



All Souls

www.all-souls.org

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Possibilities	2
Social Justice	3
REflections	4
Fall RE Catalog	5
Browse the Book Nook	7
Multicultural Growth	8
Sunday Lunches	9
Music from All Souls	10
Member News	11
September Sermons	12

All Souls Services begin at 9:50 a.m. on Sept. 4 and switch to 10:50 a.m. on Sept. 11—Homecoming Sunday.

Recommitting to Our Life Together

Robert Hardies, Senior Minister

I wish you all could've been at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA) this year, where All Souls received many honors.

The KUUMBA Players and I had the opportunity to share some of what worship at All Souls feels like at the Sunday morning worship service. More than 4,000 UUs gathered in a hockey arena for that special service.

In addition, All Souls was selected as one of four "Breakthrough Congregations" in our denomination. Breakthrough congregations are honored for their dynamism and for their

growth in numbers and depth of religious programming. I was proud and moved as our lay leaders shared stories of how All Souls' ministry has made a difference in their lives.

On a personal note, thanks to everyone who hosted the reception at GA for Rev. Goodwin and myself when we received our "Final Fellowship." (This means that we now have "tenure" as UU ministers.) We had an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the ministry that we all share at All Souls. This event reminded me of how lucky I am to be your minister.

I return from my summer break more convinced than ever of the importance of what we are doing here at All Souls. Our religious movement, our nation and—indeed—our world, need the generous gospel that we proclaim. The beginning of each church year requires a recommitment to the values that we share and the institution that we love. This fall, I am stepping up to that commitment once again, and I hope you will, too.

I look forward to seeing you on Homecoming Sunday, September 11.

Love,

Don't Miss Homecoming Sunday—September 11

Every year we celebrate the beginning of the new church year with **Homecoming Sunday**. The choirs return, religious education begins, and the service returns to its usual time of 10:50 a.m.

This year we will be unveiling of the **photo**

exhibit, "Come Unto Me: The Spirit of Life at All Souls." This exhibition by well-regarded photographer and church member Scott Lassman includes images from a year in the life of ASC.

We will also celebrate the release of the All

Souls Choir CD, Music from All Souls. This CD will allow us to take the inspiration of All Souls' Choirs with us wherever we go. The CD will be on sale in Pierce Hall.

Join us at 10:50 am on September 11 for this special Homecoming Sunday.



ALL SOULS CHURCH

1500 Harvard Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
www.all-souls.org
phone: 202-332-5266 fax: 202-332-8968

STAFF

Robert M. Hardies, *Senior Minister*
Shana Goodwin, *Associate Minister*
Jan O'Connell, *Administrator*
Tracy Butler, *Office Manager*
Gabrielle Farrell, *Religious Educator*
Louise Green, *Dir. of Social Justice Ministries*
Peter Mosher, *Facilities Manager*
Constance Ofori, *Childcare Provider*
Angela Powell Walker,
Director, DC Children's Choir
Earl Richardson, *Receptionist*
Jorge Sanchez, *Office Assistant*
Lenard Starks, *Director, Jubilee Singers*
John Strang, *Director of Music*
Stacey Cosey, *Financial/Database Asst.*
Jessica DiPietro, *Childcare Provider*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chuck Wooldridge, *President* (202-723-4069)
Dorothy E. Holmes, *V.P.* (301-590-9518)
Sheila Campbell (301-387-4555)
Ernie Cormier (202-363-5883)
Paula Cole Jones (202-526-3404)
Dave Kerlina (301-309-1714)
Steve Marshall (202-244-3991)
Delabian Rice-Thurston (202-726-1518)
Liz Salett (202-342-6532)

OFFICERS

Jon Fetter-Degges, *Secretary*
Ruel Eskelsen, *Asst. Secretary*
Molly Freeman, *Membership Secretary*
Vanessa Lowe, *Treasurer*
Julie Agarwal, *Asst. Treasurer*
Bill Kules, *Moderator*

BUILDING HOURS

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

New Year, New Possibilities

by Shana Goodwin, *Associate Minister*

Welcome back! I hope that as you read this those of you who have been away from All Souls for the summer months are returning refreshed. As this year unfolds we will find ourselves in the midst of many exciting conversations and decisions. Throughout the fall you will have an opportunity to offer your insight and energy to three critical issues that we are working on as a beloved community. First, the Long Range Planning Task Force will be finalizing its work on the way to presenting recommendations and a full report at the annual meeting in December. They are wrestling with questions about what the implications of the growth of the congregation are—for the building, for our worship life, and for our finances. Second, one of the ways we want to embrace the growth of our congregation is by making new intentional outreach efforts to grow the multicultural character of our congregation. You will hear about efforts of a newly forming Multicultural Growth Implementation Team, to increase the number of African-American members (while maintaining our commitment to *All Souls*). Lastly, the Committee on Ministry will encourage us to continue our conversation about the covenant of right relations as we continue to look deeply at what it means to be a member of a spiritual community.

