

The Spirit of All Souls

Newsletter



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



Letter from Rob Robert M. Hardies, Senior Minister

January 28 will be my last Sunday in the pulpit before I leave on sabbatical.

I see my sabbatical as a growing time for us all. For me, the sabbatical is a time of rest, reflection and study, a time to prepare for the next chapter of our ministry together. For other leaders in the church—both professional and lay—it provides new leadership opportunities. I know that I leave the church in excellent hands with Rev. Shana Lynngood leading our talented professional staff and Janet Randolph presiding over the Board of Trustees. For the rest of the congregation, the sabbatical provides an opportunity to hear from the outstanding spiritual teachers who will bring

their unique insights to the All Souls pulpit in my absence. Trust me: you won't want to miss them!

By the time I return to the pulpit on Sunday, August 19th, we will be able to share with one another all that we've learned, and build an even richer community for having spent some time apart.

While I'm eagerly anticipating my sabbatical, I know that I will miss you all terribly. I already find myself looking forward to returning to you refreshed, replenished and renewed.

In the meantime, may the Spirit of Life bless us, keep us and give us peace.

Love, ROB

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Living Intentionally Shana A. Lynngood, Associate Minister

My father and I used to have a tradition each New Year's Eve of staying in and sharing with one another our thoughts about our lives. We used to share something that we felt pleased about or proud of, and something in our lives that wasn't as we hoped it would be. As fun as a party to ring in the New Year might have been we always found that we deeply appreciated the way the turn of the calendar year offered us an excuse to take time to look with intention at the course of our lives.

As we enter 2007, I hope that you will find time to do the same. What in your life do you look upon with satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment? What do you wish still to do? How do you hope to be in relating to family and friends and strangers in the months ahead? How might you live out the sense of calling or vocation which is always with you but not always heeded? May this New Year be filled with blessings—both hoped for and unexpected. May we grow in our sense of community. Amen.

With hope and faith, Shana

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Board Corner

BOT News

from Janet Randolph, President

The All Souls Board of Trustees (BOT) is pleased to welcome three new members and looks forward to collaborating with the Executive Team to continue to offer positive leadership as we take on exciting new challenges.

During 2007 the BOT will continue to implement initiatives designed to encourage communication with the congregation.

- BOT members will join lunch tables in Pierce Hall to facilitate getting to know more members and inviting discussion.
- The Board will co-host, with the Executive Team, three Town Meetings during 2007 to encourage the discussion of topics affecting All Souls. The event dates and topics will be advertised to encourage congregational participation
- BOT meeting dates have been established for 2007. The location and agenda for the meetings will be published in advance in Happenings and The All Souls Weekly to ensure congregation members can make plans to attend those of interest.

The 2007 Trustees include:

Janet Randolph, President	Paula Cole Jones	Josephine Nieves
Sheila Campbell, Vice President	Erika Landberg	Bradley Taylor
Ralph Belton	Minneh Kane	Joneis Thomas

Results of Annual Congregational Meeting 12/3/06

from Jody Feldman, Moderator

Members of the Board of Trustees elected:

For the three year terms: Josephine Nieves, Bradley Taylor, Joneis Thomas.

For the two year term: Minneh Kane

For the one year term: Erika Landberg

Members of the 2007 Nominating Committee elected:

Judith Bauer, Emily Dyer, Jon Fetter-Degges, Mike Hill, Dorothy Holmes, Janiece Kent, Cathy Long, Steve Marshall, Susan Milner, Rahima Rice, Ann Steinecke, Virginia View.

Those who will carry over from the 2006 Committee are: Kari Rowe, Hally Ahearn, David Jones

A special thank you to all those who stood for election, for your passion and commitment, and for displaying the courage of your convictions.

Faith In Action Activity Fair – January 21st

from The Church Council

Join us after church in Pierce Hall on January 21st where all of the church's groups and committees will be represented -- including Social Justice, Music, Religious Education, Board of Trustees, Gardening, Quilting, Covenant Groups and all the other activities that happen around All Souls. This is your chance to find out what they do, get more information, sign up for events, and share your ideas. There will also be a drawing for special door prizes! This event is particularly focused on those who have joined All Souls in the past two years, to give you an opportunity to decide how you would like to get involved, and put your own Faith into Action.

