

ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER

Karen's Letter to the Board of All Souls

Dear Board Members of All Souls,

The reason I am writing is to inform board members that I plan to leave All Souls at the end of August this year. This may seem like a lot of notice, but I do want the church to have a thoughtful process and examination of the type of leadership wanted in the future.

I will continue as usual through May. During June, July and August, I will be available for requested Pastoral Care, Weddings and Funerals. My last Sunday will be at the Pet Blessing Service, which is the Sunday I started in 2012.

The simplest explanation I can give is that I don't have the emotional energy to do two jobs well, and I don't like doing less than my best work. I have not done all that I dreamed of doing and not all that needs to be done by a minister. There are so many possibilities for strengthening and deepening this community with leadership that has the skills and time to dedicate to All Souls.

NEXT STEPS

The church community needs to decide if they want a future Minister. I realize there will not be fast agreement. The first step is the Visioning Task Force. My hope is that the members of the Task Force will make a recommendation to the Board by the March meeting about whether or not to seek another minister. It will then be up to the Board to decide if they want to adopt this recommendation. So, any report from the Task Force to the Board is only a recommendation.

If the Board ultimately decides to hire another Minister, I have already made inquiries to the District leadership about the possibility of finding a ¼ Minister and what that would cost. And while a Minister would be a "Big Ticket" item, I believe it is possible to make it work.

Personally, I have grown from my experiences at All Souls and will always treasure these memories. I look forward to creating more of those memories in the next 7 months!

Blessings,

Karen

"WE TAKE INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY SERIOUSLY"

MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

...from Glenn Myers: President

Racism Redux

MLK's birthday is over. Next is Black History Month; but, with February being a short month, it will soon pass. Now we can forget about this race stuff for another year. What a relief. Oh, really?

Actually, racism doesn't go into remission - only our awareness does. Racism is a chronic social disease that has caused our country enormous consternation since its beginning (Civil War, Selma, Ferguson, etc.), and it is still thriving. Like the physical disease cancer, racism seems to defy the social and educational versions of vaccines, treatments and therapy.

This social infection isn't confined to the inner city, red states or the south. It's everywhere. It's everywhere because it is in us, not in the environment.

Racism is festering in the hearts and just under the skin of way too many people. It's just waiting for a leading remark, an incident or just about any excuse to pop out and join with others who are espousing racial slurs and innuendoes. On it goes, racism enabling more racism.

So, what do we do? Carrying signs and protesting in groups are not effective answers. We must personally get this disease out of our systems. We must cleanse ourselves and condemn it (or at least not support it) in others. We must spread the cure, not the toxin. Our country and our communities can be so much more without the plague of racism.

I am very proud of our church. All Souls UU Church of Bellville is an island of minority support - racism is not a part of our geography. But we can do more.

We can spread our positive attitudes where we work, in our circles of friends, in our families, in our schools, wherever we go. This kind of a grass-roots campaign can make a difference. It can make us all more.

...from Irene Maginniss, Secretary

Abundance* at All Souls (a partial list)

Our Newsletter is over the top!

All who contribute: please never stop.
(and the ones who put it together)

Our Financial Resources:

Pledges, offerings, savings & a CD,
Sales, collections, an All Souls fund that's healthy.
(Joanne is also a Treasure)

Our Speaker Program has variety and interest.
Members, friends and guests anticipate what's next.

Music, Fellowship, Pastoral Caring

Come to our next Bd. Mtg. and hear the sharing.

Living Our Principles, Social Action and more,
The building itself-windows, brick, organ I adore!

New chairs in our **Fellowship Hall**
for which we'll shout!

It's the folks who sit in them -
that's what it's all about!

Abundance to be continued.....*Inspired by Rev. Bruno after her **One Word Talk** in early January.

DECEMBER 2014 REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME	DECEMBER	Y-T-D
Pledges	1,834.00	12,338.00
Offerings	358.00	3,237.76
Kenya Coin Collection	55.00	434.81
Rummage Sale	.00	2,203.40
Recycle	.00	169.21
Other	126.00	226.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,373.00*	\$18,609.18
EXPENSES	\$3,319.24**	\$19,165.56
DIFFERENCE	(\$946.24)	(\$556.38)

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

**Expenses other than the 'regular': Action Drain & Septic: \$415
Rug Cleaning: \$100

DECEMBER PLEDGE REPORT

Total Members	27
Total Pledges	22
Average Attendance	46

	DECEMBER	Y-T-D
Amount Pledged	\$1,659.00	\$11,943.00
Amount Received	\$1,834.00	\$12,338.00
Variance	\$ 175.00	\$ 395.00

...from Mike Garber, Finance Trustee

I don't have any news from the finance committee. However, I read about these events in the OMD Newsletter.