I can't encourage you enough to be involved in all of these conversations. In fact, I hope that as this new church year opens you will each examine your hearts and decide what contribution you would like to make to All Souls this year. I talk often to members who say they want to get more involved at the church but haven't figured out how or where to do so. I implore you to find a niche this year (and to ask me if you need help in doing so)—whether it's helping with the lunches (and they need volunteers desperately), facilitating a covenant group, serving on a committee, or singing in a choir—discover a way to let your talent, your gifts add to the richness of this place.

With hope in our shared faith,

First All Souls Spiritual Deepening Day Oct. 8

Recently, when we have begun each new church year we have opened new covenant groups and this year will be no exception. This year, however, we are going to introduce them in a whole new way. Everyone interested in **covenant groups** or interested in exploring new levels of personal spiritual practice is invited to the first All Souls Spiritual Deepening Day. We will meet at the church on **Saturday, October 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** We will worship together and have current covenant groups share some of their rituals and practices. Space is limited, so call the church office today to sign up or speak to Rev. Shana or Meredith Higgins-Hargrave.

September Social Justice Highlights

Look for more information on Social Justice at All Souls in the Weekly Bulletins and Happenings.

Sept 4: Labor Day Sunday, D.C. Living Wage Campaign in Pierce Hall

Sept 11: Homecoming Sunday, plus D.C. Interfaith Unity Walk at 2 pm on Embassy Row, dcunitywalk.com

September 15: Beckner Committee Letter of Inquiry deadline for external social justice grants. Internal grants to All Souls groups are available now on a rolling submittal basis. See new guidelines on the all-souls.org website or contact Louise Green for more information.

Sept 24-26: UU Service Committee Stop the Torture Campaign, in conjunction with United for Peace and Justice Peace March on Sept 24. Special interfaith service at All Souls on Sept 25 and Citizens Trial teach-in on torture on the afternoon of the 25th. Visits to Capitol Hill on Monday. Check uusc.org for more info, or contact rkeithan@uua.org in the Washington Advocacy Office.

Denominational Connections

by Chuck Wooldridge

Buoyed by a tremendous All Souls presence at General Assembly 2005, we are eager to formalize and strengthen our denominational affairs activities at ASC. We are poised to enter into closer dialogue and involvement with our denomination in a more intentional and organized fashion. Our visibility and contributions at GA 2005 are certainly indicative of this readiness.

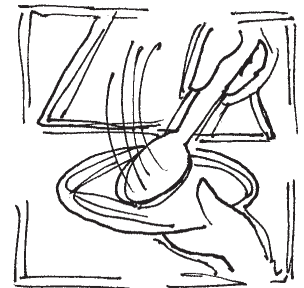
There are compelling reasons to place greater emphasis throughout the year on regional, district, and national Unitarian Universalist activities. A congregational goal embodied in our 5th end statement is "***All Souls Church is a leader in the Unitarian Universalist movement by witnessing to UU values in our nation's capital.***"

We are currently seeking expressions of interest in being part of an ASC denominational affairs/connections committee. Contact me at c.wool@verizon.net or 202-723-4069 to learn more. We have much to gain by working more closely with fellow Unitarian Universalists to expand UU values in our communities.

All Souls September 2005

Through the Kitchen Door

Through The Kitchen Door is a non-profit life skills and empowerment training program for youth, recent immigrants, and low income women. Using the welcoming environment of the kitchen, basic and advanced training covers healthy, economical and culturally respectful cooking as a route to healthier individuals, families and communities. For those that complete Kitchen Door's basic training programs and wish to pursue more professional training in the culinary arts, Kitchen Door offers experiential paid training opportunities through selected catering engagements; and draws upon its trainees to work as Kitchen Door teachers and supervisors. In September, Kitchen Door is looking forward to continuing its ongoing association with All Souls Church Unitarian. A basic course will be offered Sept. 19 - 23, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Kitchen Door would be pleased to welcome up to three people from the All Souls community to participate in the basic course, The Essential Kitchen 101. The course will be taught in both English and Spanish. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Louise Green at lgreen@allsouls.ws and Liesel Flashenberg at kitchendoor@starpower.net. More information is available at www.kitchendoor.org.



