

# The Spirit of All Souls

## Newsletter



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



**Letter from Rob—Babies in the Balcony!**  
**Robert Hardies, Senior Minister**

**T**he Sanctuary was filled with babies on Homecoming Sunday! What a delight to see these tiny ones crawling along pews, peering out over the balcony, or tucking into their parents' laps. What's more, in a congregation not known for its call-and-response preaching, I like to know I can count on one of our littlest members for a well-timed "shout-out" in the middle of my sermon.

Seeing all the children in the balcony reminded me of our responsibilities to the youngest among us. Whenever we bless a child on Sunday mornings we're reminded of our responsibilities for tending the

spiritual lives of the next generation, but it's good to remember those responsibilities during pledge season as well. This month, we will each make our annual pledge to support the growing ministry of All Souls Church. When I make my pledge this year, I'll be thinking of those babies. I'll make a pledge to support the growth of our nursery and religious education program, and to create more and higher-quality spaces for the increased number of children.

Let's remember to factor the next generation into our generosity. May our pledges be a reflection not only of what our church means to us, but what it means to them.

Love, ROB

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**Speaking and Listening in a Growing Church**  
**Shana Lynngood, Associate Minister**

**T**he longer I am here at All Souls, the more I field questions on whom to talk to about concerns or questions surrounding our church life. I have also heard wonderings and rumblings about many topics that sometimes swirl around for a time until no one can remember where the questions began and all that can be said is "they say" or "some people think". The larger the church grows, the more critical it becomes that we rely on our Covenant of Right Relations---- that we speak honestly and to the source about anything in our congregational life that is troubling or worrisome. The covenant reminds us to assume that all souls in our church have good and well meaning intentions. It reminds us that speaking with

candor doesn't mean the absence of respect or kindness. The covenant also reminds us that communication is not only about speaking our own truth, but listening to the truths of others. If you have a concern that you feel needs to be expressed please first try going to the member of the staff in whose area the issue resides. If you don't feel comfortable doing that for whatever reason then please speak to someone on the Committee on Ministry (their names and photos are next to the door to the church office). May part of our care for one another be reflected in the way we handle our differences. May our covenant as a spiritual community deepen as we live into it.

With hope and faith, Shana

# Generosity Campaign

## STAFF

Robert M. Hardies, Senior Minister  
rhardies@allsouls.ws

Shana Lynngood, Associate Minister  
sgoodwin@allsouls.ws

Darryl Clay, Church Manager  
dclay@allsouls.ws

Tracy Butler, Office Manager/Editor  
tbutler@allsouls.ws

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

Jorge Sanchez, Office Assistant  
jsanchez@allsouls.ws

Earl Richardson, Saturday Receptionist  
erichardson@allsouls.ws

Ursulla Ofori, Sunday Receptionist  
uofori@allsouls.ws

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

Joyce Palmer, Director of Membership  
jpalmer@allsouls.ws

Gabrielle Farrell, Religious Educator  
gfarrell@allsouls.ws

Nikevia Thomas, RE Program Assistant  
nthomas@allsouls.ws

Constance Ofori, Childcare Provider

Grace Ofori, Childcare Provider

Jessica DePietro, Childcare Provider

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

John Strang, Director of Music  
jstrang@allsouls.ws

Sylvia Twine, Director, Children's Choir  
stwine@allsouls.ws

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Steve Marshall, President (202.244.3991)

Dorothy Holmes, Vice President (301.590.9518)

Ralph Belton (202.986.1435)

Sheila Campbell (301.587.4555)

Paula Cole Jones (202.526.3404)

Minneh Kane (703.522.5598)

Dave Kerlina (301.309.1714)

Chanda O'Donnell (202.441.6989)

Janet Randolph (202.396.3182)

## OFFICERS

Bryan Patten, Secretary (202.237.5795)

Doug Belling, Assistant Secretary (202.722.7575)