WINTER INSTITUTE

February 13-16, 2015

A weekend gathering of UUs of all ages
Salt Fork State Park
Cambridge, Ohio

2015 DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

March 27 & 28, 2015

This is the first joint meeting of the OMD and St Lawrence District
Niagara Falls Convention Center
Niagara Falls, New York

more information at ohiomeadville.org

...from Chuck Rhodes: Building & Maintenance Trustee

- I want to thank Reed Richmond for his efforts in snow removal this winter. This is a major expenditure savings. Thanks again Reed!!!

- The Sign Committee had its first meeting on January 3rd. Various designs were discussed. At the next meeting, Saturday, January 24 @ 12 noon, we looked at some designs and costs. If you have any suggestions, please convey them to a committee member.

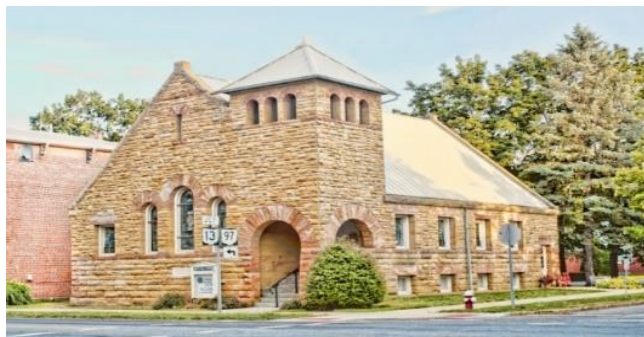
SIGN COMMITTEE

Mike Garber
Ann Kilgore
Bruce Kilgore

Sandy Macpherson
Chuck Rhodes
Judy Shaffer

- We will be replacing the window in the storage room to make it more accessible as an emergency exit. More information will be available as we proceed.

- Lately, there has been damage to the door closer on the rear door. On two occasions, the base plate on the door frame had to be removed and straightened. This plate is 1/8" steel, so considerable force had to be used to cause this damage. Also, the connecting yoke to the base plate was bent and the rivet was broken, making the door closer inoperable. So please be careful, do not open the door beyond its limit and watch for any wind gusts that may catch the door.



...from Reed Richmond, Social Action Trustee

Social Justice/Social Action Meeting

We will have our regular meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. (February 3) unless the roads are really bad. Use your best judgment.

Social Justice and the Movies

Many of you may be aware of the movie “Selma” that was released in time for Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday. The march on Selma will see its 50th anniversary this year. At All Souls, we have been engaged in a youth religious education series (teens) about social action and social justice subjects in the movies. As one of the teachers, I was struck by how mature the topics were and that this would make a great Adult Religious Education series. As an introduction to that, I am going to present a talk at All Souls on March 22 about how movies present social topics and how UUs can use those movies as launching pads for open discussions about social justice. I hope you’ll join us on March 22 and for the classes when we get those organized.

Honoring Our War Dead and Seeking Peace

On May 24, the day before Memorial Day, I will be presenting a Peace Memorial Service at All Souls for the 10:30 a.m. service. This will be a preview of the service we will hold at the Bellville Bandstand at 7:00 p.m. that night. The purpose of the service is to honor those who have given their lives serving in our armed forces while we seek peaceful solutions to ending war and its devastating effects. Please join us for both candlelight memorial services and a call for peace.

Coins for Kenya

I was asked at the last Board Meeting to write a little something about one of our ongoing Social Action projects. We tend to think that everyone knows what Kenya Coins Collection is and forget that we have new members or recent attendees who may not know much about it. About 10 years ago, Aloys Kamwithi, a native of Kenya who lives in Mansfield, came to All Souls to talk about a project he had started in his native land when he discovered that their children were living alone because they had lost their parents to the AIDS epidemic in Africa. Coining the term “AIDS Orphans,” Aloys decided to create a place for these orphans to be taken care of and where they could go to school. Aloys started a campaign to raise funds, and All Souls has been dedicated to this cause ever since.