Thank You from Hernandez Family

On July 31, a community collection taken during the Sunday offertory raised \$1,700 toward funeral expenses for Cervando Hernandez, age 22. He was shot and killed on July 23 during an attempted robbery in the hallway outside his apartment at 2801 15th St. He was the cousin of Marcos Villa who has worked with members of the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) team on housing code violations at 2801 15th St. and other neighborhood buildings. Mr. Villa wishes to express his gratitude to members and friends of ASC who contributed. The money will be sent to Mr. Hernandez's family to defray costs of burial in his native Mexico. Thank you for extending the care of our community beyond the walls of All Souls.

REflections

by Gabrielle Farrell, Religious Educator

A story from the African continent tells *about the earth's creation and the birth of a boy called Sunaman. Everyone loved him because when he lifted up the world, sentient beings could see far and wide, near and close -- the landscape, what they ate, and most importantly, each other. After some time though, the boy would tire, set it down and darkness would come again. People learned to love the difference -- the rhythm between dark and light. As time passed Sunaman grew old and crawled into a cave to sleep. The people, bereft, went to the mouth of the cave, stomped and clapped, making much noise -- still nothing. The earth remained dark and cold. After more time, the children tried. They decided to steal into the cave and gather Sunaman into their arms, carry him out and throw him into the air. When they did, Sunaman flew higher and higher, spinning until his arms spread open and there was light. The children had saved the world.*

I came across this story while choosing stories from the world's religions to teach understandings and differences between Unitarian Universalism and other religions. This story of Sunaman reminds me of another from Isaiah:

*The wolf shall lie down with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the kid,
The calf and the lion and the fatling together,
And a little child shall lead them.*

"And a little child shall lead them to peace and love so as to heal and repair the world." What has happened to this wisdom? If life was profoundly informed by such, wouldn't the nation's schools be our first priority? If this teaching inspired our outlook, would the photographs of children starving in Niger be found on our front pages?

Here at All Souls we can promise to remember. Not only can we choose to accept this teaching, we can promise to help make it come true. Many here already do, individually. I encourage more of the same, but also ask us to consider a bigger vision -- how might this wisdom move to the *center* of our life -- what will our world look like when this happens? Let us make it so. See you at church!

All Souls September 2005

RE Classes Resume

Beginning September 11, Religious Education (RE) classes, concurrent with the Sunday morning service, begin for children and youth age two (2) years old through and including High School. Classes begin at 10:50 a.m., and end at 12:15 p.m. Families previously registered will receive a new registration form in the mail. New families may call the church office, email me at gfarrell@allsouls.ws or download a form from the All Souls website, www.all-souls.org.

Upcoming RE Calendar

September 11 ASC Homecoming; Classes Resume
September 17 Teacher Training; 9:30 a.m. - 2:30pm
September 18 ASC Family Pancake Breakfast
October 2 Parent Orientation, Chapel, after service
October 9 Nursery Parent Get-Together

Older Child Dedication

Older Children will be dedicated in the service by the Rev. Hardies on Sept. 25. To have your infant or child dedicated, contact him at rhardies@allsouls.ws.

Families New to All Souls ...

Join me and RE Committee members at the Pancake Breakfast at a special Visitor's Table on Sunday, September 18. I also invite you to call me, 202.332.5266, x 112 to talk about your hopes for your child's religious education (and your own too!).

Check Your Member Record Online!

We have made it easier for you to review, update and edit your member record for All Souls. Through our Online Access Program you now have access to your personal and financial record in our database. Be assured that members can only access their own record and that this program is for members only. Please logon to: <https://secure.accessacs.com/acsnet/memberlogin.aspx?sn=107063>.

Contact Stacey Cosey, Financial/Database Assistant at scosey@allsouls.ws with any questions or concerns.

Curious about Atheism? Interested in Labyrinths? Fascinated with Yoga? Searching for Meaning? All Souls Adult Religious Education Classes offer something for everyone!

Sign up Today for Fall Adult Spiritual Development Classes

The ASD committee is very pleased to be able to offer the following courses this Fall. More detailed information is available in the course catalogue. All Souls members, please look for your copy in the mail. Copies will also be available for pick up at church starting Homecoming Sunday (Sept 11th). Or, save a tree and go on-line: <http://www.all-souls.org/spirituality/are/>. The more popular courses tend to fill up fast, so sign up early.

