

## ALL SOULS MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

### Many Thanks!

Again, I want to thank all of you for your cards, thoughts, prayers, calls, flowers, visits and emails following my father's death.

He was looking forward to a family gathering on Easter Sunday for a few weeks and tried to make it, but he died at 9:00 a.m. that morning.

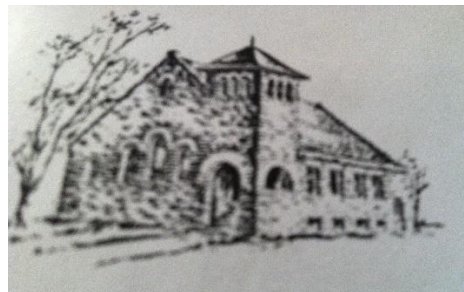
The family gathered for the Easter feast without him, but he was with us in spirit.

### New Members!

There will be a new member welcome on May 10 (I know it's Mother's Day). If you want to join the church, please let me know.

If this is not a good Sunday for this, we can reschedule. Please email me at [revkarenbruno@gmail.com](mailto:revkarenbruno@gmail.com) with your interest in joining All Souls, and to let me know that date will work. And, of course, if you have any questions about becoming a member.

*Karen*



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

# ***MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD***

**...from Glenn Myers, President**

## **PLEDGING**

"I want to give more to my church, but can't afford it."

"I want to Pledge, but don't know what unexpected personal expenses may come up next year."

"I want to Pledge, but I think \$800 for the year is too much."

As an All Souls member, you may identify with one or more of the above quotes. And they are all understandable positions, but you may also feel uncomfortable or even a little guilty about it. When one chooses to become a member, there is an inherent responsibility to support the church financially (although unspoken) and otherwise. The question is: How do you deal with it? The level of responsibility and degree of commitment are personal choices to be made by each individual and will be respected by the church.

### **BELOW IS MY PERSONAL STORY CONCERNING PLEDGING**

When I started attending All Souls as a visitor, I would drop some money in the collection basket because it was the thing to do -- and it's awkward, if not embarrassing, if you don't -- what would those folks sitting around you think if you don't? I also realized that what I was giving was not for the right reason. I'm sure it helped with church financial responsibilities, but it didn't contribute to my spiritual satisfaction.

On joining All Souls later, I decided to attempt to do my part in financially supporting the church. The problem is that when one does something voluntarily, it's sometimes difficult to find the self-discipline to keep at it.

The PLEDGE seemed to be the type of commitment that would keep me in line. I learned that the equal share (not fair share, that's an amount determined by each individual) for maintaining the All Souls program is about \$800 per year (some members give more, some less).

I looked in my budget, the \$800 wasn't there. There was house payment, taxes, insurance, food, etc., but no church fund -- and there was no extra income to create one. However, there was a miscellaneous account that supported things like going out to dinner occasionally, buying a six-pack now and then, and going out to breakfast, etc. I would have to sacrifice some, but the PLEDGE would have to come from that fund.

It occurred to me that I was going out to breakfast three or four times a week (I'm retired). Breakfast would cost around \$8 and gas another \$2. So, I decided to sacrifice two of those breakfasts out per week, eat at home for \$2 worth of food and there it was!!! -- \$16 per week and my \$800 for the year's Pledge.

Bottom line is that I feel good about supporting my church, and I actually enjoy boiled eggs, toast, and coffee at home a couple of times a week. (Also, I get to watch the birds at the feeder while eating my breakfast.)

I hope others will find a way to PLEDGE financial support to All Souls and enjoy the satisfaction of fulfilling a commitment.

## MARCH TREASURER'S REPORT

	MARCH	Y-T-D
<b>INCOME</b>		
Pledges	2,791.00	18,611.00
Offerings	584.00	4,591.76
Donations - Maintenance Fund	0.00	3,080.00
Kenya Coin Collection	87.50	640.10
Chair Fund	790.00	790.00
Rummage Sale	0.00	2,203.40
Recycle	0.00	226.72
Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>221.25</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,252.50*</b>	<b>30,364.23</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,675.88**</b>	<b>28,341.68</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>1,576.62</b>	<b>2,022.55</b>

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

\*\*Expenses Other than "Usual"

