

ALL SOULS FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

We are at a time of exciting growth and opportunity.

All winter we have been mindful of our levels of intimacy. We are approaching the questions of "how deep are our relationships" and "how can we build more relevant and meaningful experiences." We are setting out to expand these experiences.

We now have a pagan group that meets monthly. And, we are forming an adventure /experience team - an informal group to plan, lead, and experience cool, exciting and meaningful day trips. Additionally, we are still working on building our regional cluster groups. Look for more on these items in the near future!

I also have to express my gratitude for serving as your parish minister. As I begin the fellowshiping process, and work with the UUA to reflect and expand our ministries, I just want to thank everyone for selecting me, supporting our work together, and building these visions for the future!

Peace,

Pastor Will

PASTORAL CARE

Please contact our pastor, Will Humphrey, for pastoral care needs.

740-263-1171 or email will.allsouls@gmail.com

"WE TAKE INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY SERIOUSLY"

MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD

...from Glenn Myers, President

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(The Hard Way to Become a Unitarian Universalist)

Lew Myers was secretly hoping for a grandson. He was 74, his health rapidly declining, but Lew wanted to survive long enough to see the one who would be his only grandchild.

It was February 1936, and in the midst of one of the most severe winters on record. Wood stoves heated Lew's old farmhouse and kerosene lamps and lanterns provided utility light for house and barn chores. Life was a challenge, but if he could just survive a few more days

But Lew was worried - the doctor suspected a difficult birth for his daughter-in-law, Vivian, and had advised against home delivery. The problem was it was 14 miles to the nearest hospital, and the first five miles consisted of country roads that had not seen a snowplow all winter.

The due date was approaching. In anticipation of the day, Lew's son, Virgil, and Vivian's father, Huston Williams, had been clearing the drifting country roads with scoop shovels all the way to the state highway every day. Each night the roads would drift over again. It became a marathon for the two men.

Lew was getting weaker and more anxious every day. One night he shuffled his way to the bedroom of the expecting parents, peeked in and observed both of them sleeping soundly. Well, maybe tomorrow would be the day. Lewis Martin Myers eased back into his bed, where he died in his sleep early that morning.

Virgil and Huston continued their shoveling to prepare for a new life that would partially replace the one that couldn't quite wait. Labor started February 18. Fortunately, it had not snowed the night before, and the country roads were still reasonably clear, but slippery. Virgil and Vivian started for the hospital with the extra assurance of tire chains on the drive wheels and a scoop shovel in the back of the 1929 Chevy.

A covey of Catholic nurses swarmed around Vivian to prepare for a breech delivery. After 22 hours of intense, life-threatening labor, a live baby was delivered - butt first. It was a boy. They named him Glenn Martin Myers.

I've been leading with my behind ever since.



DEC. TREASURER'S REPORT

Average
Attendance: 55

	DECEMBER	Y-T-D
INCOME		
Pledges	2,186.00	13,839.00
Offerings	362.00	2,987.50
Maintenance Fund	.00	3,150.00
Kenya Coin Collection	75.30	489.14
Rummage Sale	-20.83	2,166.50
Recycle	.00	46.98
Minister's Discretionary Fund	-400.00	-400.00
Fundraising Expenses Account	-366.47	291.62
Other	<u>.11</u>	<u>221.86</u>
TOTAL	1,836.11*	22,792.60
EXPENSES	3,817.59**	22,835.58
DIFFERENCE	-1,981.48	-42.98

*A monthly income of \$3,645.50 is required in order to meet annual expenses of \$43,746.00

**Expenses Other than "Usual":

Bonuses: \$380.00

Insurance: \$510.25

Safe Deposit Box Rental: \$16.00

\$2,000.00 was transferred from savings to checking at the end of Dec. to pay Jan. bills.

DECEMBER PLEDGE REPORT

Total Units	31	
Total Pledges	24	
	DECEMBER	Y-T-D
Amount Pledged	1,926.00	14,824.00
Amount Received	<u>2,186.00</u>	<u>14,639.00</u>
VARIANCE	260.00	-185.00

...Treasurer cont.