Ahimsa Practices: Tai Chi/Qigong

A moving meditation which body, mind, and spirit.

Facilitator: Peter Mosher

Dates: 8 Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m., starting Sept. 27.

Atheism, Agnosticism, and Faith

An opportunity for members of the All Souls Community to reflect on their individual reasons for believing or not believing in something transcendental.

Facilitators: Richard Schmechel and Jason Levitis

Dates: 6 Tuesdays, 7pm-9pm, starting October 11.

Food & Religious Rituals/Worship

We'll look at how food is used in our worship and in our homes as a method of creating community.

Facilitator: Cathy Chang

Dates: 3 Tuesdays, 7-9pm, starting Oct. 25

Global Warming: What Is It and What Can We Do About It?

This two-part course will discuss global warming and identify positive steps we can take as individuals, as a class, and as a congregation.

Facilitators: Kevin Rosseel and Heather McGray

Dates: 2 Thursdays, 7-9pm, starting Dec. 8

Kripalu yoga: beginning/intermediate

Kripalu Yoga offers relaxation, movement and stillness in a gentle and welcoming method of practice.

Facilitator: Rev. Louise Green

Dates: 6 Mondays, 7-8:30pm, starting Nov. 7

Labyrinth

This course will study the labyrinth as a spiritual tool and a way to access inner peace.

Facilitators: Jeanne Hansell and Anne Washington

Dates: 2 Wednesdays, 7-8:45 pm, starting September 28

The Meaning In Me

This course will explore the ways in which our sense of identity and self play a pivotal role in our spiritual outlook.

Facilitator: Rev. Shana Goodwin

Dates: 4 Wednesdays, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Nov. 2, 9 16, and 30

Our American Roots: Unitarian Universalism in North America

A discussion of our American UU history guided by the video series, "Our American Roots."

Facilitators: Thomas B. Hargrave, Jr. and Kat Liu

Dates: 10 Sundays, 9:30-10:30am, starting Sept. 11

Adult Spiritual Development Classes Continued ...

Poetry Writing Workshop

This 4-week poetry writing workshop will introduce exercises intended to help members grow and develop as poets.

Facilitator: Chris Nealon

Dates: 4 Tuesdays, 7-9pm, starting September 27

Relationships as Spiritual Practice

Based on the book, *Getting the Love You Want* by Harville Hendrix, this class is for couples who are looking to strengthen their relationships.

Facilitators: Doug Belling and Bailey Whiteman

Dates: 6 Tuesdays, 6:30-9 pm, starting October 4

Roots & Wings Facilitator Training

A training session for people who are interested in facilitating Roots & Wings classes during the upcoming year.

Facilitators: Kat Morgan

Date: Sunday September 25th, 1:30-4:30pm

The Spirit of Kwanzaa

Facilitators: Thomas View and Paula Cole Jones

Dates: tba

UU Theology: The Big Questions

An introduction to some of the important thinkers, concepts and trends in UU theology, as well as provide an opportunity for personal theological reflection.

Facilitators: Rev. Robert M. Hardies and Kat Liu

Dates: 6 Tuesdays, 7:00 to 9:00pm, 9/20, 9/27, 10/4, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1

Viewing African American History: Museum Interpretations

Guided tours of a series of museum exhibits focusing on the experience of Black Americans in the United States, with discussion afterwards.

Facilitator: Judith Bauer

Dates: 2 Saturdays for 4months, 10am-12:30pm, starting October 8.

What Does Love Look Like?

Come create colorful collages that express your interpretation of what love looks like, on your own and with fellow congregants.

Facilitator: Ananda Kiamsha, Madelyn Leeke

Dates: 2 Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm, starting November 10

All Souls Staff Has New E-mail Addresses: Drop them a Line Today!

All Souls has launched a new e-mail platform. Our new e-mail domain is allsouls.ws. The web address remains www.all-souls.org. New addresses are:

Rev. Robert Hardies, Senior Minister;
rhardies@allsouls.ws

Rev. Shana Goodwin, Associate Minister;
sgoodwin@allsouls.ws

Rev. Louise Green, Director of Social Justice Ministries;
lgreen@allsouls.ws

Gabrielle Farrell, Religious Educator;
gfarrell@allsouls.ws

Jan O'Connell, Administrator; joconnell@allsouls.ws

Stacey Cosey, Financial/Database Assistant; scosey@allsouls.ws

Tracy Butler, Office Manager; tbutler@allsouls.ws

Peter Mosher, Facilities Manager;
pmosher@allsouls.ws

Jorge Sanchez, Office Assistant;
jsanchez@allsouls.ws

John Strang, Director of Music;
jstrang@allsouls.ws

Lenard Starks, Director, Jubilee Singers; lstarks@allsouls.ws

Julie Agarwal, ASC Assistant Treasurer; julie@allsouls.ws

Suzanne Thurston, Wedding Coordinator; weddings@allsouls.ws

Browse & Buy at the Book Nook

The All Souls Book Nook is open for business each Sunday. At its charming location near the Men's Room outside Pierce Hall, you'll find titles on religion, politics, history and poetry. Browsers welcome! (You get the joy of reading. The Church gets 100% of the proceeds.) If you're interested in being a Book Nook Volunteer, contact Ruel Eskelsen at 202-986-9416 or ruel_eskelsen@yahoo.com.

Book Discussion Group

The next meeting of the Book Discussion Group will be Sunday, Sept. 11, at 4 pm at the home of Jody Feldman. The book will be *The Storyteller's Daughter*, by Saira Shah. For more information, email djrathman@yahoo.com. The book for Oct. 16 (third Sunday; an exception) will be *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver. The Book Group usually meets on the second Sunday. Please join us for any book that interests you.

From the Archives

Work continues on the organization of the ASC Archives. So far, focus has been on Board Minutes; financial reports; orders of service; newsletters; and sermons. General sorting of accumulated information continues. Interested helpers contact Bob or Molly Freeman 301-656-0948 or mollyfreeperson@aol.com.

Ahimsa Practices Classes to Resume

Blue Heron Tai Chi/Qigong will be our focus as we resume classes on Tuesday evenings at All Souls. Classes will be held in the Eaton Room, 6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m. starting September 27 and will be taught in eight-week sessions. There will also be half-day workshops, to be announced. If you have questions, call 202-332-5266, ext. 110. If you would like to be on the Ahimsa Practices e-mail list send a message to ahimsaqui@yahoo.com

Children's Chapel Needs You!

by Bailey Whiteman

On behalf of the Children's Chapel team (Kathy Ferger, Julia Washburn and me) I'd like to invite folks to consider sharing your time and talents with us during our worship service. We have service for the RE program participants and teachers three to four Sundays per month. We'd love to have folks visit as guests, or as musicians. We think you'll really enjoy our worship service.

Chapel is a truly special experience. Our children ably lead many sections of the worship, and you haven't felt the fullness of Spirit of Life until you hear 5-11 year olds singing it, even those kids who would otherwise not be caught dead singing. Many times in Chapel I've had to fight back tears just to continue leading. We hope you might share with us in that and so much more.

On the music front, Children's Chapel needs musicians from throughout the congregation to share their gifts during our offertory. Do you like to sing or dance? Chapel begins just after 11 a.m., and concludes around 11:25, in time to go back upstairs for the sermon (our chapel room is in the basement under the courtyard). Offertory selections need to be 1-3 minutes in length. The children love music (and dance!) and would really appreciate your presence. For more information, contact Bailey Whiteman at bailey-whiteman@hotmail.com or 202-722-7575.

Tom Teasley Performs Fundraisers

Tom Teasley's often-jazzy tunes combining instruments and rhythms from around the world are coming to Alexandria this fall to benefit the Bryant Early Learning Center, run by United Community Ministries in partnership with Fairfax County. At 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, Tom will present *Autumn Grooves*, the first performance in a three-concert series to benefit the BEL Center. All three concerts will take place at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria. For tickets, contact Joanne Masteron at BELBenefit@mvuc.org, or 703-721-0336. For more info on the BEL Center contact Elizabeth McNally at 703-765-0909 or visit <http://www.ucmagency.org>.

Church Needs

All Souls Policy for Multicultural Growth

by Chuck Wooldridge & Dorothy Holmes

A high priority of the church this past year has been “growth” in its different manifestations. Specific efforts include: the Board and Executive Team jointly established a Long-Range Planning Task Force; the Committee on Ministry is leading the congregation in a covenanting process to grow community and right relationship in our vibrant congregation; (*the Board of Trustees and Officers have adopted our own covenant this year as well*); and in furtherance of End Statement #2: “*All Souls is an ever-more diverse Congregation overcoming the barriers that divide the human family*” the Board of Trustees adopted the All Souls Policy for Intentional Multicultural Growth.

