



All Souls

www.all-souls.org

*Creating
a diverse,
spirit-growing,
justice-seeking
community.*

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The Unitarian Holy Land

Rob Hardies, Senior Minister

Last month I went on a pilgrimage. I and several other adults led a dozen ASC teenagers on a tour of the Unitarian Holy Land—Boston. In addition to being the birthplace of American Independence, Boston is the hometown of American Unitarianism. (Indeed, the story of political and religious freedom in Boston are closely intertwined.)

Our youth enjoyed an audience with the president of the UUA, William Sinkford. We saw the churches where Channing and Emerson preached their most famous sermons. We took a meditative walk around Walden Pond and read from Thoreau's spiritual classic, *Walden*. We visited Salem to learn more about the Witch Trials, and toured one of the oldest African-

American communities in Boston, the north side of Beacon Hill.

About halfway through, it dawned on me that there are adults in the church who might enjoy this kind of hands-on introduction to our heritage. Let me know if you might be interested in participating in or helping organize a pilgrimage for people of all ages to our Unitarian Holy Land. Love,

Growing in Caring as Well as Size ...

Shana Goodwin, Associate Minister

I feel as though I have been involved in many heated conversation around the church lately. The more things change, the more anxious we are becoming about the implications. Feelings and opinions are running high. For the most part, this is a good thing. After all, if no one seemed to care that wouldn't say much for the level of commitment or depth of

investment that we feel in All Souls. It is a marker of how significant a role the church can play in each of our individual lives.

As we move forward together I hope we will hold clear in our hearts that though we may differ in methods, we all share the best interests of the whole—an abiding love for this community—as primary. We all seek a

common and collective good for All Souls—for each and every soul that has become (and will become) part of the fabric of this place. May we be warm and hospitable to all. When disagreements come may we see the good intentions and not just an impasse. May we grow in caring for one another. Blessings,





ALL SOULS CHURCH

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BUILDING HOURS

Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Thinking About the "Source of Love"

Steve Marshall, *Trustee*

“Members of all ages discover and articulate the source of love in their lives and cultivate the ability to act on that love in ever-expanding circles.” So reads the first ends statement for All Souls Church. So how are we doing?

If you focus on numbers, our church has seen 174 percent growth since 2001 accompanied by 275 percent Adult Spiritual Development participation. Other areas such as Children's Religious Education and Social Justice are growing rapidly as well. If you focus instead on connecting, events ranging from the Neighborhood Justice Sunday service to the Ysaye Barnwell service were pathways to the source of love for many of us. And there have been so many other wonderful paths this last year.

In this year's Report to the Board on Ends Statement #1, a vision was shared which could help many of us focus on achieving this goal in our lives. The vision is of all members of All Souls Church conducting regular spiritual practices at the individual level, among small groups, in congregation-wide activities, and on a world scale. It was presented as a set of concentric circles centered on the individual and framed by the global. Close your eyes and picture it and see if it looks like and ask if it would help you see and measure your own progress towards the Source of Love in your life.

All Souls Auction: Sat., May 7

Join us for ALL SOULS AUCTION 2005, Saturday, May 7th, 6-9 pm at the church!

Come for an evening of fun and entertainment to raise money to support the church and to make new friends. Come for the entertainment, the delicious food, and the friends you'll make at events you purchase that take place throughout the year. There will be a silent and live auction with items for all budgets, including vacation home stays, themed dinners, lessons, gardening and other services, movie tickets and more. Admission cost is \$10.

Childcare for the auction: Childcare is available for children ages 0-10. Families who register by Monday, May 2nd (with an e-mail to allsoulsauction@yahoo.com), will receive \$5 off the cost of admission. For those who do not register in advance, the cost is \$15 per family for childcare, if space is available. Please register today to reserve your space for childcare so that we may plan a fun and safe evening for your children.

Have You Volunteered Lately?

ASC stands for many issues of social justice, and we explore those stands in community organizing, in issue advocacy, in worship and education, and in a multitude of programs by speakers and groups. It's also important that we put our hands where our hearts, minds and words are. Issues can stay abstract unless we have ongoing experience with real people in need.

