

# ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER

## Ramblings from Karen.....*Rev. Karen Bruno*

### CHA, CHA, CHA, Changes...

Well, just over one year ago, many (MANY!) of you helped Chris and I move to Bellville. I was so moved by the amount of help that was offered; it still makes me feel good to remember.

I am sorry to report that we have returned to Mansfield. There are lots of reasons, none of them are about the church! But for several personal reasons, Mansfield is a better place for us.

### Christmas Eve



It's that time!! Christmas Eve service will take place at 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a Progressive Christmas Eve worship. I am looking for musicians to play and lead hymns for this evening's event.

### Task Force

Sorry I was sick for the organizing meeting. I am putting this on hold until January. Thanks to all for their interest. Don't forget about this...we WILL be getting it going after the New Year!



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### New Members

If you want to join the church, please let Karen know by Sunday, December 7. New members will be welcomed into the church on December 21!

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

# MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

**...from Glenn Myers: President**

## **If You Don't Hear Crying, Your Church Is Dying**

I borrowed the theme for this article from All Souls Religious Education Trustee, Liz Hansen. Liz says she borrowed it from someone else. Regardless of the original source of the maxim, hopefully you will get the message, which is that children and young adults are the future members and leaders of the congregation.

The All Souls UU Church Board of Management recently voted to remove the "Children's Moment" segment from the standard Sunday morning service. Before anyone gets upset about this action, be assured that the decision was based on time and efficiency of the service - not on the very important recognition and inclusion of children in our congregation. The Board determined that the segment, as we know it, was time-consuming and ineffective (for both the children and the adults).

The Board is considering other more effective ways of serving and recognizing our children and their parents in our Sunday service. Above all, we want to make sure that the children, themselves, feel they are wanted and important to All Souls UU Church of Bellville as they develop their memory chips. Suggestions are welcome.

My position: Let us hear some crying and fussing as we are getting settled for the service and then direct the children to a meaningful program designed for them. This will allow the adults in the congregation to enjoy the music, the atmosphere of worship, and the message without distractions.

Remember: If you don't hear some crying, All Souls is dying.

**...from Irene Maginniss: Secretary**

At nine a.m. on the third Sunday,  
each month we gather, come what may.

Trustees, officers, chairpersons, etc., and guest(s),  
Glenn says (according to Robert) to move along etc., and do not jest.

Of the budget, Joanne did share good news.  
The Holiday Bazaar a success! And now on to pay the UU dues!

Chuck is happy he can fix the kitchen window.  
And even though his list is long,  
his smile is always constant, ya know?

That's all for November, we'll learn more each time.  
When Madam Secretary can remember,  
this month turkeys are on my mind!

## OCTOBER 2014 REPORT

We received two donations in October, for which we are most grateful. A \$2,600.00 donation was received from Elizabeth Richmond, which was earmarked for maintenance and signage. A donation of \$240.00 was received from Marjorie & Morley Smith and also earmarked for maintenance. Both donations were deposited into our savings account.

### OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>
Pledges	1,770.00	8,746.00
Offerings	949.65	2,444.76
Kenya Coin Collection	65.00	315.31
Rummage Sale	50.00	950.50
Recycle	107.83	169.21
Other	50.00	50.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,992.48*</b>	<b>\$12,685.78</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,166.32</b>	<b>\$12,398.37</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>-\$173.84</b>	<b>\$287.41</b>

\*A monthly income of \$3,064.33 is required in order to meet annual expenses of \$36,772.00.

### OCTOBER PLEDGE REPORT

Total Members	27
Total Pledges	21
Average Attendance	46

	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>
<b>Amount Pledged</b>	<b>\$1,852.00</b>	<b>\$7,904.00</b>
<b>Amount Received</b>	<b>\$1,770.00</b>	<b>\$8,756.00</b>
<b>Variance</b>	<b>-\$82.00</b>	<b>\$852.00</b>

### NOVEMBER HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Rummage	\$568.00
Food	\$549.00
Donations before & after	\$215.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,332.00</b>

**...from Bruce Kilgore: Fellowship Trustee**

A big thank you to all that helped or contributed to the annual Holiday Bazaar. The candy making Saturday was a lot of fun, and the fellowship was great!