Social Justice Action

Intergenerational Katrina Service Trip to New Orleans: Sat. Mar 31 to Fri. Apr 6th

from Rev. Louise Green, Minister of Social Justice and Gabrielle Farrell, Director of Religious Education Ministries

The Religious Education and Social Justice Ministries of the church are teaming to take a service trip to an area devastated by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. The trip is open to all Middle School children (accompanied by a parent) and older High School youth, as well as all adults. We expect the majority of the group will be adults. All folks are welcome to stay and work as long as they are able. (Unfortunately conditions remain so challenging that younger children cannot attend.) The schedule for the week is as follows:

- Saturday, March 31: Travel am, Settle in afternoon, Meet for Orientation evening
- Sunday, April 1: Worship with the UU Church of New Orleans, and tour New Orleans with local congregants
- Monday through Thursday, April 2-5: Service work and reflection
- Friday, April 6: Travel Home

Transportation: Some folks are driving while others are flying—each participant is responsible for their own travel arrangements. We will have transportation to help move people while in New Orleans. Housing: Some will be staying overnight in a local church, some in a local non-profit housing center, while others will choose to stay in motels. We will organize housing as we gauge demand. Group Size: Currently the group intending on going numbers about 30, with ages ranging from 12 to 65 or so. The more the merrier -- come join us! More Information: The group will be hosting a table in Pierce Hall and the Dining Room each Sunday in January and will be able to provide more details then. *Please sign up now to indicate your interest in learning more: Contact Gabrielle Farrell at 202.332.5266, x 112 or gfarrell@allsouls.ws; OR Louise Green, same number, x114, or lgreen@allsouls.ws.*

CUSTODIAN needed for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville. Dependable employee needed for full-time position to work a flexible schedule with day, evening and weekend hours. Experience in building maintenance, repair and janitorial work required. Reliable transportation, verifiable references and ability to pass a background check necessary. Full benefits package includes medical and disability insurance, pension plan and paid vacation. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send resume or letter of interest to: Church Administrator, UUCR, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 or email churchadministrator@uucr.org

Beckner Grant Report

from Rev. Louise Green

Each year the Beckner-All Souls Advancement Committee solicits grant proposals for social justice projects in the church and Ward 1. The following are the grants approved for the remainder of 2006:

CARECEN – Latino Citizen Organizing Project in Columbia Heights	\$6,000
Through The Kitchen Door – Health and Cooking Education with La Clinica del Pueblo	\$4,100
Empower DC – Low-income Family Organizing on public policy for government services	\$5,000
Kid Power – Senior mentors for at-risk youth on civic advocacy and literacy	\$7,000
Young Playwrights' Theater – After-School Playwriting for Lincoln Middle School	\$8,100
Youth Action Research Group – Youth Organizing and media development in Columbia Heights	\$5,000
DC Writers – Youth performance project on Black-Latino relations in Columbia Heights	\$7,000
Martin Luther King Day Family Ed Event (ASC RE Committee/Interracial Family Circle)	\$1700 \$43,900

For more information on the Beckner Grant process see the Social Justice link on the website (all-souls.org).

Jubilee II: Dismantling What?

by Jim Armstrong

On January 12, 13 and 14, All Souls Church will sponsor its 7th Jubilee II antiracism training weekend. One goal is to build capacity at All Souls to dismantle racism wherever we encounter it. Recently CNN published several stories on racism in contemporary America. CNN's web site includes a short video story on attempts in 1993 to integrate Vidor, a sundown town in east Texas, and the Klan's successful effort in stopping that integration. CNN also reported on a poll it sponsored showing significantly different responses from white and black respondents on how serious the problem of racism is in America. The CNN site has a link to the Implicit Association Test site and that test on race.

If you are interested in dismantling America's racism, contact Jim Armstrong at jacycle@principle2.org to register for the "Journey Toward Wholeness" antiracism training.

Social Justice Action

All Souls Project with Habitat for Humanity in February

by Alan Johnson

All Souls Housing Corporation (ASHC) is sponsoring a volunteer team to work on a DC Habitat for Humanity project on Saturday, February 24.

DC Habitat for Humanity has a mission "to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness in the nation's capital by building affordable, energy efficient homes with God's people in need." Currently, DC Habitat is working on a 53-home development at 54th and Clay Streets NE. Nineteen families are already living in their new homes, and construction is ongoing. Habitat sells its homes with no-profit, no-interest mortgages of 25 years. All homeowners must work 300 hours, representing "sweat equity" in their own homes, in addition to making a \$500 down payment and paying closing costs of \$2,200. Each monthly payment is under \$425. More information about DC Habitat for Humanity is available on the web site www.dchabitat.org.