Bailey Whiteman, Membership Secretary  
(202.722.7575)

Bob Wittig, Treasurer (202.234.5178)

Anastasia Zinke, Assistant Treasurer (202.557.1437)

Jody Feldman, Moderator (703.812.8840)

## The Courage of Our Convictions: Generosity Happens with Heart

*The English word 'courage' has the same Latin root as the French word 'le couer', or heart.*

**T**he All Souls Generosity Team, working under the inspired leadership of Mark Ewert and Nancy Gist, has chosen *The Courage of Our Convictions* as its 2007 campaign theme, which kicks off October 1. You'll soon hear all about it in special communications from the Board of Trustees, Rev. Hardies, notices in Happenings and The All Souls Weekly, testimonials during worship services, and at special events.

Here's where *le couer* comes in... Have you felt the contagious sense of possibility in the halls of All Souls lately? Have you noticed we now have more talent assembled on staff than ever before, an energetic momentum shown in constantly booked room space and activity in every nook and corner, not to mention our exciting (and yes, anxiety-provoking) growth? Our homecoming service September 10 was full of heart with stirring music, Shana's Story for All Ages, Rob's sermon about "Love and Its Limits," and a palpable sense of warmth and joy to be together again. And that brings me to the *heart* of the matter: All Souls needs financial resources to make our collective dream for a beloved community and spiritual home come to fruition.

I write this on the five-year anniversary of 9/11, remembering how many of us found comfort at All Souls that tragic Tuesday evening, and again the following Sunday. Those events launched Rev. Hardies' ministry at ASC. For the bewildered, angry and frightened souls gathered in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, Rob personified spiritual leadership and helped define beloved community for me. For that reason and countless others, I will give a generous pledge this year.

We need to raise funds to keep the lights, AC and heat on, toilets operating, coffee pots perking, and to pay our superb staff the salaries that are commensurate with their responsibilities in a large and dynamic church. These are not sexy budget line items, but are essential to undergird our growing social justice activities, wonderful music program, religious education for our children (we are blessed that there are lots of them!), adult spiritual development opportunities, and our intentional multicultural outreach. In short, we need infrastructure in order to keep our spiritual house in order. *That's the heart of the matter.* Begin thinking now about how All Souls touches you, and how you can contribute financially to its ongoing and transforming work.

Judy Leaver  
Generosity Campaign Committee

# Social Justice Action

from Louise Green, Director of Social Justice Ministries

**B**y the time you read this, October will be upon us and the memory of the September 12 D.C. Election Day efforts somewhat distant. However, I would like to take time to appreciate the wonderful leaders in this congregation who participated in a major 2006 congregational effort: the Washington Interfaith Network and All Souls! All Vote! Get-Out-the-Vote campaign.

From March through August we went door-to-door on four different Sundays to talk to neighborhood voters about their community issues, the WIN Neighborhoods First Agenda, and going to the polls in September. On September 10, 11, and 12 we ran a door-to-door and phone bank campaign to bring out the voters who had already committed to vote with us, and had a blue WIN Vote T-shirt presence at many Ward 1 sites in large buildings, the Georgia Ave. Metro stop, Giant and Safeway stores, schools and bus stops. Over the course of the campaign here, we worked with Church of the Pilgrims Presbyterian, Foundry United Methodist, and St. Stephens Episcopal for an ecumenical effort for neighborhood outreach and community change.

All in all, we identified 650 supportive voters in conversations about WIN neighborhood investment, and engaged 75 volunteers in various rounds of walking, calling and organizing. This is important for our congregation and our Ward 1 neighbors, part of our ongoing effort to make Columbia Heights, Adams Morgan, and Mt. Pleasant more just and compassionate communities because of our prophetic leadership--see the ASC End Statements on the back of this newsletter if that sounds familiar.