In the coming months, we will expand the number of concrete volunteer opportunities in social justice areas that are available to you. Our Religious Education program, led by the Religious Educator, Gabrielle Farrell, and the RE Committee, will be developing projects for children, youth and family action in 2005-06 (gmfarrell@aol.com). We will keep our third Thursday commitment to serve at the Sacred Heart Dinner Program (davidsjones@yahoo.com). Gary Mummert will be organizing the ongoing second Saturday hands-on workdays for the UU Affordable Housing Corporation (gmum@mindspring.com).

In addition, we have opportunities in two new areas: *Amachi Big Brothers Big Sisters* is a congregation-based mentoring program for children of incarcerated parents. The program asks that you provide 3-4 hours of support weekly for at least a year, and staff provides orientation and ongoing comprehensive support services to Amachi volunteers and the families of the children. Our goal is find 20 adults at All Souls who will be mentors, and help break the cycle of intergenerational incarceration for children who live right in our community.

The Refugee Ministry Network is an opportunity for All Souls to live out our faith by welcoming the stranger. We will be matched with an individual or family being reunited with family already here in D.C. A team of 10-20 ASC congregants would go through training together and then meet refugees at the airport, accompany folks to appointments, help gather donation and materials, mentor families, and tutor. A Catholic Charities social work is the case manager and provides ongoing support.

If you are interested in either of these projects, I'd love to talk to you. Give me a call at 202-332-5266 x114. Louise Green, Director of Social Justice Ministries

All Souls May 2005

Baltimore-Washington UU Growth Plan

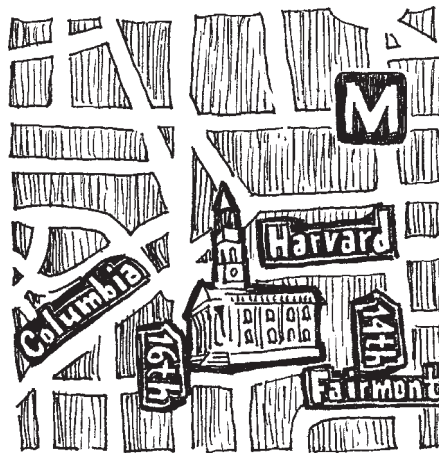
Barbara Corprew

Some of you may remember the two informational meetings I led at All Souls about the work of the Baltimore Washington Growth Planning Committee. As a member of the Planning Committee, I met with interested members of our congregation to explain a proposed regional project to grow Unitarian Universalism in our region, which is available at the JPD website at http://jpd.uua.org/metro_south/index.html. These meetings were part of a series of meetings that the Committee held at each of the 27 UU congregations in our area to generate support for a 5 year area-wide growth effort that would eventually lead to an extensive publicity and advertising campaign.

The five year plan provides for a series of activities that would energize our congregations and help make sure

that our churches have the resources, the mentoring and the support they need to welcome visitors and make them want to return and join us.

The plan will also call for the creation of a new "implementation committee" to meet in August, after



which there will probably also be formed some new regional task forces to work on such things as the development of a proposed tutorial, training for lay growth consultants, a possible regional UU website, and a special diversity initiative that fits with what we're trying to do at All Souls.

Please let me know if you want additional information or if you are possibly interested in serving on the Implementation Committee or the soon to be formed regional task forces.

Religious Education

REflections

by Gabrielle Farrell, Religious Educator

“I would rather be discovered than revealed, but for those of you who didn't have the chance to pay close attention...” COA participant 1997

Off, we went to Boston, Rob and I, **Bill Rice and Darcy Baxter and Jeff Berg**, the only parent of someone in the group, plus 12 teenagers on the last Wednesday in April for the first ever ASC Boston Trip. We began at Kings Chapel with a crypt tour and a free sandwich followed by Duckboat Tour of Boston on what was a very cold day (they still had snow!). The next day we toured the Freedom Trail and the African American Heritage Tour (limited by tired feet though it was). Before that, we visited the UUA where a gracious Rev. Bill Sinkford, UUA President, met with our group and dazzled us all. We visited Walden Pond in silence, Concord and the Sleeping Hollow Cemetery ending the week at the Salem Witch museum which, although hokey in presentation, was quite sophisticated and encompassing in their message. While there we discussed the role of our church and it's then minister, A. Powell Davies, in the modern day witch hunt of McCarthyism.

In evaluating the trip at its end, the kids verbalized that they had a better and bigger picture of Unitarian-Universalism outside of All Souls and that now, after finally getting to know each other better, they were more interested in coming to church every Sunday. Indeed, this is how you grow Unitarian Universalists. (Note that the ASC Retreat is another opportunity and you don't have to wait until your children are teenagers!) They were not the only ones who learned much on that trip, the chaperones came away transformed by the experience, to a one. I express my deepest appreciation for their presence.