Thank you to all who have signed up for Sunday treats, clean-up, etc. It is nice to have reliable help.

Our next Pot Luck will be the annual Holiday Brunch on the last Sunday of December. The church will provide the ham.

As always, if you have questions or comments, feel free to contact me or Ann Kilgore.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

**...from Reed Richmond: Social Action Trustee**

After hearing Rev. Karen Bruno's sermon on "Social Justice in a Small Town", I am asking you to join us on Tuesday, December 2 at 7 pm for our monthly Social Action/Social Justice forum. Please come prepared to talk about Rev. Bruno's suggestion: What fires you up when it comes to social justice? So many of our seven principles touch on social action and social justice: democracy, environment, human rights, and so on. So let us know what your passions are.

Right now, we are going to march in the Bellville Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 6. Meet at 10:30 am at the corner of Ogle & Bell Streets (our first step is letting people know we are here). We'll be wearing our Santa Hats (Bruce saved several from the rummage sale) and carrying our "Standing on the Side of Love" sign. We are planning peace rallies on Saturdays in Bellville at the village square. We are planning a candlelight vigil on Memorial Day for victims of war. We are still planning on starting the process to become a Welcoming church.

But those are things we just started talking about. There's plenty of time to hear from you and your passion. Please join us on first Tuesdays.



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

The proposed maintenance project list, with cost estimates, was distributed and reviewed at the Board Meeting on November 16. Approval was given to replace the south kitchen window with double pane tempered glass. The window frame has deteriorated and needs replaced with cedar wood. The cost is \$900.00 and is expected to be completed by December 15.

The Leek Organ Co. of Oberlin, Ohio, performed the annual cleaning/tuning/inspection of the A.B. Felgemaker Organ. The condition of the church organ is very good, which is gratifying since it was built in 1873.

Preventive maintenance on the two furnaces was completed November 14. They are in good working order.

Snow removal began early (yuck). Be careful of the sidewalks and parking lot as they may be slippery. Extra ice melt has been purchased. Anyone wishing to help remove snow, let me know. Last year Reed Richmond did it all winter with very little help.

The meeting of the church sign committee will be Sunday, December 7 after coffee hour. Interested parties are invited to attend.

A Maintenance Inspection Committee is being considered to inspect the facility, focusing on safety and health issues. If you are interested, please let me know.

**For now, STAY WARM and HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



**...from Mike Garber: Finance Trustee**

The Finance Committee met last month for the First Quarter Audit. New members on the committee are Kristy Mandeville and Dick Gleckler.

A special thanks to all who helped make the Holiday Bazaar a success. From advertising to promotion to preparation... so many were involved. We raised approximately \$1,400. This is the highest sales I know of. \$7.00 more than November 2006. \$500.00 more than the July sale. The biggest July sale I remember was \$2,100.

Wishing You All Peace and Joy

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

### **PASTORAL CARE DUTIES**

Teasha Sprague is assisting  
with the Pastoral Care Duties.

If you cannot reach Judy, please contact Teasha at 440-622-1611.

There are Christmas cards in the Fellowship Hall compliments of LaDonna O'Neal.  
Please feel free to take them.

**Please contact Judy Shaffer for the following areas of Pastoral Care:**

- coordination of welcome and follow up with visitors
- coordination of cards and visits to shut-ins
- gathering of concerns about members: health, family and individual issues
- organizing a list of members willing to do visits when needed
- coordination of general contact and check-ins with members and friends

**Please contact Rev. Karen Bruno for the following areas of Pastoral Care:**

- 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.

**...from Liz Hansen, Religious Education Trustee**

### **Children's RE for December**

**Sunday, December 7 During the Service:** 5-10 year olds will enjoy the Dr. Seuss Curriculum "The Big Brag" with teacher, Sandy Macpherson.