Many thanks to outgoing WIN co-chairs **Brenda Barron** (voter campaign visionary) and **Judith Bauer** for their outstanding leadership over the last few years. And congratulations to all of our All Souls Voter Captains who worked long and hard to make this happen: **Stephanie Anderson, Cheranne Bennett, Charlie Barrett, Colleen Fitzgerald, Virginia View, Ann Steinecke, Ben Kidder, Amelia Rose, John Ruthrauff, Xan Young**, and many other Voter Workers who created our enthusiastic teams. As our motto rang through several events, I truly felt the spirit and energy of this great grassroots effort: *More Power! More Fun! More Power! More Fun!* Both were true for our teams, for WIN, and for All Souls as a congregation.

## Direct Service Opportunity NEIGHBORS IN NEED



**S**eeking SERVERS: We prepare and serve dinner twice per month at Christ House at 5 p.m. (First Monday and Third Tuesday). We also serve dinner monthly at the Sacred Heart Dinner Program at 5 p.m. Folks at Christ House, a residential medical facility for the formerly homeless on Columbia Road, and Sacred Heart daily dinner program depend on All Souls volunteers. If you can help, please email Emily for Christ House at [e.koechlin@starpower.net](mailto:e.koechlin@starpower.net) or Dave for Sacred Heart at [davidsjones@yahoo.com](mailto:davidsjones@yahoo.com).

Also seeking COOKS for our Neighbors in Need: We make meatballs for the dinners in the All Souls kitchen after Sunday Services on the first Sunday of the month. Email Emily at [e.koechlin@starpower.net](mailto:e.koechlin@starpower.net).



## Ethical Dialog

**M**eeting each Sunday in the Reception Room from 9:15 to 10:40, we welcome new and old participants to our examination of ethical and moral complexities in modern life. By suggesting the 9:15 gathering time, we are able to begin promptly at 9:30. For the present, rather than seeking outside expertise in publications or special speakers, we explore our personal interpretations of the issues under consideration. Each participant is afforded equal time to interpret the issue or frame the dialog. Our procedure generates interesting and often surprising interpretations of the topic, and avoids excessive attention to any one position.

Contact Ted Thomas at [ted.thomas@verizon.net](mailto:ted.thomas@verizon.net) for the October topics of discussion or for more information about the Ethical Dialog group.

# How Did the Two Services Task Force Draft the Plan on Page 5?

## Process

The Task Force recognized that gathering as much information as possible from the congregation was a central element of successful planning. To that end the Task Force:

- Identified distinct groups in the church that were especially affected by a move to two services and met with these groups to explain its task and solicit feedback;
- Held an all-church feedback session;
- Reported progress to and received feedback from the Board of Trustees in July, 2006 and the Church Council in June and September, 2006;
- Collected data by a survey instrument receiving over 200 signed surveys responses; and
- Reviewed and incorporated data and information from the UUA's experience and other churches in the Joseph Priestly District.

## Values

Before analyzing the data received, the Task Force identified and adopted values that the congregation had raised as important in designing the plan to move to two services:

- **Fellowship & Community:** maintain and increase contact with friends as well as forming new friendships while maintaining identity as one community across two services;

- **Food/lunch/coffee:** continue these opportunities and increase quality if necessary;
- **Welcoming:** maintain a sense of the radical hospitality we now practice;
- **Diversity:** commit and carryout multi-racial outreach and inclusion, making it apparent in all Sunday morning programming regardless of service time;
- **Worship & Music & Preaching:** maintain quality, energy, spontaneity and creativity;
- **Religious Education:** comprehensive and for all children at both services;
- **Parking and accessibility:** safety, availability, concern with flow of people into and out of church during transition time;
- **New opportunities:** maximize opportunities that two services presents such as adult religious education at both services or allowing folks to teach AND go to worship;
- **Environment:** attend to minimizing impacts on the environment, i.e. paper Order of Service
- **Congregational participation:** increase participation in the Sunday morning ministries
- **Volunteers and staff service:** develop a plan that is healthy, sustainable, fulfilling and that supports both volunteers and staff
- **Financial support:** develop generosity that is sufficient for two service effort
- **Communication:** increase and improve communication about process and decisions, receiving and paying attention to input of congregation.