Once a month (the last Sunday) we have our Kenya Coin Collection. You have seen our children pass the plate to collect your loose change on that Sunday (some of them can be quite insistent!). Since I came from a church in Texas that had a monthly “Two-Cent A Meal” collection for a similar fund on the last Sunday, I was pretty used to collecting loose change for the end of the month. I clean change out of my pocket when I get home every day and put it in a pile on the window ledge by the door. At the end of the month, I usually have about three to six dollars of change there. Now the goal of “Two-Cent A Meal” was to collect two cents per meal for every member of your family. In our house, that meant three meals times three people times two cents - or 18 cents a day. Then times 30 for days of the month or \$5.40 a month for our family.

Here’s the math for “Kenya Coins”: All Souls is committed to giving \$100 a month to Aloys for his fund (our monthly amount goes into this larger pot to help those children). No matter how much the congregation gives in loose change, the church funds will make up the rest to give \$100. For several years, we have fallen short of the \$100 collected per month in change and never worried about it. However, the more we collect in loose change (and we will take loose bills too, believe me), the less we have to contribute out of church finances. Just something to think about at the end of the month. \$5.40 per family is not a lot to consider when contributing to this worthy social action.

Last, Aloys attends our service at least once a year to tell us about the good that is happening in his village with the money we donate. We’ve also had fund-raising goals for schoolbooks and school supplies in the past, and the response has been extraordinary. Aloys produced one of my favorite lines I have ever heard at our church when he said “This little church holds the heart of the world in its hands.” If that doesn’t cause you to reach for your change at the end of the month, I don’t know what will.

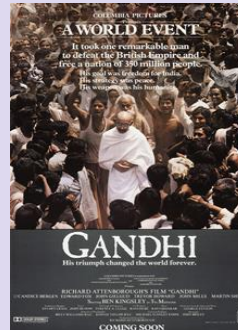
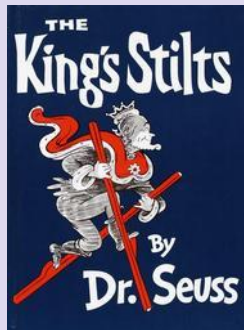
As always, thanks for what you do in the name of peace and justice.

...from Liz Hansen, Religious Education Trustee

The young children, ages 5-10, will continue with the Dr. Seuss curriculum, with Irene Maginniss leading "The King's Stilts" on February 1.

The youth, ages 11-18, will be led by Sandy Macpherson on February 8 for the Popcorn Theology class. They will be viewing a selection from "Gandhi" and will discuss from a UU perspective.

Adult RE will be starting up again soon from our winter break. As always, see Liz Hansen if you have a class idea or would be interested in facilitating a class!



...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.

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 Bruce Kilgore, Fellowship Trustee

February's Pot Luck will be on the 22nd. If you can think of an idea or theme, let me know. Special thanks to all who have helped in the past two months. Keep in mind, on Sundays there are extra dishes and areas to clean, so please consider helping the people who have signed up for kitchen clean-up & dishes and social room & bathrooms by giving them a helping hand.

All Souls by the Numbers

- 1 – The approval to buy our Wilton wool carpet passed by one vote.
- 2 – How many ways our organ can be powered (electric fan-filled bellows & hand pumping).
- 3 – Number of deco glass light fixtures.
- 4 – The number of wood cane-bottom chairs remaining at the church.
- 5 – Organists at All Souls since the 1980s: Tom Miller, Amy Walter, Amy Hollar, David Roepke & Ayesha Fry.
- 6 – Number of chuck roasts needed to make beef & noodles for the bazaar.
- 7 – The March date our founder, Truman Strong, was born & died.
- 8 – Number of stops on our organ.
- 9 – Number of arched openings at the top of the Bell Tower.
- 10 – Number of basement windows.
- 11 – Number of Trustees & Board at All Souls.
- 12 – Letters in the name UNIVERSALIST.
- 13 – Number of doors at All Souls.
- 14 – Stained glass windows.
- 15 – Number of sandstone arches on exterior of All Souls.
- 16 – Number of stairsteps from basement to sanctuary.
- 17 – Working face pipes on the organ.
- 18 – Whole note pedals on the organ.
- 19 – Flowers depicted in stain glass windows.
- 20 – Pews in sanctuary.

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

Hello church family. As the dust of 2014 settles and I see the future of this year more clearly, I am very hopeful and excited! I have major personal changes happening in my life and am eager to see the changes that will be happening in our church. The next few months will be very busy for me; but, part of my change is to be more involved with the church. It is one of my major focus points. I have been briefly discussing ministry with our wonderful Karen. Though, sadly, there are no UU schools locally. So to actually become a minister has been put on hold. But I hope to be a more active speaker in the future. My first ever talk will be March 8th - very nervous and thrilled about it.