Now the hard part, crafting in words what they believe about life and God and religion and death and everything else we come to church to consider. With their words and the talents they possess, they work now on presenting a service with Rev. Hardies, not only about who they are and wish to become, but also about who we are as the

congregation that raises them. We have much to learn about ourselves on that first Sunday in June.

“I believe that the connection between adult and child, young and older, is essential. This can be created by people, all unique and some eccentric, through community which though unfamiliar, whose presence is filled with love and friendship. And this is why I am thankful to have you.” COA participant 1999

Teaching Ministry

Kurt Fernstrom, an RE Committee member in his role as Class Liaison, wrote the following “When putting up signs in the church this week, I saw one that said ‘Q: But I'll miss church! A: Teaching our children IS church.’ This really resonated for me, and articulated how I've been feeling these past several weeks. Seeing the way the children have responded to you, and the loving environment you've created, has been my single most spiritually fulfilling experience at All Souls.” He is not alone. As I wrote in this space last year, our spiritual and religious development is inextricably dependent on working with the next generation or the one after that. Check with any “expert,” Fowler, Eriksson, Harris. There are few, if any, ways to adult wholeness without turning around and holding out a hand to children. Your opportunity is still at hand. Visit the Teaching Ministry Table to learn more!

Children's Garden Update

A child's relationship with nature may define their most spiritual moments and so it tells us to provide more opportunities for these experiences as part of their religious education. After a few attempts, we are off and running. The Children's Garden Team is on the move — anyone can join us! We are currently planning different types of gardens (Butterfly, Herb, Night, vegetable, etc) which will be staged over time on the South Lawn. Included is realistic planning for the needs of creation and maintenance program. We are developing learning opportunities around the garden's installation and finding community partners (MOMIE'S TLC is interested) to work the garden. To learn more, contact Gabrielle Farrell.

World Religions Query?

The RE Committee and others are working on yet another major overhaul of the RE Curriculum involving both its structural focus (worship will be a central feature) and content (most Sundays will have a “carrying your faith out into the world” element dealing with community service or social justice.) For example, in our World Religions study next year, we will learn about the social justice efforts of the worlds’ religions and what they tell us about that faith tradition. If you are knowledgeable about particular religions and wish to share some of your experiences on a more limited basis with children Kindergarten through High School we would love to hear from you. For our preschool ages, the Cosmos and Curriculum Group are continuing the development of an All Souls preschool curriculum which is story-centered and Montessori and Reggio Emilia influenced. If interested in working in any of these areas, contact Gabrielle Farrell at gmarrell@aol.com or call 202.332.5266.



White Woman Priest Draws KKK Ire

The Rev. Dr. Nancy James, while ministering to two small Episcopal churches in Culpeper County, Va., became the target of a four-year campaign of stalking and terror when she encouraged her congregations to socialize with homeless black men from D.C. Harrassed and besieged by criminals who knew her every move, her desperate appeals to law enforcement for protection were ignored or rebuffed. Rev. James’ compelling account of how she survived this overwhelming experience has just been published in a new book entitled *Standing in the Whirlwind*. She will discuss her book and sign copies in the Eaton Room on May 15th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Currently Rev. James teaches at American University, and also preaches in two prominent Episcopal churches here.

All Souls May 2005

Meditation Deepens Growth at ASC

More people have been benefiting from meditation at ASC through more opportunities to learn the skills and share the practice. There are Adult Spiritual Development Classes and Covenant Groups that teach and use meditation to go deeper into the spiritual life. There is the Sunday Evening Meditation co-sponsored by ASC and the Insight Meditation Community of Washington, the Tuesday Evening Meditation, and there is always the meditation time at 10:50 a.m. on Sundays that gives us the opportunity to enter the stillness and open our hearts in preparation for worship and fellowship.

Sunday Evening Meditation

In the Eaton Room, at 5 p.m. on Sundays, there is a Moving Meditation led by Ken Yamaguchi-Clark and Peter Mosher; at 6 p.m. is an Insight Meditation led by Hugh Byrne and Klia Bassing

Tuesday Evening Meditation

On Tuesdays, in the Eaton Room at 7 p.m. there is a Moving and Sitting Meditation led by Peter Mosher and Klia Bassing. For more info call 202-332-5266 ext 110.