We are pleased to share with you this new policy adopted in May 2005. As we begin the new church year in September, there will be several activities designed for congregants to discuss this policy with the Board and Executive Team. We also invite you to consider this policy as you participate in the covenanting process this fall.

All Souls Policy for Intentional Multicultural Growth

1. As embodied in our name “All Souls”, we affirm our mission to be welcoming to all who seek a spiritual home, a refuge, a beloved community.
2. It is our historic calling and an integral part of our ministry to become an evermore diverse multiracial, multicultural congregation, overcoming the barriers that divide the human family. We are committed to membership, participation, and leadership of all races and cultures.
3. We inherited from our spiritual ancestors the rich legacy of their struggle for the abolition of slavery, civil rights for African Americans, and for racial justice. This history is unique and a central part of who we are as a spiritual community. Building on this heritage, our initial efforts at intentional growth will focus especially on African Americans while continuing our outreach to other communities.
4. As we work to institutionalize a multiracial and multicultural identity in our Church, we affirmatively answer a great calling and challenge for our Church, for Unitarian Universalism, and for our Nation.

All Souls September 2005

ASC Budget 2005—Where Are We Now?

by Vanessa Lowe, All Souls Treasurer

Seven months into 2005, our expenses are at 63 percent of the budgeted total of \$1.15 million – fairly on target. Pledged contributions for 2005 total \$719,608. While we’ve surpassed the 2005 Generosity campaign goal of \$700,000, we’re still about \$13,000 short of the budgeted goal of \$733,000. More important, however, is where we stand on pledge payments. \$382,000 or 53 percent of total pledged contributions have been paid. There are 43 households for whom no payments have been received. These pledges total more than \$90,000 of expected revenue. It’s important to have accurate revenue projections, so if you don’t believe you’ll be able to make your pledge please notify Stacey Cosey at the office as soon as possible at scosey@allsouls.ws.

Our average monthly expense in 2005 so far has been \$104,000, while the average monthly income has been \$101,000. This poses a significant cash flow challenge – particularly during the summer months when attendance is down and pledges fall behind.

Our fourth Ends Statement reads “All Souls Church is a congregation where members generously share human and financial resources to support our growing mission and ends.” The 2005 church year has been filled with wonderful spiritual and community offerings for members of all ages. These things could not have been offered without our ongoing financial support and strong stewardship. Thank you for your continued generosity as we move into our new church year.

Join the All Souls Jubilee Singers

This is your invitation to become a Jubilee Singer! If you want a community in the midst of All Souls, come sing with us. Have you always wanted to sing gospel? Longing to sing African American spirituals? Want a taste of jazz? Then this is the choir for you. To learn more or sign up, contact Lenard Starks at 301-633-6559. Rehearsal start on Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday Lunches Resume Sept. 11 ... Help!

The cooks are ready to shop, prepare and cook for another year of meals after church each Sunday to nourish the All Souls community.

The lunch program has lost the coordinator who kept the schedule of who was cooking and helping when, and recruited and kept track of volunteer information. A volunteer is needed to fill that position. The cooks are too busy with shopping, cooking, serving, and cleaning to add coordination to their load, and need someone to keep both their schedules and the volunteer schedules coordinated.

Volunteers are also needed to help prepare, serve, and cleanup. Volunteers got a bit thin on the ground in the spring, and the cooks ended up doing the lion's share of all the work. This isn't sustainable. Even with plenty of volunteers, planning, shopping and cooking is a large task.

With just a few more pairs of hands on a Sunday, everything goes much more smoothly. The cooks have agreed that if we don't have enough help in September, we will have to consider the possibility of discontinuing lunches as of October 1. No one wants to make this difficult decision. You have the power to prevent it!

Please contact the cooks with offers to help or any questions: Lorie Allion: asclorie@yahoo.com or Ernie Cormier: ecormier@yahoo.com.

September Ethical Dialog Schedule

Sept 4: *UU's and Islam -- Where is the Connect?* Muslims in the U S and throughout the world are subjects of suspicion, criticism and fear. Do we know enough about Islam and Muslims worldwide?

Sept 11: *What to Do about Global Warming?* Scientists and political leaders are not always on the same page regarding the "alleged" phenomenon and our responsibility for it. Two members will lead our discussion on this topic.

Sept 18: *"Pro-abortion" or Woman's Right to Privacy and Choice?* Some now suggest that the issue is not pro-abortion/anti-abortion but fairness, equality and women's right to make decisions about their bodies. Is there a new and better frame for this issue?