THANKS TO DONORS!

Mike Garber's name was inadvertently left off the list of donors published in last month's newsletter. A recent donation was made by Mike's brother, Gary, in memory of their parents, Vance & Betty Garber. The donation is to be split between maintenance (new basement windows) and renovation of the sanctuary – the first donation for this purpose.

...from Chuck Rhodes, Building & Maintenance Trustee

Winter weather finally arrived this month. The high winds caught the side door and bent the base plate, causing the door closer to separate. Repair of the plate was completed, and the door closer is now operational.

I want to thank Reed Richmond for removing the snow from the walk. This insures safety for the public and church members. THANKS REED!

We are currently looking at establishing two classrooms for the Children's Religious Education Program. One area under consideration is converting the storeroom into a learning area for the older children. Another idea is to construct portable room dividers/drapes on ceiling tracks that would create a private learning area in the northwest corner of the Fellowship Hall. This would be for the younger children's R.E. classes.

As with everything else, cost is a concern. Please share your ideas with Will Humphrey or me.

The following procedures are being developed:

- Church Rental
- Borrowing of Church Equipment
- Key Inventory Control

Your thoughts and suggestions will be appreciated.

Stay Warm!

...from Mike Garber, Finance Trustee

In looking at the past six month's expenses and income, if both remain near the same, we will not have enough income to cover costs through June. The \$2,200 from the Street Mart and Holiday Bazaar has been spent. There are no fundraising events scheduled for the second half of the year. Do you have any suggestions? Consider giving a few dollars more. 10% would get us close to what is needed.

On the brighter side, the Opportunity Knocks Stained Glass Sun Catcher Committee continues to work. This group of ten, along with Marjorie and Morley Smith, has accomplished the following:

- 45 Sun Catchers are boxed and ready to sell.
- 30 Sun Catchers are in the production flow.
- Morley will be finished cutting glass next week.

A set of the 5 Sun Catchers are on display at All Souls.

...from Liz Hansen, Religious Education Committee Chair

On Sunday, February 7, the kids will start a new class developed by the UUA titled "Love Surrounds Us", which introduces the Seven Principles. The class will meet the first three weeks of each month until July, for a total of 16 weeks. The UUA developed classes schedule enough material for 75 minutes plus bonus material for another half hour or more. In the past, the teachers have had a hard time really getting into the lesson, with only a half hour class, so we are going to start class at the beginning of service (when the bell rings). The children will have an opportunity at the beginning of their class to share their Joys and Concerns with each other. The 4th Sunday of the month, the youth will stay upstairs and enjoy a Children's Moment. The nursery aged kids will continue to go down at the same time they currently do.

Jackie Moore, Leah Humphrey & Liz Hansen will be rotating teaching responsibilities. The 4th Sunday, we will not have a formal lesson but, if you are interested in doing a craft or service project with the kids, please talk with one of us!

Join us for a new Adult RE class, which started on Sunday, January 24. Joan and Reed Richmond are facilitating an interactive class titled "Yeah....but". The idea behind this class is to come up with a topic (sometimes a hot button topic like Planned Parenthood, Atheism, Evolution, Welfare, Bernie Sanders, etc.) and explain why you believe what you do based on facts. The rest of the class will play both devil's advocate, challenging your beliefs ("yeah, but what about this") and also help you clarify your reasoning with additional evidence. We've all been in a mixed crowd where someone makes a statement we know just isn't correct, so this will help us develop a process so you feel comfortable saying "I just don't believe that and here is why".

Judy Shaffer has organized a monthly **All-Inclusive Casual Get-Together for All Women** on the third Wednesday of each month. Plan to join Judy for an evening of conversation on Wednesday, February 17 @ 7:00 p.m. Come as you are.