Ethical Dialog in May ...

May 1: The Dictatorship of Relativism! The former Cardinal Ratzinger, “We are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism ...that recognizes nothing definite and leaves only one’s own ego and one’s own desires as the final measure.” (by EJ Dionne in the *Post*, 4/19/05)

May 8: When is Property Private? What does the Constitution say? The debate appears to be intensifying. The “Originalists” and the “Constitution-in-Exile”ists are contributing a heavy hand to the picking of judges. Does ‘judicial activism’ cut two ways?

May 15: Why Can’t We Teach Evolution and Creationism Both? A significant battle in the public schools is threatening major disruptions in society. Need it do so?

May 22: Is Growth Required for Sustainable Society? Can communities and states survive in a state of equilibrium, without continual economic growth?

May 29 Open Discussion

It's Not Too Late to Pledge for 2005

If you didn't have a chance to pledge your financial support for All Souls during the Generosity Campaign last fall, or if you've joined recently but not yet pledged, we still need to know what you expect to be able to donate to the church operating fund between now and Dec. 31. Look for the Generosity Table in Pierce Hall after Sunday services or pick up an orange pledge card from the rack on the office door. Completed cards can be turned in either at the Generosity Table or the front desk.

A number of you have been donating to the church during the first quarter of this year, but have not yet submitted pledges. While we certainly appreciate generosity in all forms, we cannot budget based on the hope that unpledged contributions will continue.

Our Treasurer and our Board of Trustees monitor and adjust the budget throughout the year, so we need your most realistic estimate of what you expect to be able to donate by year end. If your circumstances change, you may revise your pledge (up or down!), but it's important that the Church office receive prompt notification of any changes. We currently have slightly over \$692,000 in pledges for the current year, just shy of the \$700,000 on which we based our budget. Any amount helps, and YOU can be the one to put us over the top!

Thanks for Kind Thoughts ...

Thanks to everyone for the get-well wishes. It is good to be part of a supportive community. My recovery went well and I am looking forward to an interesting and productive year at All Souls.

Sincerely, Paula Cole Jones

From the Archives ...

In sorting old orders of service, we learned that in 1982, David Chapelle, whose mother was ordained as a UU minister at All Souls, played the role of one of the three kings in the annual R.E. Christmas pageant.

Member News

Joy abounds: Our own **Shana Goodwin** and **Melora Crooker** were joined in marriage in Massachusetts on April 17. **Flo Fanelli** and **Keith Treviss** welcomed **Aidan Kelsey Treviss** on February 25. The **Myers Family** celebrated the marriage of their eldest son, a successful dissertation defense at the University of North Carolina by a younger son, the birth of a second grandson and the graduation in nursing from UVA by their Vietnamese daughter.

We're sorry to hear that **Corrie Ernst** fell and fractured her pelvis, that both **Alesha Daughtrey** and **Alan Johnson** have had painful back problems, that **Margaret Woodward** is facing another round of difficult eye surgery, that **Colin Danville's** mother is seriously ill, that **Holly Cobb** has been ordered to bed to protect her continuing pregnancy, and that an old friend of the Church, **Damu Smith** is battling terminal cancer.

We bid a fond farewell to **Erica Buehrens** who has moved to California, to **Catherine Peterson**, who is now in Utah, and to **Beth Rogers-Witte** who is off to Indonesia with the Peace Corps.

Welcome home to **Libbie Buchele** and **Eric Hoy** after their extended honeymoon. We miss **Bob Neuman**, **Charlie Mason**, **Betty Atherton** and **Edna Lingreen**.

We send sympathy to **Colin Danville** on the death of his aunt, **Ruth Porter**, and to **Shelley Brackenridge** on the loss of her uncle. We mourn the death of **Wilhemina Rice**, a longtime friend of ASC. Our thoughts are with **Cal Bryant**, whose wife, **Ann**, died last month. A celebration of her life will be held on June 5 at 1 p.m. at ASC.

Special Caring List

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the members of our congregation who are unable to get to church anymore: Mary Jane Fisher, Virginia Gray, Mary Louise Robbins, Marianna Sewell, Marietta Sharp, Larry Stone, Emilie Wiggins. Notes or cards are welcome. Addresses are in the directory (available in Pierce Hall). You can also visit the Caring Table to sign cards for those homebound. If you are interested in visiting shut-in members, contact Rev. Shana Goodwin at church (202-332-5266).