\$60.00 Repair Chair Lift  
\$160.00 Install Ice Gutter on Roof  
\$109.13 Ad for July Bazaar

## MARCH PLEDGE REPORT

Total Members	27
Total Pledges	22
Average Attendance	50

	MARCH	Y-T-D
Amount Pledged	1,659.00	17,448.00
Amount Received	<u>2,791.00</u>	<u>18,611.00</u>
<b>VARIANCE</b>	<b>1,132.00</b>	<b>1,163.00</b>

**...from Ann Kilgore, Vice President**

First: It's time to elect officers and trustees of our UU Church. Cheryl Church and Jacqueline Moore will serve with me. Many have agreed to serve another year. We need a Pastoral Care Trustee, a Religious Education Trustee and a Social Action Trustee. Please call any one of us if you would be willing to serve or even to suggest a person. There will also be nominations from the floor at the election. If you want to vote and will not be here, ask and we will give you an absentee ballot.

This Last: I served on the Minister Selection Committee under chairman, Art O'Leary, who is just great. He has a letter ready to go to our District Representative.

Last – and Exciting!: President Glenn Myers and I met with real estate agent, Brian Constance, to take a look at the house across the street (west and corner lot on Bell and Church Streets). Are you wondering why???? Well, it's for sale. Maybe we should think and talk about buying it!!!!

Here are some reasons why.....

1. We do need or will need office space for a minister.
2. Sunday school rooms could be there.
3. Private places for counseling.
4. Use for small meetings.
5. Part-time minister could use it to stay there part-time or between other part-time congregations.

We have some money not making any money (endowments), and we have no mortgages. Bellville area property values are always good. This property is not large, and there is not much close that will be reasonable. The agent will be glad to show anyone. Let's think and talk about it.

**...from Mike Garber, Finance Trustee**

I was elected Trustee of Finance and have served as chair of the Financial Committee this year. Members of the committee are Joanne Gillum (Treasurer), Kristy Mandeville, Chuck Rhodes and Marjorie Smith. Each quarter the committee meets to audit accounts payable, checking account statements, checkbook deposits and weekly income statements.

Currently, we are in the process of developing the budget for 2015 – 2016, and the committee has met with Glenn Myers to plan the upcoming stewardship and pledge program.

Several members have shared ideas for fund raising. If you have any suggestions, let me know. We will be working on this when the pledge drive is complete.



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

The sidewalk in front of the church has been completed. It was poured April 21 and looks good. All that remains is to prepare the area for grass. This is the responsibility of the contractor.

With the sidewalk installed, we can proceed with the sign. The sign committee will submit a proposal to the board at the May board meeting and, hopefully, can begin work on this project in June.

The church spring cleanup day was April 25. 14 volunteers completed 9 tasks that included: clean and organize the nursery, wash restroom walls, clean and organize shed, wash kitchen cabinets and counters, wash tables and chairs, vacuum pews, wash upstairs windows inside, wash upstairs and hallway woodwork and clean mower/sharpen blade. I want to thank the volunteers for their hard work: L.D. Ball, Sandy Macpherson, Cheryl Church, Mike Garber, Jay Gilbert, Joanne Gillum, Dick Gleckler, Liz Hansen, Bruce Kilgore, Renee Maginniss, Glenn Myers, Judy Shaffer and Morley Smith.

During the summer we will working on specific projects such as painting, landscaping, etc. Let me know if you would like to be involved in these projects.

**...from Reed Richmond, Social Action/Social Justice Trustee**

**Popcorn Theology**

We plan to continue the Adult RE class in Popcorn Theology the first two Sundays in May, if interest continues. That will be May 3 and May 10 at 9:00 a.m., with movies to be decided.

**Social Justice/Social Action Meeting**

We will have our regular meeting the first Tuesday of the month, May 5, at 7:00 p.m.

**All Souls "May Day or There-Abouts" Get-Together**

We are having a get-together for no particular reason on Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m. at The Happy Grape in Lexington. Just meet up, enjoy a beverage, and enjoy some company. All Souls are Welcome. Anyone who gets there early can enjoy some supper and grab some tables and chairs on the patio (if the weather is good).

**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. 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. Several All Souls members will assist me in the service. Please join us for this memorial service and a call for peace.