As the Media, Advertising & Growth Trustee, I just want to remind everyone how important word of mouth is. We are all a representative of our church. We are the face of our church. Speak kindly to others. Share stories and memories of All Souls with others.

Happy Valentine's Day! Hope you spread all kinds of love!



...from Brian Moore, Pulpit & Worship Trustee

Greetings from the Pulpit Chair

Well, the first month of the year has come and gone. Our first Sunday, Karen Bruno asked us all to choose and focus on one word. One word that you hope God will do in you. What one word might change your life? I think mine will have to be "Patience".

Our second Sunday brought a very moving experience, as the Richland Newhope Dance Troupe brought their talents and shared their very touching Anti-Bullying and People First message. Our third Sunday was filled with wonderful music, as Opossum sung songs and told stories on Life, Love, and Personal Evolution. And to some members, a surprise to find our own Kristi Ehrmantraut singing backups and an announcement of their March 21st wedding. I also enjoyed playing "All Kinds of Roses" for the first time in front of an audience. And finally, the last Sunday - I hope we now have a little more sympathy for the devil and an appreciation of the Yin and Yang and not see things so much as black and white.

Looking Ahead to February.....

Sunday Feb. 1

Speaker: Karen Bruno

Title: "Seeking and Finding God"

Topic: In a chaotic world and our busy lives, how can we have time for a spiritual life? And, what is "God" anyway!?

Leader: Reed Richmond with music by Trio Alle Breve

Sunday Feb. 8

Speaker: Tim Barger, PhD

Title: "Introducing Story Theology"

Topic: Stories are central to all religions from long ago and the stories we share today.

Leader: Joan Richmond with music by Ayesha Fry

Sunday Feb. 15

Speaker: Sister Paulette Schroeder

Title: "Living the Life of Personal Nonviolence"

Topic: Nonviolence begins within, with a moral imperative to the likening of Gandhi and King. To treat all brothers and sisters and creation with the utmost respect. **WE ARE ALL ONE.** Nonviolence implies a life of prayer - aligning ourselves within the Spirit of God - no judging or putting into categories. A nonviolent life involves studying, informing ourselves about the situation before acting or giving conclusive statements. This kind of life uses nonviolent language and asks the practitioner to step forth and speak truthfully and courageously when called for.

Leader: Eric Sargent with music by Trio Alle Breve

Sunday Feb. 22

Speaker: Lisa Kreischer

Title: "Taking Responsibility for Our Actions"

Topic: When you can recognize what "need(s)" you are trying to meet, in situations where you believe you don't have any choice, it can help you decide how you want to act. I'll share how I went from temper tantrum to competence in 60 seconds at the age of 60.

Leader: Teasha Sprague with music by Ayesha Fry

Potluck Sunday and Kenya Coin Collection

Peace, Love, and Namaste to All Souls

Living Lotus Zen Sangha February Schedule

Monday, Feb. 2, 6:30pm – 7:30 pm 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 Mondays' 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. 13-17

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

Monday, Feb. 9 and Monday, Feb. 23 - 6:30pm - 8:30pm Sitting & Dharma Talk at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

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. 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 for February 9 & 23

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

Friday, February 27 – Sunday, March 1

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

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

Contact fortunasandwiches@gmail.com to RSVP

DEADLINE TO RSVP – FEB. 12

Find us on Facebook or via our Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/livinglotuszensangha/>