Join All Souls 'Hands on DC' Team

The 11th annual city-wide Hands on DC work-a-thon will take place on Saturday, May 7, 2005. Hands-On-DC is an all-volunteer project that creates better schools and brighter futures for students in the District of Columbia, by holding a day-long work-a-thon that improves conditions in the public schools and raises money for college scholarships. Many of the projects involve painting (classrooms, hallways, etc.) or landscaping (mulching or planting). Please join our Young Souls team this year (20 and 30 somethings). We usually try to get a school near the Columbia Hts/Mt. Pleasant/Shaw/Adams-Morgan area so that we are giving back to our church neighborhood. After the work day, we'll plan on going out for drinks or ice cream. Last year, Young Souls had an amazing team of a dozen volunteers. It is an all-day event, but if you need to come and go a bit, don't let this deter you from joining our team. Email Team Leader Melissa Schoeplein if you'd like to join us: mschoepl@yahoo.com.

For more details check out the Hands On DC website: <http://www.handsondc.org/>

Book Discussion Group

The next meeting of the Book Discussion Group will be at 4 pm, Sunday, May 15 at the home of Rose Kurland. The book will be *Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger. For more info, email dJrathman@yahoo.com.

The Book Group meets on the second Sunday of the month. Please join us for any book that interests you.

Lost and Found ...

If you borrowed the video tape on Islam from the last American-Muslim Solidarity and Interfaith Dialogue presentation on Islam held at All Souls, contact Claudia Brown at cbogbrown@yahoo.com.

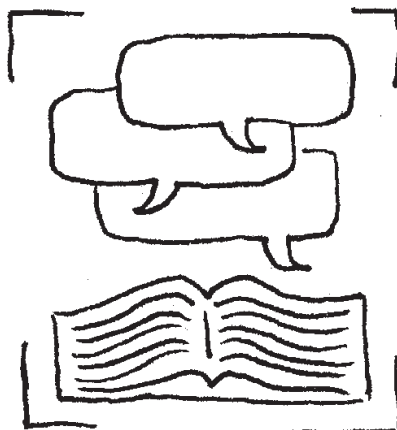
Long-Range Planning Task Force

The purpose of this task force is to gather information and explore the critical issues associated with All Souls' current and likely continued growth over the next ten years. **Our final report with recommendations will be presented to the full congregation for approval this fall.** In the three meetings we have held so far, a number of issues that result from our growth have commanded our attention. We look forward to finding opportunities to discuss them with different groups within the congregation, including at the forthcoming All Souls retreat, May 20-22. Our current list includes:

- The pros and cons of having two Sunday services
- Whether and how to be proactive in encouraging and recruiting new members, particularly to ensure that our congregation is "ever-more diverse"
- What improvements does the church building require in order to handle our growth, prominently including for religious education.
- How can we ensure that every member gets adequate support in finding the right niche for him/her?
- Do we have/will we have enough volunteers from the church's membership to effectively manage the church and carry out our ambitious goals?
- Assuming that we will need a capital campaign sometime in the relative near future, how much money are we likely to be able to raise from the congregation and other sources?

We know that other issues will also require our attention, but this gives you some idea of our scope. Please feel free to contact any member of the task force which is chaired by Tom Fox and Barbara Corprew and includes Senior Minister Rob Hardies, Trustees Ernie Cormier and Dave Kerlina,

Jan Albert, Judith Bauer, Van Caldwell, Stan Salett, Marian Urquilla, David Wiley, and Lloyd Wright.



UUA General Assembly: Join Us!

In the April Newsletter, Board of Trustees President Chuck Wooldridge wrote about the high-profile role that All Souls will play at this year's UU Association General Assembly (GA). The GA, which will be held June 23-27 in Fort Worth, Texas is much more than our denomination's annual business meeting. It is an opportunity for All Souls Church members and friends to experience the broader UU community and to share our experiences of "breakthrough" growth.

The theme of this year's Assembly will be *Ministering to Families in Today's World*. According to the UUA's GA website at www.uua.org/ga, "Recognizing our ministry to families and communities as a core mission of UU congregations, we need to develop philosophy, resources, programs, and networks to serve and service this mission." The GA will feature plenary sessions at which church business will be discussed; workshops; talks on study action issues; worship; and entertainment. A tentative schedule and registration page for the GA have been posted on the website listed above.