Sept 25 Open Discussion

All Souls September 2005

September Gardening Day

The first official gardening day after the summer will be Saturday September 10, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help to spruce up the landscaping all around All Souls Church and in the Courtyard. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. If you need any additional information, please contact Meg Staines at (202) 238-0044 mstaines@starpower.net. We have work gloves and some tools; if you have favorite tools you can bring them. There will be one Saturday Gardening Day in October and one in November as well.

Special Caring List

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the members of our congregation who are unable to get to church any more: **Mary Jane Fisher, Virginia Gray, Loretta and Wesley Hanes, Mary Louise Robbins, Marianna Sewell, Marietta Sharp, Larry Stone, Emilie Wiggins.**

Notes or cards would be welcome. Addresses are in the church directory (available at the Information Table 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).

Wedding Bells Are Ringing at All Souls

Many couples have decided the All Souls sanctuary is exactly the beautiful space where they'd like to have their wedding. We have a number of ceremonies this year and we're looking for some extra hands. If you're interested in making that special day run smoothly and witnessing some pretty incredible moments and celebrations, than this is the right position for you. Desired attributes: strong organizational skills, detail oriented, creative, supportive. Your commitment: One or two Saturdays a month during the high-wedding months. Three hours for each ceremony, and six hours for ceremonies and receptions, plus a one-hour rehearsal. Next Steps: Contact Suzanne Thurston for more details. She'd be happy to answer any questions and discuss the position further. Phone: 202-332-5266 ext. 140 or weddings@allsouls.ws (This is a paid position.)

Generosity Sunday

ASC Long Range Task Force Needs You!

If you could help shape the look, feel, and strength of All Souls, how would you do it? Should we welcome all seekers? Can we maintain a sense of “community” and take care of one another? Will our resources keep pace with our growth and our staffing needs? Should we have an overflow plan before resorting to a second service?

Save these dates: September 18 and October 2. Task Force members will be hosting two Town Hall meetings to hear your views on how we should respond to and cope with the continued growth of our church community. Input received in these meetings will shape the Committee’s recommendations in regard to the challenges we are facing, such as our often-crowded sanctuary, the increasing demands on paid and volunteer staff, our financial stability and the realities of our aging building. Please support this important effort by attending the upcoming listening sessions and by providing input through emails, cards and calls to individual Task Force members. Your feedback and input is vital to the long range planning process and will help the decision-makers evaluate the near-term options and scenarios for coping with growth, along with the implications and tradeoffs for each scenario.

Come prepared to participate and engage.

Music From All Souls: CD on Sale Now!

The All Souls Choir, under the direction of John Strang, recently released its long-awaited compact disk, *Music from All Souls*. The CD, which made its debut at this year’s UUA General Assembly in Fort Worth, is already a hit with church members and others.

This collection from the church’s repertoire represents music as diverse as All Souls. Featured are spirituals, hip organ pieces, and a range of contemporary songs in several languages. It also features two live-performance tracks that highlight the congregation’s singing talents.

“The All Souls Choir worked very hard to make this CD become a reality,” comments Strang. “The music collection is representative of the wide-ranging music that has made All Souls known as an innovator within the Unitarian Universalist community across the country.”

All Souls September 2005

“We hope that by making this CD available to other UU congregations, small and large, we will be able to make a contribution to the music ministry at those churches and fellowships,” says Strang. “Music from All Souls’ really does represent a departure from the traditional UU canon.”

All Souls members and visitors can purchase the CD, available for \$20, after services in Pierce Hall.

Step Up to the Plate ...

It’s time to step up to the plate...All Souls’ plate, that is. Generosity Campaign season has begun at All Souls under the capable leadership of Janet Randolph and Nancy Gist. These two dynamos have tapped *Steppin’ Up* as the 2006 campaign theme, continuing the emphasis on generosity that was initiated in recent ASC campaigns. This season’s activities will culminate on Generosity Sunday, October 23 when pledge commitments will be collected and then celebrated in first class style.

The Generosity Committee asks that you count the ways that All Souls has been generous to you this year. Perhaps you were embraced in a circle of support at a difficult time. Maybe your children have exuberantly described some cool happenings in RE. Possibly you’re one of the legions of people who weep because of the power of words spoken from the pulpit or the stunning music that fills the sanctuary and our hearts on Sunday mornings.

All Souls demonstrates its generous spirit to members, friends, and visitors in innumerable ways. The Generosity Campaign is our annual opportunity to reciprocate financially. It takes money to pay the staff, keep the lights on, pump that wonderful air conditioning on sticky summer days, provide a stellar music program, offer thoughtful spiritual growth opportunities, and undertake life-changing social justice work in our neighborhood and beyond.