ASHC is recruiting about 20 volunteers for February 24. Volunteers will work from 8:30 AM until 4:00 PM under the supervision of Habitat crew leaders. Volunteers need to be prepared for anything, including framing, siding, roofing, drywall, painting, cleaning, and landscaping. Persons who can't spare a whole day might consider creating lunches for the volunteer crew and bringing them to the site. Not all the work is exciting, but it all needs to be done! The Habitat crew works rain or shine.

ASHC is also planning future volunteer projects in cooperation with the UU Affordable Housing Corporation and its Second Saturday program. Anyone interested in participating should register with ASHC by contacting Lee Higgins at Lhiggins@nw.org.

Reflections on Resistance

by Gary Mummert

Occasionally, an issue grabs me and moves me to act. Having been involved in demonstrations with the Washington Region Religious Campaign against Torture (www.WWCAT.org), I volunteered to put my body on the line at the White House on the day the President signed the Military Commissions Act. Along with 15 other protestors, I helped to carry the corpse of habeas corpus to the White House gate. We also brought our "People's Signing Statement" and

asked for delivery to the authorities. The Secret Service asked us to wait for a reply -- we waited, and waited... Meanwhile, police asked us to leave, and then arrested us for our refusal to do so. The charges are "interfering with agency functions" - if only we could really interfere with those who torture...

Why would I commit this act? A former Air Force flyer, the Geneva Conventions have more than passing fancy for me. Having flown missions without these protections, I "get" the implications of a loss of these humane stan-

dards for treatment of fighting forces. Mostly, I focus on the future. My grandchildren and the young people of the world will surely be asked to fight for the failed policies of their leaders, and if the US fails to lead in humane treatment for fighters, I fear for all of their futures. Then there's the concept of habeas corpus... a basic human right that was introduced to civilization so many years ago, and so easy for the fearful to toss overboard.

In humility, I pray for courage to resist torture in more meaningful ways...

Peacemaking and the Social Justice & World Religions Group:

by Kat Liu

In June of 2006 the General Assembly voted to make Peacemaking our congregational study action issue (CSAI) for the next four years. The CSAI process is a conversation between UU congregations and the UUA's Commission on Social Witness (CSW). Congregations are encouraged to study the issues of Peacemaking, reflect on actions, and provide feedback to the UUA based on our experiences and expertise. The deadline for the first round of congregational feedback is March 1st, 2007 in which the CSW is hoping to mainly hear our responses to the UUA Study Guide on Peacemaking (http://www.uua.org/csw/issues_pm_resguide1A.htm) and ideas for the workshop on Peacemaking that will be held during General Assembly in June 2007. Are there resources that need to be included or areas that need to be given more consideration?

To help facilitate this conversation, the Social Justice & World Religions group will be holding meetings for four Sunday mornings: Jan 21st, 28th, Feb 4th, 11th. We meet before service at 9:30am in the library. If you can't make it that early, you can also stop by our table at the "Faith in Action Activity Fair" after service on Jan 21st. Now more than ever the issue of how we keep the peace is the central question of our time. Please take a look at the UUA's study guide for Peacemaking (http://www.uua.org/csw/issues_pm_resguide1A.htm) and come to at least one of these meetings to add your voice to the process.

REviews

Reflections

from Gabrielle Farrell
Director of Religious Education Ministries

I remember that an elder colleague, now deceased, offered these New Year's Resolutions for parents and adults of her church:

Resolve to get to church earlier to seek the elusive parking space and give myself and my children time to get to class unrushed and unruffled.

Resolve to pay attention to most notices and attend events so I have a better understanding of our church's goals in religious education and how I personally can support them.

Resolve to know the teachers better so I can let them know how much I appreciate the work they do to help raise the congregation's children.

Resolve to find out what the plans are for next year as the church offers 2 services with RE at both times, as I am considering volunteering to teach.

I have taken some liberties here but they are fairly close and were offered about 15 years ago. As with all good resolutions they still apply. I invite you to consider adopting at least one of them as yours for the year upcoming.

with love, Gabrielle

Interracial Family Circle's (IRFC) Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration— The Planning Has Begun!

