at 614-378-6476.

**PASTORAL CARE DUTIES**

**Until the Pastoral Care Trustee position is filled,  
please contact Glenn Myers with any concerns about members' health or well-being.**

**As always, Rev. Karen Bruno is available for more urgent Pastoral Care needs.**

- 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
- you are spiritually or emotionally searching and want a listening ear



**"Shaking It Down" during Children's Moment with Liz Hansen & speaker, Jenn Wilson.**

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

Thank you to all who helped with the Rummage Sale and Luncheon on July 11!

Our next Pot Luck will be Sunday, August 30, at Palm Park. Ham and drinks will be furnished. **Please bring your own table service and a dish to share.** We will need help for clean-up after the meal.

Don't forget, we will have a display table at the Bellville Street Fair, which starts September 16. Please have items at church by 4:00 pm – fruits, flowers, vegetables, grains, corn stalks, sunflowers, etc.

**...from Irene Maginniss, Secretary**

**And the Saddles Stole the Show**

Many **Thank Yous** to all who helped make our annual July Bazaar and Luncheon a success.

We had so many contributions of great Stuff, Food and Labor, and that made all the difference.

Thank you for going through things at home--garages, attics, etc. If you priced, that lightened our load as well!

Preparing and Cooking all the delicious food we had for our luncheon starts early  
and continues throughout the event.

Appreciated also were all the answers to my endless questions, those who sorted and priced -  
going through many boxes & bags of a wide variety of things to sell,  
as well as fetchers and haulers, builders and movers... "Could you move that over there?".

Our able crew: upstairs, downstairs and outside were so helpful and full of smiles.

Several pitched in with creative display ideas and put forth much effort taking orders  
and delivering food to outside vendors.

(L.D., though, shocked some customers when they were charged \$10 for a bag.)

Many thanks also to those who gave monetary donations.

Every bit counts, and each and every one of you made a difference.

**...from Brian Moore, Pulpit & Worship Trustee**

**Greetings from the Pulpit Chair  
CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND AN OPEN MIND**

I remember a long time ago watching a movie called "Forrest Gump". In the movie, Forrest was sitting on a bench having a conversation with an elderly lady about the Unitarian Universalist Church, and he told her it was like a box of chocolates, and you never know what you're going to get. Well it's been a long time since I saw that movie, maybe it wasn't exactly like that. But my point is the Unitarian Universalist Church is unique and diversified, and you're never always just sure what you are going to get but, like a box of chocolates, chances are it will taste pretty good.

A free and responsible search for the truth and meaning is our fourth principle. To search for truth and meaning means to have an open mind to many kinds of teachings, from Wiccan, Buddhism, Judaism, Hindu, Tao, Christian, Muslim, Native American and, most importantly, Unitarian Universalism. On any given Sunday, speakers can range from all of the above to more of a documentary, self-help seminar, geology, geography, science, nature, metaphysical, and reincarnation. Sometimes members of our own congregation take to the pulpit to be our speaker. What is nice about this variety is that no matter what we learn, if the speaker has nothing to do with Unitarian Universalism, half of our service is led by a church leader who chooses the hymns, readings, opening words, meditation, chalice lighting, and closing words, that most always focus on our personal beliefs and our principles.

## **...Pulpit & Worship cont.**

Having one of the most diversified churches in Richland County is amazing and special. If you don't happen to care for a subject or speaker on any given Sunday, just come back the following Sunday and try a new experience. Like a box of chocolates, everyone has their favorites, and sometimes even chocolate covered things can be disappointing. But I think for the most part, with an open mind and a desire to search for truth and meaning, you will find any given Sunday fulfilling and enlightening.

With that, I celebrate my first full year as your pulpit chair. We have seen our attendance grow from an average of 45 per Sunday to 65. This is worth celebrating as well. Despite the fact that we all know of the people who have left us as well. People who claim our church was not doing this or not doing that. Well I say, don't ask what your church can do for you, but what you can do for your church. Every member has an equal stake, and I encourage you to come to a board meeting if you have an idea, complaint, or advice. I also encourage you to come to me with guest speaker ideas and to even consider being a speaker yourself, if you have an interesting take on one of our seven principles.

### **Looking Ahead to August**

#### **August 2, 2015**

**Speaker:** Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer

**Title:** "Strength for the Journey."

**Topic:** What enables us to carry on, to keep going, to bounce back? Where do we get the tenacity of spirit to get up in the morning and pick up where we left off in the face of tragedy, discouragement, and defeat? What can we, as Universalists, draw on for ourselves and offer to others to provide strength for the journey.