### Data Question Results: Which Service would you attend?

Times	Total Replies		
9:00a	25		
9:15a	15	72	
9:30a	32		119
9:45a	9		
10:00a	38	85	
10:30a*	38		
11:15a*	87		
11:30a	24	114	152
11:45a	3		

\*Votes specifying 10:45 were added to the 10:30 slot; and

\*Votes specifying 11:00 were added to the 11:15 slot.

## Two Services Draft Plan for 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Worship Services

	WORSHIP	CHILD RE	FELLOWSHIP	Adult Activities
<b>Before 7:30</b>	<i>CUSTODIAL STAFF ARRIVES</i>	<i>STAFF ARRIVES</i>	<i>WELL BEFORE</i>	<i>FRONT DESK</i>
<b>8:00</b>			Volunteer TBD Cooks Arrive AM Meal Prep	
<b>8:15</b>		<i>Childcare Begins for Choir</i>	<i>Coffee Service Ready</i>	
<b>8:30</b>	Worship Associate & Choir Call			
<b>8:45</b>	Ushers/Greeter <i>Minister Greets</i>	Teacher/Chapel Leader Call		
<b>9:00</b>	<i>Prelude Begins</i>	<i>RE Greets</i>	Cooks Arrive for Lunch	
<b>9:15</b>	Worship			
<b>9:30</b>		Chapel		Classes
<b>9:45</b>		Chapel		and
<b>10:00</b>		Chapel	AM Food Service Ready	Activities
<b>10:15</b>	<i>Service Ends</i>  <i>Sanctuary Cleanup</i>  Choir Eats	Classes	Fellowship &	<i>Cleanup</i>
<b>10:30</b>	Worship Associate (if new) Call	RE Cleanup/ Parent Check In	Food	
<b>10:45</b>	Usher/Greeter Call & <i>Minister Greets</i>	Teacher Call		
<b>11:00</b>	<i>Prelude Begins</i>	<i>RE Greets</i>		
<b>11:15</b>	Worship		<i>Cleanup</i> From AM Meal  Set up for Lunch	
<b>11:30</b>		Chapel and		Classes
<b>11:45</b>		Classes		and
<b>12:00</b>			PM Food Service Ready	Activities
<b>12:15</b>	<i>Service Ends</i>  <i>Sanctuary Clean</i>			<i>Cleanup</i>  Room Transfer
<b>12:30</b>		RE Cleanup/ Parent Check In	Fellowship &	
<b>12:45</b>			Lunch	Classes
<b>1:00</b>				
<b>1:15</b>				
<b>1:30</b>				and
<b>2:00</b>				Activities
<b>2:15</b>				

# Community News

from John Strang, Director of Music and Organist

## Do you love music? Have you considered singing with the choir?

Here is your official invitation! The All Souls Choir celebrates our church's mission, offering diverse music ranging from African American Gospel music, Jewish music, ancient chant, Hindu music, music from the Buddhist tradition, Renaissance music, world music, and beyond. We are a caring community and love to sing together. Please join us for Thursday evening rehearsals, 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm in the Sanctuary. No audition is required. Questions? Email John Strang, Music Director, at [johnstrang@aol.com](mailto:johnstrang@aol.com).

## Join the new DC Children's Choir!

We celebrate the arrival of our new DC Children's Choir director, Sylvia Twine. Sylvia is an amazing musician with years of experience building children's music programs. She is an excellent teacher of singing technique and as you will discover when you meet her, a beautiful "soul" with young people. Sylvia invites all interested children grades 3 through 8 to join the choir. If interested, please contact Sylvia Twine at [sylcap@aol.com](mailto:sylcap@aol.com).