Since 1984, the Interracial Family Circle has provided opportunities for the education, support, and socialization of multiracial individuals, families, people involved in interracial relationships, and trans-racial adoptive families in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Inspired by our declaration to grow a Beloved Community, All Souls is once again collaborating with IRFC to sponsor MLK Day (Jan. 15, 1-4pm) and volunteers and visionaries are needed in the areas of: publicity, bookstore support, social justice events, greeting, ushering, and more. If interested, please contact Gabrielle Farrell (gfarrell@allsouls.ws), Louise Green (lgreen@allsouls.ws), Joyce Palmer (jpalmer@allsouls.ws) or Shana Lynngood (slynnngood@allsouls.ws). Email or call 202.332.5266.

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Call & Response

Get Involved with the KUUMBA Players!

by Anna Hargrave

This spring, the KUUMBA Players are producing the musical "Purlie," based on the play "Purlie Victorious" by Ossie Davis. When "Purlie" opened on Broadway in 1970, it quickly endeared audiences who loved how the music of Gary Geld and Peter Udell combined with humor and social satire of Ossie Davis to expose the injustices of segregation. With this revival, the KUUMBA Players hope to inspire thoughtful conversations about how far our society has come and what still needs to be done to undo the damaging legacy of racism.

From now until the production opens in March, we will be seeking people to help build the set, serve as tech crew, sell tickets, or serve as ushers for the performances. We are also gathering a special research team to create and display a timeline chart that illustrates the history of segregation and racism in the United States.

If you would like to get involved, contact Anna Hargrave at annaharg@aol.com or leave a message on the KUUMBA Players extension at the church (202.332.5266 x 142).

Annual Spiritual Retreat

Save the date of May 18-20th for the Annual All Souls Spiritual Retreat. To volunteer to help with planning contact Craig Dylan Wyatt at cdw@rockrivertree.com or Rev. Lynn Good at slynngood@allsouls.ws.

Annual Auction

Please contact Louisa Smith at smith2griffin@yahoo.com or 202.693.5727 for information about the 2007 Annual Auction. We are recruiting volunteers and donations. Thanks!

Book Discussion Group

by Nancy Simon

The Book Discussion Group's next meeting will be January 14 at 4 pm at the home of Nancy Simon for the movie "Water". The book to read for February 11 is *Another Country* by James Baldwin. We are a welcoming group fully committed to multicultural in-reach as well a reading a broad selection of literature. If you are looking for a book group that is open to your ideas and point of view, we hope you will join us and help shape our future. We meet on the second Sunday of the month at 4 pm. Questions? Denise Rathman, djrathman@yahoo.com.

Response Needed on Moral Values Issue

by Peter Rivenberg

Each year at the UUA General Assembly a draft Statement of Conscience on a significant topic is offered for discussion and voting. The Statement of Conscience is important because it becomes the official position of the UUA and provides a powerful statement of unity on the issue. This year the topic to be debated concerns Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society.

The draft Statement of Conscience is now available for review in pdf or html format on the UUA website at <http://www.uua.org/csw/moralvalues1.htm>. It summarizes Unitarian Universalist values in the context of historical American principles and suggests actions we can take as individuals and as congregations to apply and communicate the moral values of our faith.

In keeping with our end statement, All Souls is a leader in the Unitarian Universalist movement by witnessing to UU values in our nation's capital. We should not miss this opportunity to help shape the action on this important issue through our thoughtful and unified response. To assist in the response, the Denominational Affairs Committee is collecting and consolidating comments through February 1, 2007. You may submit your comments to Megan Hanson at meganleighanson@msn.com.

In addition, the Denominational Affairs Committee will schedule a meeting in February to discuss the Statement of Conscience with anyone interested. Additional information about this meeting is forthcoming.

BookNook News-New Chair Needed

by Ruel J. Eskelsen, Chair, BookNook

I have enjoyed running the Book Nook for the past two years. Professional and personal considerations require that I turn the leadership of the Book Nook over to someone else over the next year. Hopefully someone will step forward by mid-2007. For any members and friends of All Souls who may not know about the Book Nook, it is a small kiosk in the hallway that sells UU books of interest including the All Souls Church history "Washington Unitarianism" and all the A. Powell Davies titles that are still in print. The operation is a project under the All Souls Adult Spiritual Development Committee. Current members of the committee are serving on several other committees and cannot pick up this piece of the operation. Please contact me by phone at 202.986.9416, or email at rualeskelsen@yahoo.com if interested.