Reserve October 23 and start thinking now about what you can contribute financially during 2006 to the life and growth of your All Souls Community. Our goal is 100% participation!

Member News

The summer has been full of farewells: to **Pam Coukos** and **David Wiley** who are off to California, to **Henry and Sarah Tate** who are creating a patch work quilt life in Ohio and Florida, to **Beth Lambdin** who has gone to Florida, to **Parker Kitterman** who has moved to New York, and to **Kristin Homblette** who is leaving for a tour with the Peace Corps. They'll all be sorely missed.

Jennifer and Geromy welcomed **Michael Oakes**; **Holly Cobb and Tony Ambanaja** welcomed **Samarra Lucy Chihazie**. **Libbie Buchele** and **Eric Hoy** welcomed **Luther James Hoy** and **Wesley Michael Hoy**.

Congratulations to **Rebecca Kallem**, who's been awarded a Fulbright to study in Spain, to **Shannon Le Doux** who graduated from middle school, to **Camilla Samuels** who graduated from kindergarten, to **Ada Danville** who graduated from high school, to **Bailey Whiteman** and **Doug Belling** on their fifth anniversary, and to **Dawn Pointer** and **Matt McCleskey** on their marriage.

Our best wishes to **Andrea Carlson** who is soon to be married, and to **Mya Wilke** who has returned to Illinois.

We're glad to hear that **Janis Knorr's** health is improving, that **Barb McCann** is nearly fully recovered from a serious bike accident, and that **Betty Swanson** is doing well after a bad infection. We hope **Alaina Briceland-Betts** is enduring a long recovery from back surgery and that **Ben Hickok** continues to do well after a hospitalization. We're glad to see that **Gabrielle Farrell** is walking relatively smoothly after a badly sprained ankle, and to hear that **Charlie Mason** is safely home from the hospital.

Our thoughts are with **Trellis Waxler**, **Wesley and Loretta Hanes**, **Corrie Ernst** and **Bob Myers** who continue valiant battles against serious illnesses. Our thoughts are with **Claudia Liebler** whose father is critically ill.

We send loving sympathy to **Amanda Helin** on the death of her grandfather, and to **Akbar Sharieff** and **Virginia View** on the loss of his mother. Our sympathy goes to **Jennifer Betts** whose father **Keter** died recently.

With sorrow we announce the death of **Mavis Henderson**, and of **Charlie Bryant**. **Charlie** was a prominent architect and a past president of the All Souls Board. Our sympathy is with his wife, **Waveney**, and his family.

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 September.

Step 1. Introduction. Join our Associate Minister, Rev. Shana Goodwin, to learn more about UUs and ASC. After service on Sept. 18, 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, Sept. 24, 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 October 2, 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.

ALL SOULS

The deadline for *All Souls* is the third Friday of the month. Notices, articles and letters may be submitted anytime. 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.

Illustrations provided by Mark Mitchell.
Editor Emeritus: Lorie Allion

Publication Deadlines:

October Issue: September 16
November Issue: October 21

Editor: Elizabeth Preston

elizabeth_mae_preston@hotmail.com

All Souls Unitarian Church Services

Services begin at 10:50 a.m., except Sept. 4 at 9:50 a.m.

September 4 • *Time to Work, Time to Live* • Rev. Louise Green

What is living wage and living well? A Labor Day reflection on issues of social justice, work, and looking for fulfillment.

September 11 • *Bring Many Names* • Rev. Hardies Homecoming Sunday

Are you sick and tired of those who package their prejudice in the language of “family values”? On Homecoming Sunday, as we celebrate the beginning of the new church year and the gathering of our All Souls “family,” we will explore the foundations of progressive family values, and learn how one’s understanding of religion and God can determine one’s definition of “family.”

September 18 • *Giving What We Can* • Rev. Goodwin

We are so often pushed to our breaking or burn-out points by deadlines and demands. When this happens, we lose sight of the good that comes from giving of ourselves to others, to worthy causes. How do we give, not til it hurts, but til it nourishes?

September 24 • *Violence* • Rev. Hardies

We live in the rubble of one of history’s most violent centuries: The Holocaust, Rwanda, Hiroshima, El Salvador, Darfur. Sometimes religion sanctions violence and other times it offers alternatives to violence and helps heal its scars. This Sunday we will look at violence through a theological and spiritual lens.

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



FIRST - CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 20009
PERMIT NO. 2810