The previously planned evening service that day at 7:00 p.m. at the square in downtown Bellville has been postponed. Perhaps someone else (see below) would like to take this on for a warmer evening when there aren't other social activities planned.

**Reed Richmond Is Retiring as Social Action Chair**

There is an election for Trustees on the first Sunday in June for my replacement. Please consider running for this. I have put some plans in action (see summary), and somebody with a little energy and enthusiasm can do a lot more in this position than I have. I am stepping back because I have served on the Board for six years, and it is time to step away and to interject some new blood (also I have farm work to do). Thanks!

## **...Social Action/Social Justice cont.**

### **Year in Review (So Far)**

Here's what didn't happen: Starting the process to become a "Welcoming Church." Perhaps some other energetic soul (see previous page) would like to take that project on. I suggest a committee of dedicated individuals (gay and straight) start looking at all the details and perhaps calling the OMD for ideas and suggestions on how to get started. This project is more than one person can do alone.

### **What Did Happen Is.....**

Started monthly Social Action meetings (first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.). Although sparsely attended, the conversation was lively, engaging, and respectful.

Thanks to a suggestion from Will Humphrey, we started a social gathering on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The first meeting was at Old Bag of Nails and the second is at The Happy Grape on May 6. This is mostly just an opportunity to get to know the people who share our pews. Feel free to arrive early and order supper and grab some chairs and tables.

Thanks to Brian Moore, the Highway Clean-Up days continue, and the last one was spectacular (judging by the number of orange bags left for pick-up). Brian continues the quarterly recycle days, and I am going to claim both of these projects as Social Action - even though Brian does all the work - with a lot of help from some industrious baggers and recycle collectors.

Coins for Kenya. This project is ongoing and one of the great success stories of our church. If you don't know all the details, just ask someone who has been here for a while. Through our coin collection, we donate \$100 a month to help AIDS orphans in Kenya. If the coins fall short of \$100, the church chips in the rest. Aloys Kamwithi, who started the fund, once said of this project "This little church holds the world in its hands", and I can't think of a greater compliment than that.

Women to Women. We donate \$37 a month to help a woman somewhere in the world become self-sufficient and help her family and community. It's a wonderful Social Action project that takes a small investment from our church funds.

Started some Social Justice discussions in Adult Religious Education.

### **Your Commitment to Social Action and Social Justice**

Often there are issues that our church has a responsibility to take a stand on. When you know of something that is important to you, stand up and make it known. Get others to stand with you. You may find that others in the church feel your issue is worthy of having the backing of the congregation. Don't be afraid to speak up.

Finally, I want everyone to know that whether you are a friend or a member of All Souls, your most important contribution to the church is your presence. Everyone has contributions to make to the church. While the church needs financial commitments to continue to operate, without the dedication of everyone (ALL SOULS) we are not the vibrant and loving sanctuary that has become a home for so many. Here, we hope you find strength and safety, compassion and comfort, and encouragement on your spiritual journey.

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

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

Youth Religious Education will continue with the youngest children (5-10) using the Dr. Seuss curriculum for "Horton Hears a Who", led by Joan Richmond on May 3. The older kids will continue Popcorn Theology, watching and discussing "Willow" with Mandy Waltz on May 10.

The Dr. Seuss study has been so fun we are going to continue it through the summer for ALL youth under 18! Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets in the next few weeks!

I wanted to remind everyone that because All Souls is a member of the Ohio Meadville District all of our members have access to their lending library. You only have to pay return shipping for the materials you borrow for a generous 2 months. I recently browsed the 107 page catalog and requested a few things that we could use for Religious Education. The library isn't just books; it also contains videos, curriculum for adults and youth, worship resources and more. I think I flagged at least a few dozen items of interest! Visit the website at [www.Ohiomeadville.org/omdlibrary.html](http://www.Ohiomeadville.org/omdlibrary.html) to view the catalog & request resources!

Dr. Walter Kania will present an evening of Adult Religious Education, "A Unique Near Death Experience with Insights and Messages about Life, and Other Dimensions of Reality", Thursday, May 21, from 6:30pm – 9:00 pm at All Souls. This program will include a mini-lecture and a DVD, with time for comments and discussion.

Adult RE will continue with Popcorn Theology on May 3 & 10. Stay tuned for more programs starting this summer!