**Leader:** Brian Moore

**Music:** Trio Alla Breve

#### **August 9, 2015**

**Speaker:** Dr. Walter Kania

**Title:** "Spirituality Without Sin and Salvation" "Psychology and the New Paradigm for Religion" "How Psychology Changes Religion's Negative View of Human Nature."

**Topic:** "Can a paradigm be preposterous? Try this one. The God of the Galaxies creates a sinful and disobedient mankind. This God (who created this sinful creature) then blames the creature for his sinfulness. In order to free this sinful creature and save him from eternal punishment, this God then makes a human sacrifice of his only true son, Jesus. There in a nutshell you have the preposterous paradigm of Sin and Salvation."

**Leader:** Bruce Kilgore

**Music:** Ayesha Fry

#### **August 16, 2015**

**Speaker:** William Humphrey

**Title:** "The Stars, the Creation and the Self."

**Topic:** A journey of self-discovery that visits creation, genesis and the self.

**Leader:** Cheryl Church

**Music:** Trio Alla Breve

#### **August 23, 2015**

**Speaker:** David Schwartz

**Title:** "UU Pagans"

**Topic:** "Paganism" is an integral religion in Unitarian Universalism, following the seventh principle. Schwartz will deal with modern myths about paganism, describe its basic philosophy, relate the eight major events in the pagan year and outline.

**Leader:** Reed Richmond

**Music:** Ayesha Fry

**TAO BRIDGE** at The Old Bag of Nails 6:30p -8:30p

Kid's meals are free with each adult purchase, and \$10.00 Craft Beer & Burger Special.

**...Pulpit & Worship cont.**

**August 30, 2015**

**Speaker:** Dr. Catherine Stoner

**Title/Topic:** Palm Park Animal Blessing - Fostering: "Whatever you do to the least of these", or how compassion for small things is a big deal.

**Leader:** Joan Richmond

**Music:** Trio Alla Breve

**Peace, Love, and Namaste to All Souls**



**Sandy Macpherson reads during Children's Moment.**

**...from Art O'Leary, Social Action/Social Justice Trustee**

There was a disappointing effort to attend the Mend Mansfield Coalition meeting July 16. When I spoke to Rev. Williams about 6 weeks ago he invited me to the meeting, but informed me that it would take place at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. Somehow, when the editor of the News Journal got involved, the meeting was moved to the News Journal offices, and he sent out invitations. Since I had not provided Rev. Williams with any contact information (other than telling him I represented All Souls Church in Bellville), I guess I can understand. Nonetheless, Glenn and I felt pretty left out standing around Mt. Calvary parking lot (while the meeting was taking place).

On Friday, July 17, the Safe Night Block Party event at Prospect Park was cancelled due to threatening weather. Again disappointing. I did e-mail Kaitlin Durbin, the NJ reporter who covered the event, to see if she had any insight as to how the meeting was set up, and she suggested I contact Mr. Brennan, the editor, which I did. He said that he had been given a list of people to invite by Rev. Williams, but that he would put us on the e-mail list for future events. At Reed's suggestion, I also contacted Angel Ross-Taylor, who also said she would include us on the list for future meetings. As Glenn said, "we'll just keep knocking".

For now, the next two events may have passed by the time this gets to you. There are Safe Night Block Parties July 24 at North Lake Park from 6p to 8:30p and also at Prospect Park July 31, same times. Also, the Each One Reach One rally is scheduled for August 15. You can follow up for details at the Mend Mansfield Coalition Facebook page, and I'll make an announcement in church. Also, in the category of will have happened by the time you read this, is the Mansfield Pride event at South Park in Mansfield on July 25. Mandy is leading our presence, and I'm sure we will have a lot to be proud of coming out of the event, pun intended!

I have not had much response to my request for input on SA/SJ meetings or projects. Thanks to Chuck for making me aware of a possible "fracking" operation coming to Bellville...will keep "an eye out" on this. BUT otherwise, come on people, don't make me schedule a meeting and be the only one there. When do you want to get together to talk about/plan All Souls involvement in social issues that relate to the Seven Principles? I'm waiting at 567-560-4781 or [ao52@neo.rr.com](mailto:ao52@neo.rr.com).

**Peace**



## Living Lotus Zen Sangha Upcoming Events

**Monday, August 10 - 6:30pm - 8:00pm**

**Relax It's Just Coffee - 105 N. Main St. Mansfield, OH 44902**

Book Study Discussion – “The Gateless Barrier” - "Case 2-Pai-Chang's Fox"

Sangha members and friends are invited for coffee and informal discussion over a Zen book. NEED NOT HAVE ATTENDED PREVIOUS SESSIONS to jump in!