**Sunday, December 14 During the Service:** 11-18 year olds will enjoy the Popcorn Theology curriculum "Field of Dreams" with teacher, Reed Richmond.



**...from Mandy Waltz: Media, Advertising & Growth Trustee**

Well, it's been a quick couple of months for me, and I cannot believe it is already December! Unfortunately, I don't have much for this month's newsletter. I am still taking it all in and, with life experience, figuring out ideas.

I still firmly believe the Bellville Fair is one of our greatest opportunities to get the word out about our church. I so strongly believe in this that I will do whatever it takes next year to get us a table. If I have to pay for it myself, I do not mind.

The website issues have now been brought to attention. Next year, I hope to be more active with our website, Facebook and Twitter accounts. October brought Halloween or All Hallows Eve or All Saints Eve or All Souls Day, November 2, or Samhain on November 1 or Oiche Shamhna, which means "eve of Samhain". Samhain used to be November 1, but it is now the Gaelic name for the month of November. Whichever one you call it (LOL), I had another epiphany. We should have a float in the Bellville Halloween Parade! And again, by next Halloween, I do not mind (with the church's permission) getting that together, even if I comes out of my own pocket. I apologize for not bringing that up sooner, but better late than never. Also, it would be good to have a float in any other Bellville parade, or some appearance in it.

Now that we are in the month of December, remember to invite friends and family to our beautiful candlelight service. Word of mouth is so very powerful a thing and free. But above this, our candlelight service is the one time you really don't want to miss at our church. Every Sunday is a gift. Every special occasion our church has is priceless. The love we share, the connections we make, the memories we create together burns bright in all our hearts. But, at our candlelight service, that warm light glows brighter and more beautiful than I could ever put into words. Come and bring a friend or two!



...from Brian Moore: Pulpit & Worship Trustee

### Greetings from the Pulpit Chair

I am starting to make some progress on filling speaker dates. I still have two dates open in April and three dates open in March. Happy to say February is filled, and only one day in January to fill. Much more work to do, but our speaker bookings are coming along.

#### Looking into December.....

**Sunday December 7:** Our speaker is Karen Bruno. She will lead the service, and the Trio will provide music. The topic will be "What I Like about the Christmas Story."

"After most of my life spent in the Christian Church, and many years preaching during Advent and Christmas, I have many good things to say about the stories." Come hear a Minister ordained in the Christian church talk to Unitarian Universalists about the story. She will light our second Advent Candle for "Peace" as well.

**Sunday December 14:** This will be our last talk by Dr. Walter Kania this year. Walter will return to the pulpit schedule starting the third week of May, and then every second Sunday through December 2015. Sandy will be the leader and light our third Advent Candle for "Joy", and Ayesha will provide the music.

**Sunday December 21:** Bruce and Sandy will lead as Readers Theater Group, presenting a Short Christmas Story by Truman Capote. Bruce will light our fourth Advent Candle for "Love" and the Trio will provide the music. Also, there will be a visit from Santa Clause after coffee hour.

**Wednesday December 24: Christmas Eve.** Karen Bruno will lead Christmas Eve service at 7pm. Come and enjoy a Progressive Christmas Eve worship. "A worship service of traditional and modern readings, music, and candles to honor this traditional holiday." Karen is looking for musicians to play and lead hymns for this evening's event. Please contact her.

#### Thursday December 25: Christmas Day

**Sunday December 28:** Reed Richmond will share his family Christmas story and growing up with the *real* Santa. Reed will then ask members of our congregation to share their favorite family stories and traditions. Ayesha will provide our lovely music and, following the service, we will share in a Holiday Brunch. Kenya Coin Collection is also on this day.

Looking forward to the New Year.

**Wishing Peace, Prosperity, Health & Happiness to All Souls**





## Living Lotus Zen Sangha December Schedule

**Monday, December 1st at 6:30pm - 8:00pm Book Study** - At Relax, It's Just Coffee -105 N. Main St., Mansfield OH 44902. Sangha members and friends are invited for coffee and informal discussion over a Zen book. This will offer Sangha members and friends an opportunity for intensive work with a text to supplement our regular 2nd & 4th Monday sittings.