**...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**

Our next Pot Luck will be Sunday, May 31 (the week of Memorial Day). So...let's have a picnic! The church will provide Morning Star vegetarian hot dogs. We will have a sign-up list for buns, baked beans, potato salad, other salads & sides and desserts. Remember, it works well to have two or more people sign up for kitchen dishes and clean-up for Pot Luck Sundays.

### **Remembering Thomas Q. Miller**

All Souls beloved patriarch, Thomas Q. Miller, passed away April 17, 2015, at the age of 92. His contribution to All Souls cannot be emphasized enough. He was a third generation Unitarian Universalist. I will always be grateful that I got to see him on the organ and his mother, Katherine Etz Miller, on the piano in 1986. My wife, Cheryl, and I were married later that year at All Souls. I was also glad to know Tom's Aunt Margaret Etz Walter who, in 1976, was responsible for getting All Souls on the National Historical list. The church had services only on the first Sunday of the month back then, and the congregation was less than 10 people. Both Tom's mother and aunt passed away in early 1987. Tom kept the church in repair, lawn mown, and bills paid, etc. all by himself. In November of 1987, a couple of people from Bellville came to Tom, and the church reopened and has been a growing church since. Tom loved to see the church grow and loved to see the children back at church. He gladly gave up the organ to new, younger organists, but still filled in as necessary. He opened up his home for many Board meetings, where we tried to learn a new song every month. He loved celebrating holidays at All Souls, including our Halloween Parties, a very old tradition at All Souls. He was always appreciative of the holiday décor at the church. He was always supportive of new ideas and different types of worship. Tom was a teacher and principal for many years at Mifflin Elementary School. He was a very long and active member of Bellville Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star. He took active support in the Bellville Jefferson Township Historical Society, overseeing the legacy of his fraternal aunt and uncle, Marjorie & Mayor Howard Smith. His knowledge of the people and places of Bellville will probably never again be met. Most of all, his sense of humor and antics will be most sadly missed. So long Tim.....and a great big THANK YOU!

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

I was looking at the UUA.org website for ideas for the May newsletter. I came across this list of ideas for growth. We already do a lot of these suggestions, and I am proud of our church for this. I thought I would share this list with everyone in hopes that it will spark some new discussions for the growth of our church. This is the first half of the list. The second half will appear in the June newsletter.

#### **100+ IDEAS FOR MEMBERSHIP GROWTH**

Put nametags in a convenient location, and encourage everyone in your congregation to wear one on Sunday. Provide different colored name tags for visitors.

Provide coffee mugs of a special color for visitors and others who may want to meet people. (Be sure to talk with those with mugs!)

Hold special events for newcomers, such as an informal orientation dinner, dessert, or a luncheon following the Sunday service. Plan to offer a tour of your facilities and a description of Unitarian Universalism.

Appoint someone to be responsible for following up on all visitors, including children, youth and young adults. When a member calls on a newcomer within 72 hours after the visit, the chances for a return visit increase by more than 50%.

Assign "buddies" to every visitor. The buddy stays with the visitor to answer questions, to introduce the visitor to others, and to follow-up during the coming week.



### **...Media, Advertising & Growth cont.**

Make regular announcements regarding how one becomes a member.

Hold regular "Invite-a-Friend" Sundays when active members are encouraged to bring friends who are potential Unitarian Universalists to church.

Encourage each committee to take time for orienting and training a new member who joins them. It is helpful to provide new committee members with materials that include the committee's mission statement and minutes from past meetings.

Invite promising new leaders to attend leadership school and/or General Assembly.

Have regular adult education programs to which newcomers can be invited. One-time events or a discussion series should be planned throughout the year, including summer months.

Hold Sunday services all year long.

Reserve several "choice" spaces in your parking lot for "visitors" and mark them clearly.

Put all visitors on your mailing list without requiring them to request it. Never remove someone without first telephoning to confirm they are no longer interested.

Have a variety of pamphlets on Unitarian Universalism (UUism) handy for visitors.

Develop a brochure that describes your congregation and its history to hand out to visitors and place in your brochure rack.

Give an attractive "welcome bag" to all first time visitors. It might include a pen with your congregation's name on it, RE offerings, a church newsletter, a mission statement, a description of ways to get involved, a card listing the UU Purposes and Principles, and introductory pamphlet on UU and ways to contact the minister and Religious Educator. (One congregation even includes four freshly baked muffins.)