BOOK: “The Gateless Barrier” -Robert Aitken

Suggested Selections to Have Read before Discussion: "Case 2- Pai-Chang's Fox"

Every time Baizhang, Zen Master Dahui, gave a dharma talk, a certain old man would come to listen. He usually left after the talk, but one day he remained. Baizhang asked, "Who is there?" The man said, "I am not actually a human being. I lived and taught on this mountain at the time of Kashyapa Buddha. One day a student asked me, 'Does a person who practices with great devotion still fall into cause and effect?' I said to him, "No, such a person doesn't." Because I said this, I was reborn as a wild fox for five hundred lifetimes. Reverend Master, please say a turning word for me and free me from this wild fox body." Then he asked Baizhang, "Does a person who practices with great devotion still fall into cause and effect?" Baizhang said, "Don't ignore cause and effect."

Immediately the man had great realization. Bowing, he said, "I am now liberated from the body of a wild fox. I will stay in the mountain behind the monastery. Master, could you perform the usual services for a deceased monk for me?" Baizhang asked the head of the monks' hall to inform the assembly that funeral services for a monk would be held after the midday meal. The monks asked one another, "What's going on? Everyone is well; there is no one sick in the Nirvana Hall." After their meal, Baizhang led the assembly to a large rock behind the monastery and showed them a dead fox at the rock's base. Following the customary procedure, they cremated the body.

That evening, during his lecture in the dharma hall, Baizhang talked about what had happened that day. Huangbo asked him, "A teacher of old gave a wrong answer and became a wild fox for five hundred lifetimes. What if he hadn't given a wrong answer?" Baizhang said, "Come closer and I will tell you." Huangbo went closer and slapped Baizhang's face. Laughing, Baizhang clapped his hands and said, "I thought it was only barbarians who had unusual beards. But you too have an unusual beard!"

Bring your thoughts, notes, insights and confusions and a friend!

**Monday, August 24 at 6:30pm - 8:00pm at All Souls U.U. Church - 25 Church St. Bellville, OH 44813**

Everyone is welcome to practice with us! No previous meditation experience necessary. The church is opened at 6:00 p.m. Please enter from the side door, and we sit upstairs. Loaner meditation cushions (Zafus & Zabutons) are available, as well as pews for those who prefer/need to sit in a chair.

### Schedule

6:30pm-6:50pm - Zazen (sitting meditation)

6:50pm-7pm - Kinhin (walking meditation)

7pm-7:20pm - Zazen – (second period of zazen)

7:20pm-7:30pm - Liturgy – (Heart Sutra, chanting and prostrations)

7:30pm-8pm - Sangha Discussion & Business

Brief Beginner's guide to Zazen & Kinhin:

<http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/practice/zazen/howto/index.ht>

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**

Ann Kilgore – Aug. 3  
Camden Carson – Aug. 4  
Ruth Moody – Aug. 4  
Sylith Waltz – Aug. 4

Fate Christian – Aug. 9  
Linda Wilson – Aug. 10  
Sage Hansen – Aug. 20

Mary Anne Weeks – Aug. 23  
Lillian Sprague – Aug. 24  
Joan Richmond – Aug. 25

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

**JUST SO YOU KNOW**

**SPEAKERS FOR AUGUST**

August 2: Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer      August 16: William Humphrey  
August 9: Dr. Walter Kania                      August 23: David Schwartz  
August 30: Dr. Catherine Stoner

**AUGUST EVENTS**

**Adult RE: Viewing TED talks and discussing with facilitator, Will Humphrey** – Sunday, August 2 @ 9:00 am

**Children’s RE: “World of Wonders”** – Sunday, August 2 During the Service

**General Congregational Meeting** – Sunday, August 2 Following the Service

**Children’s RE: “World of Wonders”** – Sunday, August 9 During the Service

**Adult RE: Viewing TED talks and discussing with facilitator, Will Humphrey** – Sunday, August 9 @ 9:00 am

**Buddhist Book Discussion “The Gateless Barrier”** - Monday, August 10 @ 6:30 pm at Relax It’s Just Coffee

**Board Meeting** - Sunday, August 16 @ 9:00 am

**Children’s RE: “World of Wonders”** – Sunday, August 16 During the Service

**Children’s RE: “World of Wonders”** – Sunday, August 23 During the Service

**Living Lotus Zen Sangha** – Monday, August 24 @ 6:30 pm at All Souls

**Questions for Your Answers Discussion & Breakfast** - Wednesday, Aug. 26 @ 10:00 am at Bob Evans-Hanley Rd.

**Blessing of the Animals, Pot Luck Picnic & Kenya Coin Collection at Palm Park** - Sunday, August 30 @ 10:30 am

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

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

**website: [allsoulsuohio.org](http://allsoulsuohio.org)      email: [allsoulsohio@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulsohio@gmail.com)**