...from Karen Gotter, Pastoral Care Trustee

I am so glad that I will be able to be a trustee in person! In case you hadn't heard, I've moved back to the Bellville area for my new position with the Holmes County Soil and Water Conservation District. I'll probably wind up living closer to Millersburg but, for the time being, I am a mere ten minutes from All Souls, instead of three hours! I am very interested in participating more fully in our various planned and potential activities and am thinking up ideas of my own to bring to the community. If *you* also have ideas that you'd like to implement with All Souls, let me know if I can help make it happen!

I also want to reiterate that I am your Pastoral Care Trustee and want to take a more active role to fulfill this position. My plan to ease into this position is by setting up some visits with those members and friends who haven't been able to come lately. If anyone has suggestions about someone they think would like a visit from me, or help in organizing larger group visits, please let me know.

Coordinating these outreach efforts means I'll need people to coordinate...so I'm asking you to think about becoming part of the Pastoral Care Team. Our team would continue to evolve, as we see who can participate and the role they would like to play, so there is no hard and fast definition of what is required of each teammate. Think about it...and don't be surprised if I approach you first - it means I think you are a caring individual who would do good things for our church and community!

...from Courtney Lower, Media, Advertising & Growth

As the trustee of Media, Advertisement and Growth, I have been tasked with coming up with creative, innovative or even tried-and-true ways to increase our membership and keep the community informed about who we are and what we are doing.

Growing a church requires marketing – which is really what “Media, Advertisement and Growth” is all about – and there is no better marketing tool than word of mouth. Better yet – it’s free!

Recently, Board President Glenn Myers asked each board member to make a concerted effort to bring someone to church in the next month who has never been here before. I would like to extend that same goal to all of you. No one knows what All Souls is all about better than those of you who dedicatedly attend.

Are you willing to help grow our membership by asking a friend, co-worker, neighbor or complete stranger to see what All Souls has to offer?

...from Brian Moore, Pulpit & Worship Trustee

Greetings from the Pulpit Chair

February is upon us and brings with it Black History, Romance, Politics, and Groundhog Day. Did I mention Politics?...because we are in an election year with a big primary coming next month. With that being said, I think Unitarian Universalists should have an equal voice with the conservative evangelicals...the fans of the trickle-down economics that cut taxes on the rich thinking that they will create jobs for everyone. And they did, with Walmart and McDonalds being the two biggest employers now. Currently 62 families hold more wealth than 3.5 billion people combined (a little more than half the world’s population). So, just saying in case you thought those folks were fans of...y'know...Jesus?

So I think as Unitarian Universalists, we would recognize a candidate that realizes that no matter who is elected President, that person will not be able to address the enormous problems facing the working families of our country. They will not be able to succeed because the power of corporate America, the power of Wall Street, and the power of campaign donors are so great. They would recognize this truth and reality and understand the solutions lie more in the creation of a grassroots political movement in this country.

So when we go to the polls, let’s take our Seven Principles with us as well. **The inherent worth and dignity of every person:** Meaning a candidate that would welcome a Muslim woman to his campaign speech and would offer a hug rather than a witch hunt. **Justice, equality and compassion in human relations:** Meaning the needs of the many come before the needs of a few. **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth and a free and responsible search for truth and meaning:** Means recognizing the importance in the separation of Church and State. **The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process:** Means everyone is encouraged to vote without obstruction. **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all:** Means diplomacy over war and social-action over corporate greed. **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part:** Means a candidate that understands science! And believes in ecology over profits.

Agree or disagree, I encourage you to exercise your right to vote and stand on the side of love.



...Pulpit & Worship cont.

February Pulpit Schedule

February 2

Groundhog Day



February 7

Speaker: Anuradha Joshi

Title: "Hinduism"

Topic: Anuradha Joshi will be speaking on Hinduism and its traditional beliefs.

Leader: Eric Sargent Music: Ayesha Manley

February 14



Speaker: Damaris Davis

Title: "Alone Together"

Topic: The Roots of Compassion: Based on personal life experiences with emotionally injured children.