Take time in the service to joyfully welcome all visitors. Invite them to raise their hands and have the ushers give each of them a "welcome bag."

Develop a "new member's packet." It might include your church directory, bylaws, history, UU Purposes and Principles, religious education brochure, and last annual report and a pledge card (Hospitality Sampler).

Include a space for telephone numbers and email addresses in your visitors' book so you can follow up with them later.

Have specific breakfasts or luncheon pot lucks so newcomers can meet members and leaders of the congregation.

Make sure that your membership committee has a budget that enables it to do the best possible job.

Offer a pictorial directory. It will enable both newcomers and old-timers to learn more easily the names of members.

Make sure that your religious education facilities are attractive to children and their parents. Pay special attention to the church nursery. Make sure it appears safe and inviting.

Provide Sunday morning greeters at each of your major entrance areas. (If yours is a larger congregation with more than twenty visitors a week, station your first group of welcoming greeters in the parking lots.)

Have an 'unofficial' young adult greeter who identifies and connects with visiting young adults.

Identify 2 young adults who are committed to going out for brunch every Sunday with any young adults who come to the 10:30 service. Same place, same time.

Have an attractive, user friendly web page which is updated regularly.

Join with other area congregations to advertise Unitarian Universalism. Welcome Wagon, the local media and the web are often the first places newcomers to your community will hear about you.

List the time and location of your services and a telephone number that will always be answered, even if by a machine, in the yellow pages.

On your answering machine message, include an option to listen to recorded directions to your church. Read the directions a bit slower than normal.

Evaluate the quality of your Sunday services. Regular participants sometimes put up with situations that make visitors feel uncomfortable.

Develop strategies to assimilate newcomers quickly into the life of the congregation. New members who are not involved within 18 months after joining frequently become inactive within 3 years.

Expand the "ownership" of your congregation by including young adults in their twenties and thirties in leadership positions.

## ...Media, Advertising & Growth cont.

Hold religious education orientation sessions for parents.

Provide child-care for your newcomer meetings and all other activities. Give all committee chairs a sheet listing pre-approved sitters names and phone numbers and directions for getting them paid.

Post flyers about your special events in key locations around your community.

Print an eye-catching flyer about your church and put it on the windshields of cars in major parking lots.

When you are 80-85% of capacity on Sunday morning in the adult service and/or RE program, you have three choices if you want to be growth oriented: (a) expand your facilities, (b) add a second service and church school session, (c) start a new congregation.

If you choose to add a second service, consider using a different style of worship.

Involve a number of people in your Sunday services, such as chalice lighters, readers, and moderators for announcements.

Make announcements at a place in the service when they won't overwhelm what comes before or after.

Announcements should not exceed one-tenth of the total time of your Sunday service. Encourage people to submit announcements in advance and print them in the order of service.

If you have five or fewer guests per Sunday, provide a time for them to introduce themselves if they wish.

Provide good music during your service. Even a recording played on a quality sound system is better than nothing at all.

Conclude every Sunday service with a note of hope. Visitors never forget the "downers."

Place occasional "testimonials" in your Sunday service and newsletters, in which members share why they are Unitarian Universalist and what the church means to them.

Devote space in each of your newsletters for a personal/ inspirational note. The people who read it are your enlarged congregation.

Look at your facilities from a visitor's eye. People feel friendlier in a space that communicates warmth through its colors and décor.

Keep your building clean and attractive. A sense of pride in your space communicates a sense of pride in your faith.

Designate specific individuals rather than committees to look for and attend to visitors.

Begin and end your services on time.

Meet diverse needs by offering many choices in your programming. Smaller groups permit sharing more than larger groups.

Begin Covenant Groups in your church. (Small group ministry is key to making members feel they are part of the church.)

One way we grow is by being welcoming, honoring and inclusive of diversity. Do an audit of your space and programs, including Religious Education programs and worship. Ask yourselves questions like these and then develop a plan to make needed changes:

Whose pictures are on the walls? The bulletin boards? What are the messages?

In choosing stories for worship and sharing in other settings, who are the characters? What do they do? Who describes their experience?