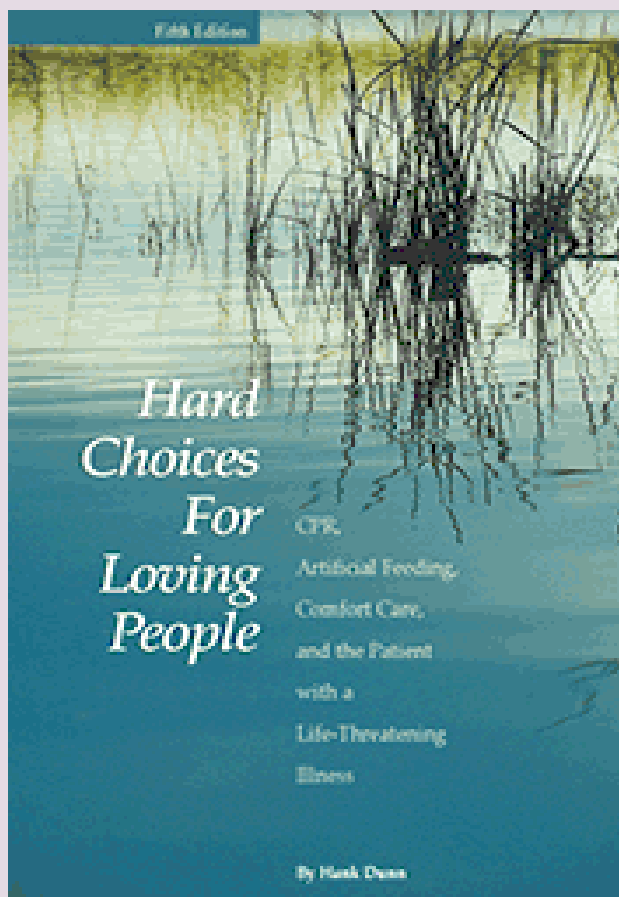
For more information, please contact Jackie Moore.



End of Life Choices Workshop

with Rev. Karen Bruno

Based on the book “Hard Choices for Loving People”
by Hank Dunn



**Saturday, March 28 at the Bellville Library
10:30 am – 3:30 pm (with a lunch break)**

This book is short and excellent.

Please read the book prior to attending the workshop.

Everyone should read it, even if you cannot attend the workshop.

Please see Rev. Karen to purchase a copy for \$5.

Joan and Reed Richmond are announcing a new 2015 venture for Meadow Rise Farm. The farm is re-starting its CSA program. CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture and, according to the website Local Harvest, “for over 25 years, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) has become a popular way for consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer”.

In our CSA, the basics are that we offer a certain number of shares to people, which consist of 8-12 different vegetables (full share) per week of the 20-week season, running June-October. Interested partners purchase a “share”, paying for it early in the season when the farmers (that is, us) have most of our expenses. We will offer a full share, half share, and mini share (a half share every other week). Prices are, in order, \$500, \$375 and \$250 for the shares, and the agreement specifies ways partners can pay between Feb. 1 and the time delivery season begins.

This arrangement creates several rewards for both the farmer and the consumer. In brief, from Local Harvest’s description:

Advantages for Farmers

- Get to spend time marketing the food early in the year, before their 16 hour days in the field begin.
- Receive payment early in the season, which helps with the farm's cash flow.
- Have an opportunity to get to know the people who eat the food they grow.

Advantages for Consumers

- Eat ultra-fresh food, with all the flavor and vitamin benefits.
- Get exposed to new vegetables and new ways of cooking.
- Usually get to visit the farm at least once a season.
- Find that kids typically favor food from "their" farm — even veggies they've never been known to eat.
- Develop a relationship with the farmer who grows their food and learn more about how food is grown.

Deliveries from 4:30 – 6:30 pm on Wednesday afternoons at the Happy Grape, 300 E. Main St., Lexington, OH.

If you’d like more information about Meadow Rise Farm CSA, please go to Localharvest.org and just type our name or zip code (44813) in the search box. We have more details there on our listing, and then you can contact us for an application.

Thanks for your help in spreading the word!

Joan



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Dick Gleckler – February 1
Paula Sauder – February 2
Ann Kania – February 4
Bambi Corwin – February 5

Glenn Myers – February 19
Karen Gotter – February 20
Sahvanna Macpherson – February 28

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

JUST SO YOU KNOW

SPEAKERS FOR FEBRUARY

February 1: Rev. Karen Bruno
February 8: Tim Barger, Ph.D.

February 15: Paulette Schroeder
February 22: Lisa Kreischer

FEBRUARY EVENTS

R.E. Dr. Seuss Curriculum – “The King’s Stilts” (ages 5-10): Sunday, February 1 During the Service

All Souls 201 – Sunday, February 1 @ 12:30 pm at Brumby’s

Social Action/Social Justice Meeting – Tuesday, February 3 @ 7:00 pm

R.E. Popcorn Theology – “Gandhi” (ages 11-18): Sunday, February 8 During the Service

Sitting & Dharma Talk: Monday, February 9 @ 6:30 pm

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY – Saturday, February 14

Board Meeting: Sunday, February 15 @ 9:00 am

Kenya Coin Collection: Sunday, February 22

Pot Luck: Sunday, February 22

Sitting & Dharma Talk: Monday, February 23

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