## General Assembly Discussion

Meet with members who represented All Souls at the 2006 General Assembly in St. Louis -- in the Sanctuary after service on Sunday, Oct. 1. Learn about the activities and workshops at this year's GA, the changes to the study-action issue process, and about All Souls' critical role in the passage of this year's Statement of Conscience about Global Warming. Contact: Megan Hanson - 202.445.1106; [meganleighbanson@msn.com](mailto:meganleighbanson@msn.com).



The deadline for submissions to the Newsletter is the 3rd Friday of the month. **The deadline for the November issue is October 20.** Please limit articles to 250 words. **Send to:** [spirit@allsouls.ws](mailto:spirit@allsouls.ws).

## Book Discussion Group

The next meeting of the Book Discussion Group will be at 4 pm, Sunday, Oct. 8, at the home of Gretchen and Roy Goodrich. The book will be *Barchester Towers* by Anthony Trollope. Questions? Please email Denise Rathman at [djrathman@yahoo.com](mailto:djrathman@yahoo.com).

We are a welcoming group fully committed to multicultural in-reach as well as reading a broad selection of literature. If you are looking for a book group that is open to your ideas and points of view, we hope you will join us and help shape our future. The Group normally meets on the second Sunday of every month at 4 pm. Contact Nancy Simon at [whittsimon@aol.com](mailto:whittsimon@aol.com) with questions about the Book Group.

## Halloween with the Silver Souls

Plan to attend the Silver Souls Halloween Dance at All Souls on Friday, October 27, from 6:30 to 10:30 pm in Pierce Hall. Dance to the oldies but goodies offered by All Souls' own DJ David Johnson. Refreshment available. Admission is \$5.00. Purchase tickets in Pierce Hall after Service. Contact — Judy Clark: [jutebabe1@aol.com](mailto:jutebabe1@aol.com).

## 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.

**Step 1. Introduction.** Join our Associate Minister, Rev. Shana Lynngood, to learn about UUs and ASC. The next Introduction session will be **Oct. 15 at 12:45.**

**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. The next Orientation session will be on **Saturday, Oct. 28 from 9 until noon.**

**Step 3. New Member Orientation.** New members are formally introduced to the congregation during this special Sunday Service, **Nov. 19.**

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.

cont.

In Community

## Step Up to the Plate!

**W**ith the 7<sup>th</sup> Principle Committees' efforts to make us a greener church, All Souls has taken the big leap to make all lunches not only delicious, but trash free this year!

To make this possible we need about 60 volunteers per month. We already have many dedicated volunteers who are helping out including our fantastic team of chefs: Buddy and Lorie, Wendy, Forest, and Ken.

We need your help too! We are asking volunteers to commit to just one Sunday per month helping to either cook, serve, or clean. It's less than two hours, you'll get a free lunch, and you won't miss the service. Sign up with a friend or make this an opportunity to meet new people at All Souls.

Church lunches are an important part of building community at All Souls. Please consider contributing to this important ministry.

Please contact Matt Cohen or Jessica Roach:  
mattandeliz@yahoo.com; 301-495-0358  
jessicaroch@yahoo.com; 202-494-7328

## Welcome Joyce!

**W**e would like to introduce Joyce Palmer, our Director of Membership and Lay Ministries. Joyce most recently lived in Annapolis, MD. Prior to Annapolis she and her husband Tim lived in Atlanta, GA with their dogs, Rudy and Kaya. She completed her seminary education at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. After seminary, Joyce participated in the year-long Chaplain Residency Program at Crawford Long Hospital where she worked as a chaplain in downtown Atlanta. Before pursuing ministerial studies, Joyce worked with the Head Start Program as both Head Teacher and Site Supervisor. Her interest in Unitarian Universalism began ten years ago with a sermon at the UU church in Rockford, IL. From that moment on Joyce became actively involved with Congregations teaching youth and adult religious education, Our Whole Lives sexuality program, and serving on various committees. She most appreciates the accepting, open-minded, and inclusive spirit nurtured in UU congregations. Here at All Souls Church, Joyce will be responsible for welcoming newcomers and helping people connect and find ways to get involved. Reading, dancing, solitude, and eating chocolate are among her favorite things.