What celebrations are part of your congregational life? What do you learn about the "other"? How does this learning affect your life and the life of your congregation?

What are the themes and values of the curricula you use? Whose values are they? What is implicit in them?

Explore the environments for Religious Education programming. Look at everything in each room, in each space. What messages do the spaces convey?

What kind of diversity is present in your congregation? At worship? In the Religious Education program? Age? Race? Ethnicity? Gender? Family configuration? Sexual orientation? How is this diversity represented in the life of the congregation? In Religious Education? On committees? In Adult Religious Education? In decision making?

What place does the diversity of your larger community have in the life of your congregation? How do you approach your responsibilities for justice? Out of entitlement? With a sense of accountability? Accountable to whom and how?

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

### **Greetings from the Pulpit Chair**

Well, March came and went very quickly, and April will be nearly gone by the time you are reading this. A very busy time of year for many and sometimes a double edge sword when taking time to spend at All Souls. I personally feel I could benefit from skipping a Sunday, but I think the benefits I receive from escaping the rat race at our Sunday morning gathering far outweighs the extra stuff I might get done by staying home.

Members of the board were asked to share their accomplishments for the fiscal year. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the variety of speakers that have been coming to our church. I try to have a diversity in speakers that covers all of our seven principles, our personal spiritual paths, and addresses social and environmental justice. I currently have speakers scheduled through October, with only 5 dates remaining in this year to fill.

I have challenged myself to become a speaker as well, with two talks already presented this year. January 25, I presented "Sympathy for the Devil and the Power of Duality" and then, on March 29, "Living the Mystery". I'm currently working on my third talk titled "The Concept of Paradoxical Unity" for July 5. I have found a spiritual path in the teachings of Lao-tzu and his writings in the Tao Te Ching and find pleasure and enlightenment in sharing those teachings in my talks. Also, the leaving of our Pastor Karen Bruno leaves an extra spot in our schedule to fill, and speaking for free certainly helps with the pulpit budget.

### **Looking Ahead to May**

#### **Sunday May 3**

**Speaker:** Jean Taddie

**Title:** "The Power of a Mustard Seed"

**Topic:** The small act of growing food has the power to transform our health, community and environment.

**Leader** – Bruce Kilgore    **Music** – Ayesha Fry

#### **Sunday May 10**

**Speaker** – John Gardner

**Title:** "Double Vision"

**Topic:** Some thoughts on different ways we can learn to view the world through the eyes of others, and how doing so changes our perspective on life for the better.

**Leader** – Cheryl Church    **Music** – Trio Alle Breve

#### **Sunday May 17: 9:00 am Board Meeting**

**Speaker** – Dr. Walter Kania

**Title:** "Hearing Voices - A Progressive and Credible Christian Voice"

**Topic:** Hearing voices when no one is speaking is considered a mental illness. Hearing voices when no one is there is called an hallucination. Isn't it interesting that the Bible records voices that speak when no one is there to be speaking. We know that people hear voices and then commit abominable crimes as a way of complying with the presumed voice of their deity. But each of us are always hearing voices and yet we are not hallucinating. Whose voice is it that we hear? Is it the voice of a critical parent of our past? Is it the voice of our creative nature, our higher self, or that of some unknown presence? There is a voice speaking in each of us that we fail to hear and acknowledge. But if we would choose to listen to this voice it would literally transform our lives!

**Leader** – Reed Richmond    **Music** – Ayesha Fry

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

**Sunday May 24**

**Speaker** – Reed Richmond

**Title:** “Honoring Our War Dead and Seeking Peace”

**Topic:** On May 24, the day before Memorial Day, Reed will be presenting a Peace Memorial Service at All Souls for the 10:30 a.m. service. 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. Several church members will participate in the service.

**Leader** – Joan Richmond    **Music** – Trio Alle Breve

**Monday May 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day**

**Sunday May 31**

**Speaker** – Reverend Julia Corbett-Hemeyer

**Title:** “A Balanced Faith”

**Topic:** Like ourselves, faith and spirituality come in a wide variety of styles. We'll look at how understanding these diverse styles of faith can help our religious and spiritual lives as individuals and as a congregation.