In Community

Caroline and Jim Spellman welcomed **Hannah, Jon and Jan Fetter-Degges** welcomed **Theodore** into their family. **Bailey Whiteman and Doug Belling's Jonathan Peter Whiteman Belling** was born at home. All Souls extends warm greetings to the families.

Congratulations are due **Bob Wittig** who received an award as an outstanding non-profit leader. **Archene Turner** and **Colin Bossen, Sara Edwards'** husband successfully completed the "exam" that moves them toward ordination as UU ministers.

Members come and go. We welcome back **Jennifer Sleboda** who has been overseas for two years. We bid a fond farewell to **Joyce Edwards** who is moving to the west coast and to **Kathryn Baker** who is off to Uganda to do AIDS work.

We send our hopes for wellness to **Christine Fleps'** father, to **Eliza Klose** and **Lairoid Street's** mothers who are ill, to **Gabrielle Farrell** whose father has been diagnosed with cancer, and to **Craig Dylan Wyatt** whose mother has been diagnosed with MS.

We're glad to hear that **Lloyd Wright**, and **Kat Morgan** are recovering from surgery, that **Lydia Mosher** is adjusting to dizziness caused by an ear problem, that **Denise Anderson's** recovery from unexpected open heart surgery is going quite smoothly, and that **Michelle Brackenridge** is over an ecoli infection. Our thoughts are with **Eric Peterson**, who as we write, is facing open heart surgery.

Gretchen Goodrich is mourning the death of her son who died at age 43. It is a heavy burden to suffer the loss of a child.

Finally we report with sorrow the deaths of two long time members, **Jeanne Swanson**, the wife of **Carroll Swanson**, sister-in-law of **Betty Swanson**, and **Jerome Davis** who for many years was the usher at the 16th Street door. Jeanne died after a long illness, Jerome of a heart attack while driving in Rock Creek Park. We send loving sympathy to both their spouses.

Special Caring List

Please 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, Marianna Sewell, Marietta Sharp, Peter Stebbins, and Larry Stone.**

Notes or cards would be welcome. Addresses are in the church directory (available in the office, on-line, or at the Information Table in Pierce Hall). You can also visit the Caring Table to sign cards for those homebound.

Getting Started at All Souls

from Joyce Palmer

Director of Membership & Lay Ministries

The Welcoming and Membership Committee invites those interested in learning more about and/or joining ASC to the following sessions. All are welcome to attend these sessions. Attendance does not constitute a commitment to join All Souls.

Step 1. Introduction. Join our Associate Minister, Rev. Shana Lynngood, to learn about UUs and ASC. The next Introduction session will be on **January 21, 12:45—2:00 pm.**

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, January 27, 9—noon.**

Step 3. New Member Sunday. New members are formally introduced to the congregation during this special Sunday Service on **February 18.**

All Souls Church, Unitarian January Worship Services

January 7 • “Family Matters” •

Rev. Lynn Good

New parenthood has brought new thoughts and insights about the meaning of family. How do we love those to whom we are related but are not always in agreement with? How have we been shaped by and how do we impact those who are closest to us? When it comes to family life, what really matters?

January 14 • “Seeing Things Whole” •

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday •

Rev. Hardies

During the last years of his life, Dr. King began to see connections between the struggle for racial equality in America, the war in Vietnam, and global economic justice. What would it mean for us to see things whole in our own time? Join Rev. Hardies and our three choirs for our annual service honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King.

January 21 • Minding Our Own Business •

Rev. Hardies

One of the most difficult ways to love someone is to draw boundaries to our love. Sometimes what our loved ones need most is for us to help them to learn to love themselves and rely less on us. Another sermon in the occasional series, “Learning How to Love Better”.

January 28 • “Replenishment” •

Rev. Hardies

Join us for Rev. Hardies’ last sermon before his sabbatical. A *bon voyage* reception will follow the morning service.

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

The deadline for *The Spirit of All Souls* is the third Friday of the month. Notices, articles and letters may be submitted anytime. E-mail, spirit@allsouls.ws.
Editorial policy: articles and letters about church activities and programs submitted by church members and friends of ASC will be published in *The Spirit of All Souls* in a timely manner. Due to space constraints, lengthily articles may be edited, and articles not time-sensitive may be held for subsequent issues.
Publication Deadlines:
February Issue: January 19
March Issue: February 16
Editor: Tracy Butler
Editor Emeritus: Elizabeth Mae Preston

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