**W**arm congratulations to **Anita Lee** on the birth of her granddaughter, **Mae Lin Lee**, and to **Libby Turpen and Susana Sa'Couto** on the birth of their daughter **Maia Amelia Sa'Couto Turpen**.

Condolences to **Kim Vitelli** on the loss of her grandfather **Anthony Vitelli, Sr.**, continued prayers for **Joe Hamner's** mother as she recovers from recent surgery, for **Laura Bogel's** dad who had open heart surgery and for **Kat Morgan** who is recovering from surgery.

We are sorry to hear that **Penny White** was ill while on vacation—not a happy way to relax—that **Bob Freeman** continues his war with the pain of shingles and that **Jessie Bakeman** continues his long battle with cancer.

We're glad to hear that **Al Chambers, Bettye's** husband, is safely home from the hospital and we send wishes for a speedy recovery to **Ann Ross** after a recent fall.

We bid farewell to **Don and Elizabeth Franks** who are off to Knoxville, TN and to **Rob and Polly Wright** who are moving to England.

## Special Caring List

**P**lease keep in your thoughts and prayers these members of our congregation who are unable to get to church any more: **Jessie Bakeman, Mary Jane Fisher, Virginia Gray, Loretta and Wesley Hanes, Charles Mason, Marianna Sewell, Marietta Sharp, Peter Stebbins** and **Larry Stone**.

Notes or cards would be welcomed. Addresses are in the church directory (in the office or Pierce Hall). You can also visit the Caring Table to sign cards. If you are interested in visiting shut-in members, contact Rev. Lynngood at church, 202.332.5266 ext. 106.

## All Souls Church, Unitarian October Worship Services

**October 1 • “Days of Awe” • Rev. Lynngood •**  
The High Holy Days of Judaism (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) are rich and full of several significant spiritual practices. During this time of prayer and making amends and looking to inscribe one’s name in the Book of Life for another year we will look at what it might mean to live all of the days of our lives with a sense of awe.

**October 8 • “Love and Its Limits” • Rev. Hardies •**

On Homecoming Sunday, I preached a sermon with this same title, and talked about love and its demands. Many of you noticed that I didn't get around to speaking of its limits. Is there a line we can draw when love demands too much? I will respond to this difficult question this morning.

**October 15 • “Empathy” • Rev. Lynngood •**  
This Sunday we will commission our first-ever group of Pastoral Associates to the ministry of extending care to members of our community on our behalf. We will explore the meaning of empathy. What does it mean to try to understand, care for, and connect to someone? Most especially, how do we do this with people who are most different from ourselves?

**October 22 • “Resilience” • Rev. Hardies •**  
One of the most important questions of the spiritual life is how we recover from hardship and loss. What are the sources of spiritual resilience? What makes for a resilient soul? Today is Generosity Sunday, when we make our annual pledge to support the ministry of All Souls Church. Please join us for a lively and joyous celebration.

**October 29 • “Unharvested” • Rev. Hardies •**  
So much of our lives are consumed by the demands of economy and efficiency, of work and duty. Is there anything leftover for grace? For joy? For beauty? Is there any part of our lives left unharvested?

### Mission & Ends Statements

#### **Mission Statement of All Souls Church**

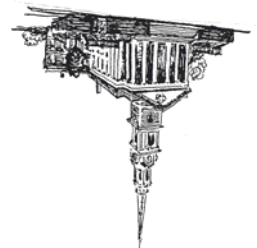
To create a diverse, spirit-growing, justice-seeking community that transforms ourselves and our world into one great family of all souls.

**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**

*The Spirit of All Souls*  
All Souls Church, Unitarian  
1500 Harvard Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009



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