BOOK: "Inside the Grass Hut: Living Shitou's Class Zen poem" by Ben Connelly (2014) Wisdom Publications ISBN#978-1-61429-121-3 Suggested selections to have read before discussion: Chap. 4- 7. Bring your thoughts, notes, insights and confusions!

### **Monday, December 8th at 6:30pm - 8:30pm - Rohatsu Extended Silent Sitting**

At All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. The church is opened at 6:00 p.m. Please enter from the side door. We sit upstairs. Loaner meditation cushions (Zafus & Zabutons) are available as well as pews for those who prefer/need to sit in a chair. To commemorate the traditional Buddhist holiday of the Buddha's enlightenment, we will have a special extended silent sitting. There will be no service or dharma talk, but silent alternation sitting and walking for the entire length of the time.

#### **SPECIAL ROHATSU SCHEDULE**

6:30pm-6:50pm - Zazen (sitting meditation)	7:20pm-7:30pm - Kinhin
6:50pm-7pm - Kinhin (walking meditation)	7:30pm-7:50pm - Zazen
7pm-7:20pm - Zazen	7:50pm-8pm - Kinhin
	8pm-8:30pm - Zazen

### **Monday, December 22nd at 6:30pm - 8:30pm - Sitting & Dharma Talk at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church**

#### **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-8:30pm - Dharma Talk delivered by Sensei Dean Williams

Current Book/Text/Discussion – "Inside the Grass Hut" – Connelly

### **LIVING LOTUS & JIJUYU-JI SANGHAS WINTER SESSHIN WEEKEND RETREAT**

Fri. February 27, 2015 - Sun. March 1, 2015

Mohican Outdoor School - 5370 Bunkerhill North Rd., Butler, Ohio 44822

COST = \$85/person [includes lodging and meals]

Contact [fortunasandwiches@gmail.com](mailto:fortunasandwiches@gmail.com) to RSVP

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/pages/Living-Lotus-Zen-Sangha/221565108160](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Living-Lotus-Zen-Sangha/221565108160)

**Website:** [sites.google.com/site/livinglotuszensangha/](http://sites.google.com/site/livinglotuszensangha/)

**Brief Beginner's Guide to Zazen & Kinhin:** <http://global.sotozennet.or.jp/eng/practice/zazen/howto/index.html>

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Cheryl Church – December 15  
Art O’Leary – December 17  
Mel Wagner – December 17

Cicely Bartsch – December 25  
Sandy Macpherson – December 28

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

## JUST SO YOU KNOW

### SPEAKERS FOR DECEMBER

December 7: Rev. Karen Bruno  
December 14: Dr. Walter Kania  
December 21: Reader Theater

December 24: Christmas Eve Service  
Rev. Karen Bruno  
December 28: Congregation

### DECEMBER EVENTS

**Social Action/Justice Group Discussion:** Tuesday, December 2 @ 7:00 pm

**Bellville Christmas Parade:** Saturday, December 6. Meet at the corner of Ogle & Bell Streets at 10:30 am

**R.E. Dr. Seuss Curriculum – “The Big Brag” (ages 5-10):** Sunday, December 7 During the Service

**All Souls 201** – Sunday, December 7 @ 12:30 pm at Brumby’s

**Sign Committee Meeting** – Sunday, December 7 Following Coffee Hour

**Rohatsu Extended Silent Sitting :** Monday, December 8 @ 6:30 pm

**R.E. Popcorn Theology – “Field of Dreams” (ages 11-18):** Sunday, December 14 During the Service

**Board Meeting:** Sunday, December 21 @ 9:00 am

**New Members Welcomed:** Sunday, December 21 During the Service

**Sangha Sit & Dharma Talk:** Monday, December 22

**Progressive Christmas Eve Worship:** Wednesday, December 24 @ 7:00 pm

**Merry Christmas!** – Thursday, December 25

**Kenya Coin Collection:** Sunday, December 28

**Holiday Brunch:** Sunday, December 28

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