Most important for ASC this year will be highlights on the church as a leader. The Sunday morning sermon will be delivered by Senior Minister Rev. Rob Hardies. Rob and Rev. Shana Goodwin will reach milestones in their ministries, and will be welcomed into "full fellowship" at the GA. ASC has also been offered several opportunities to share the story of our phenomenal growth.

In coming weeks, a group of All Souls GA organizers will provide more information about the issues to be discussed at this year's meeting, and how ASC will be involved. Watch for upcoming articles in *Happenings* and the *All Souls Bulletin*, and at an information table.

If you would like to be an official voting delegate from All Souls at the Fort Worth GA, contact Board President Chuck Wooldridge at c.wool@verizon.net. Also, if you would like to keep up-to-date on All Souls GA developments, or perhaps find a roommate to share costs, you can subscribe the All Souls maillist at <http://lists.all-souls.org/mailman/listinfo/asc-ga>. Let's get a great turnout at this General Assembly from All Souls – an acknowledged leader in the UU denomination!

A Quiz for All Souls

By and large Unitarian-Universalists are considered knowledgeable – even sometimes by others – but how complete is their knowledge of their own church?

Do you know in what year the 1921 date stone of All Souls Church was laid? Do you know the source of the wood used in making the altar? Do you know the history of the flaming chalice? Do you know about the secret symbols, until now privy only to a select few, placed in the sanctuary when the church was built?

If you don't have all the answers, you can find them in the display just posted in the cloister. This is the eighth in a series of panels about All Souls Church, shown on a rotating basis, two at a time for several months each.

Board Forms ASC Survey Task Force

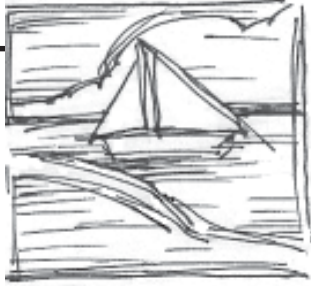
With the recent growth of the ASC, it is more important than ever to keep track of demographic information and leaders and committees concerns and needs. Consequently, the Board has convened an All Souls Survey Task Force to identify All Souls committees' needs and to design and carry out surveys to provide useful reports for our growing community.

According to Task Force chairperson and Trustee Dave Kerlina, "The dynamic growth of All Souls offers us an opportunity to gather information about members' interests and concerns." Over the next few months, the Survey Task Force will be coordinating with All Souls Committees, the Executive Team, officers, program directors, staff members, and the Board of Trustees to determine how best to design and implement surveys that will help to gather the information that various constituents at All Souls need to operate most effectively.

Optimally, All Souls will be able to conduct streamlined and well-designed surveys that will not put a burden on members. The Survey Task Force consists of Dave Kerlina, Ernie Cormier, Molly Freeman, Stacey Cosey, Carol Fisher, Lynne Heltman and Kevin Rosseel.

The Survey Task Force will provide updates about its work. For more information, contact Dave Kerlina at kerlina@voyager.net, or join our new listserv by visiting <http://lists.all-souls.org/listinfo/survey-team>.

All Souls Weekend on the Bay



Ever hear people rave about an event afterward and think, "I wish I had gone"? Don't feel that way about the all church retreat - - Back to the Bay. The retreat is a unique opportunity to get to know your pew-mates and others within the All Souls community in a fun, relaxed, naturally beautiful, and spiritual setting. Whether you choose to be active (softball, water sports, tennis, etc.) or to simply experience community - - this weekend promises not to disappoint. Join us on the Chesapeake May 20-22! There will be many illuminating workshops, a bonfire, a water balloon toss, and much more. Both ministers and much of the staff along with 200 souls will bask in each other's company. You should too!

Getting Started at All Souls

The Welcoming and Membership Committee invites those interested in learning more about and/or joining ASC to the following sessions during April.

Step 1. Introduction. Join our Associate Minister, Rev. Shana Goodwin, to learn more about UUs and ASC. After service on May 1, from 12:45 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Step 2. Orientation. Those interested in joining ASC are invited to this three-hour session, where you will explore your spirituality, learn about ASC, and tour the church. Those who wish to join can sign the book of members. Saturday May 14, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Step 3. New Member Ingathering Sunday: New members are formally introduced to the congregation during this special Sunday Service on May 15, 2005.