Leader: Brian Moore Music: Trio Alla Breve

February 21

Speaker: Rachel Zupan

Title: "Refugee Resettlement in Central Ohio: What We Do & How You Can Help?"

Topic: We will review services currently in place for refugees in Central Ohio, specifically focusing on Us Together, Inc. Rachel will present profiles of various refugee groups from around the world that are currently being resettled in Columbus. Finally, we will discuss how the community can get more involved.

Leader: Bruce Kilgore Music: Ayesha Manley

February 28

Speaker: Pastor William Humphrey

Title: "Words and Deeds of Prophetic Women and Men - The Role and Purpose of Progressive Christianity"

Topic: We will explore aspects of the living tradition of human wisdom and spirituality, drawn of science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

Leader: Cheryl Church Music: Trio Alla Breve

Kenya Coin Collection & Potluck



Peace, Love and Namaste to All Souls!

...from Bruce Kilgore, Fellowship Trustee

January 31 is the covered dish pot luck after church. We have some ham from December that we froze, and the church will supply buns. So, some nice hot side dishes along with salads and desserts would be good. Much appreciation for those who signed up for snacks, kitchen duty and social hall clean-up. We still have many Sundays open for social hall clean-up...so ALL! your help would be most welcome.

February 28 is the date for the pot luck...#2 of 2016. Let's have a lasagna luncheon. The church will purchase meat and vegetarian frozen lasagnas. We will have a sign-up sheet for salads, garlic breads and desserts. There will be NO pot luck for March, as the date falls on Easter. Thanks for all your help!

With this current cold weather, I thought it would be a good time to do some work on our archives (mainly the scrap books). So, I would really like some paper printed pictures of church events, Christmas, speakers, new members, etc. Also, any news articles about the church that could be copied. Also, did you know that in six short years the All Souls congregation will celebrate its bicentennial of a gathered congregation?

There are three close-by events for our church family this year. In April, the Ohio Meadville District's Annual Meeting in Akron will feature speaker Susan Ritchie, an important Universalist theologian. In Marietta in May, the Universalist Convocation will take place to celebrate our Universalist heritage. Marietta is a wonderful place to visit with lots to do. See me for more information. The General Assembly of UUs is in June in Columbus. Any or all of these activities are very worthwhile.

ALL SOULS UNKNOWN...DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?

1. Where is the place that little spiders and their webs are cleared out and are back the next day?
2. Who supplies the candles for Joys & Concerns?
3. Who cleans the sanctuary every week?
4. Who does the walks in winter?
5. Who mows the lawn all summer?
6. Who empties the dehumidifier once or twice a day...most of the time?
7. Who makes the name tags?
8. Who has been an All Souls member the longest?
9. What was plugging the downspout on the west side of the church?
10. Who cleaned out the outside garbage can the last time?



All Souls under construction in 1894.

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

January was an eventful month for our social justice presence in the area black community. The NAACP meeting, which Glenn and I attended, naturally focused on MLK day events and Black History Month. The MLK day events were held at several predominately black churches on Sunday, but I wasn't able to attend because our board meeting was the same day. My loss of an opportunity!

Another event was the "Listen for a Change", which was held at Trinity Episcopal Church in lower Manhattan and streamed live to various sites around the country. My expectations were low for a teleconference, but I sure was pleasantly surprised! Nicholas Kristof gave an excellent talk on the meaning of race and its impact on people. I learned something about unconscious (I would say automatic) perceptions and judgements. We then had a live, local discussion, which was probably the best part of the day. The afternoon talk was by Emilie Towns, Dean of the Vanderbilt Divinity School. The discussion was great and included Asian and Native American perspectives. Thank you to Grace Episcopal Church for holding the event and providing refreshments and lunch. I was proud that we UUs were the second largest group, after the Episcopalians.

The calendar of events for Black History Month is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. I'm looking forward to the Soul Food dinner. Tickets in advance are required from the OSU branch business office. See Joan Richmond or myself if you are interested but need some help getting tickets.