**Leader** – Teasha Sprague    **Music** – Ayesha Fry

**\*\*\* Kenya Coin Collection and Pot Luck\*\*\***

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

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

**WHY I PLEDGE**

All Souls does my record keeping for me

Whatever I can give is appreciated

It holds me accountable

I want to be a viable part of the maintenance and growth, etc., at All Souls

We get a great deal for our \$

We are contributing to something bigger than us

There are so many more ways to give in addition to our \$. What a deal!

The church/board can count on me to help with their planning and spending for an entire year

If I was in a situation that my income was way down for a while, I could make it up next month

It's all confidential

(But if you want to boast about your winnings at the race track, we will let you because there is always a fund or two that is in need of help)

Or when I win the lottery I can give them some of it and they would accept it even if I didn't "pledge it"

My observations week after week tell me that my dollars are a part of so much more than can be listed here

Heard in conversation: "Right now I can barely give a dollar week"; then pledge \$52.

It's all confidential and it all counts.

It's fully tax deductible if you file that way.

Church funds are fully protected and managed by our qualified and trustworthy Treasurer,

Board of Trustees and You the Members

It isn't about the dollars

(But it gets real hard to pay the bills without them)

## Living Lotus Zen Sangha May Schedule of Events

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.

6:30pm-6:50pm - Zazen (sitting meditation)  
6:50pm-7:00pm - Kinhin (walking meditation)  
7:00pm-7:20pm – Zazen (second period of zazen)  
7:20pm-7:30pm – Liturgy (heart sutra, chanting and prostrations)  
7:30pm-8:30pm - Dharma Talk shared by Sensei Dean Williams when present,  
otherwise sangha news & informal discussion

Current Book/Text/Discussion: "Inside the Grass Hut", by Ben Connelly

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

**Monday, April 27th at 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Sit & Service** - All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Bellville, Ohio

**Monday, May 4th at 6:30pm - 7:30pm, Book Discussion** - Relax, It's Just Coffee, 105 N Main St, Mansfield, Ohio  
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's sittings. **NEED NOT HAVE ATTENDED PREVIOUS SESSIONS to jump in!**

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. 19-25

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

**Monday, May 11th at 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Sit & Service** - All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

Contact: Jackie Moore for more information, or visit us via Facebook or our website: "Living Lotus Zen Sangha".

In Gassho



Daffodils from the home of Chuck & Jennette Rhodes.

Beautifully arranged by Ann Kilgore & Bruce Kilgore.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**

Lowry Gilbert – May 2  
Sam Kilgore – May 5  
Violeta Chinni – May 12

Sadie Gerhart – May 13  
Doug Wilson – May 22  
Mike Garber – May 23

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

**JUST SO YOU KNOW**

**SPEAKERS FOR MAY**

May 3: Jean Taddie  
May 10: John Gardner  
May 17: Dr. Walter Kania

May 24: Reed Richmond  
May 31: Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer

**MAY EVENTS**

**Adult R.E. Popcorn Theology** – Sunday, May 3 @ 9:00 am with facilitator, Reed Richmond

**R.E. Dr. Seuss Curriculum – “Horton Hears a Who” (ages 5-10):** Sunday, May 3 During the Service with teacher, Joan Richmond

**Social Action/Social Justice Meeting** – Tuesday, May 5 @ 7:00 pm

**“May Day or There-Abouts” Get-Together** – Wednesday, May 6 @ The Happy Grape in Lexington

**Mother’s Day** – Sunday, May 10

**Welcoming New Members** – Sunday, May 10

**Adult R.E. Popcorn Theology** – Sunday, May 10 @ 9:00 am with facilitator, Reed Richmond

**R.E. Popcorn Theology – “Willow” (ages 11-18):** Sunday, May 10 During the Service with teacher, Mandy Waltz

**Living Lotus Zen Sangha Sitting & Dharma Talk:** Monday, May 11 @ 6:30 pm

**Board Meeting:** Sunday, May 17 @ 9:00 am

**Dr. Walter Kania: "A Unique Near Death Experience with Insights and Messages about Life, and Other Dimensions of Reality"** – Thursday, May 21: 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

**Memorial Day** – Monday, May 25

**Questions for Your Answers Discussion & Breakfast:** Wednesday, May 27 @ 10:00 am at Bob Evans-Hanley Rd.

**Pot Luck & Kenya Coin Collection:** Sunday, May 31

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740-501-5990

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