All are welcome to attend these sessions. Attendance does not constitute a commitment to join All Souls. It is not necessary to pre-register for these sessions. Questions? Contact Lynne Heltman at (202)363-1478 or asc-newmembers@verizon.net.

ASC Members Join Youth Club BOT

Margaret Albamonte, long-time member of the Columbia Heights Youth Club's board of trustees, has been joined by three of her cohorts from All Souls: Ernie Cormier, Anita Lee, and Larrold Street. This welcome development will certainly strengthen our historic 50-year-old association.

In a recent op-ed piece, black columnist William Raspberry has written: "...(T)hose of us who have found our way out of poverty and despair need to remember those who abetted our escape - and do what we can to lead others to economic, social and political safety...(I)t is vital to understand that there are...children [and not just children] whose circumstances have blinded them to the opportunity (to escape poverty) that already exists..."

Youth club director Gail Oliver and her capable staff richly deserve applause, for their diligence in helping so many local children to see the opportunities that exist. We can be proud of having promoted their efforts.

All Souls May 2005

ALL SOULS

The deadline for *All Souls* is the third Friday of the month. Notices, articles and letters may be submitted anytime. Leave submissions in the newsletter box, or e-mail, Elizabeth Preston at elizabeth_mae_preston@hotmail.com

Editorial policy: articles and letters about church activities and programs submitted by church members and friends of ASC will be published in *All Souls* in a timely manner. Due to space constraints, lengthy articles may be edited, and articles not time-sensitive may be held for subsequent issues.

Original illustrations provided by Mark Mitchell.
Editor Emeritus: Lorie Allion

Publication Deadlines:

Summer Issue: May 20

September Issue: August 19

Editor: Elizabeth Preston

elizabeth_mae_preston@hotmail.com

All Souls Unitarian Church Services

Services at All Souls begin at 10:50 a.m.

May 1 • *Owning Your Spiritual Past: Setting God Free* • Rev. Hardies

One of the things that everyone needs to do to achieve a mature spirituality is reckon with their religious histories. Only when we reckon with our spiritual past, can we embrace our spiritual future.

May 8 • *Nurture and Care* • Rev. Goodwin

On Mother's Day we will reflect on how environment can encourage (or stunt) us in our growth as a person and support us in our efforts to be compassionate. How is our capacity to deepen our spiritual selves impacted by what and whom we surround ourselves with?

May 15 • *A Laughing God* • Rev. Hardies

In these serious times, it is sometimes helpful to remind ourselves of the power of laughter. We will celebrate the ways in which a Trickster God uses play, surprise and humor to lead us laughing to glory.

May 22 • *Coming Out as a Christian* • Rev. Louise Green

In the New Testament Gospels, Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" Our country is embroiled in debates about the power or peril of evangelical Christianity. On this Sunday we will look at different interpretations of Jesus, and hear one United Church of Christ minister's testimony as it relates to being a social justice director in a UU congregation.

May 29 • *War, Violence and Memory* • Rev. Hardies

On Memorial Day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in military service to our country. Memorial Day should also be an opportunity to recall the legacy of violence and pain that war leaves behind with its survivors. We perpetuate an inaccurate understanding of war as long as we only memorialize some aspects of its legacy.

MISSION & ENDS STATEMENTS

Mission Statement of All Souls Church

To create a diverse, spirit-growing, justice-seeking community that transforms ourselves and our world into one great family of all souls.

Ends Statements: *By 2008 we will be able to say of our congregation:*

1. Church members of all ages discover and articulate the source of love in their lives and cultivate the ability to act on that love in ever-expanding circles.
2. All Souls is an ever-more diverse congregation, overcoming the barriers that divide the human family.
3. Our building and grounds are welcoming, comfortable and accessible to all who seek their use in congruence with our mission.
4. All Souls Church is a congregation where members generously share human and financial resources to support our growing mission and ends.
5. All Souls Church is a leader in the Unitarian Universalist movement, by witnessing to UU values in our nation's capital.
6. The Columbia Heights/Adams Morgan/Mt. Pleasant neighborhood is a more just and compassionate community because of All Souls' prophetic leadership.
7. All Souls Church is a vibrant and joyful community of communities where all seekers find connection, support and spiritual growth in groups large and small.

Return Service Requested

All Souls Church, Unitarian
The Voice
1500 Harvard Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