Our resettlement efforts have not progressed because the representative from ustogther, (the NGO) I've been working with, has had to cancel our meetings twice, but we are rescheduled for January 30.

**Peace,
Art**

There are seven principles that Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- **The inherent worth and dignity of every person;**
- **Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;**
- **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;**
- **A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;**
- **The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;**
- **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;**
- **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.**



Living Lotus Zen Sangha February Schedule

Monday, February 8: 6:30pm - 8:00 pm
at Relax, It's Just Coffee - 105 N. Main St., Mansfield, OH

Sangha members and friends are invited for coffee and informal discussion over a case in this Zen book.

Book Study Discussion: "The Gateless Barrier" by Robert Aitken



Suggested Selections to Have Read before Discussion:
Case #8 – "Hsi-chung Builds Carts"

NEED NOT HAVE ATTENDED PREVIOUS SESSIONS to jump in!
Bring your thoughts, notes, insights and confusions and a friend!

Gettan asked a monk, "If Keichu (the ancient mythological wheel maker) made one hundred carts, and if we took off the wheels and removed the hub uniting the spokes, what would then become apparent? "



Monday, February 22: 6:30pm - 8:00pm
at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church – 25 Church St., Bellville, OH
Living Lotus Zen Sangha Sitting & Service

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

6:00 pm-6:30 pm: Church Opened - Fellowship & Intro to Meditation for Beginners
6:30 pm-6:50 pm: Zazen (Sitting Meditation)
6:50 pm-7:00 pm: Kinhin (Walking Meditation)
7:00 pm-7:20 pm: Zazen (Second Period of Zazen)
7:20 pm-7:30 pm: Liturgy (Heart Sutra, Chanting and Prostrations)
7:30pm-8:00 pm: Sangha Discussion & Business

Brief Beginner's guide to Zazen & Kinhin: <http://global.sotozen-net.or.jp/eng/practice/zazen/howto/index.html>

For more information please contact Jacqueline Moore...or visit our website and Facebook page.

Website: <http://www.livinglotus.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Living-Lotus-Zen-Sangha-221565108160/?fref=nf>

For more information, please request to see our monthly newsletter.

In Gassho,
Jacqueline Moore
419-589-7707

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Richard Gleckler – Feb. 1
Ann Kania – Feb. 4
Paula Sauder – Feb. 5

Bambi Corwin – Feb. 5
Cheryl Kilgore – Feb. 6
Tara Smith – Feb. 14

Glenn Myers – Feb. 19
Karen Gotter – Feb. 20
Sahvanna Macpherson – Feb. 28

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

JUST SO YOU KNOW

SPEAKERS FOR FEBRUARY

February 7: Anuradha Joshi
February 14: Damaris Davis

February 21: Rachel Zupan
February 28: William Humphrey

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Adult RE: "Yeah...but" – Sunday, February 7 @ 9:00 am

Children’s RE: "Love Surrounds Us" – Sunday, February 7 During the Service

Buddhist Book Discussion "The Gateless Barrier" - Monday, February 8 @ 6:30 pm at Relax, It’s Just Coffee

Pagan and Earth Based Spirituality Group– Wednesday, February 10 @ 7:00 pm

Adult RE: "Yeah...but" – Sunday, February 14 @ 9:00 am

Valentine’s Day – Sunday, February 14

Children’s RE: "Love Surrounds Us" – Sunday, February 14 During the Service

All-Inclusive Casual Get-Together for All Women – Wednesday, February 17 @ 7:00 pm

Board Meeting - Sunday, February 21 @ 9:00 am

Children’s RE: "Love Surrounds Us" – Sunday, February 21 During the Service

Living Lotus Zen Sangha – Monday, February 22 @ 6:30 pm

Questions for Your Answers Discussion & Breakfast - Wednesday, Feb. 24 @ 10:00 am at Bob Evans-Hanley Rd.

Adult RE: "Yeah...but" – Sunday, February 28 @ 9:00 am

Pot Luck & Kenya Coin Collection: Sunday, February 28

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