



The Spirit of All Souls

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

Building the Beloved Community



It's been over four years now since we lost the Rev. Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley to cancer. Marjorie was called out of All Souls Church to become a Unitarian Universalist minister. Hers was a prophetic voice for building a multiracial, multicultural Unitarian Universalism. As we explore in worship this month what it means to build the Beloved Community, I share with you one of Marjorie's prayers:

Inside This Issue

Worship Services	2
Thanks	2
Letter from the BOT	3
Membership	3
Happenings	4
GA banner	5
Photos	6
Covenant Group study guide	7
Vision Statement	8

If, recognizing the interdependence of all life, we strive to build community, the strength we gather will be our salvation.

If you are black and I am white, it will not matter.

If you are female and I am male, it will not matter.

If you are older and I am younger, it will not matter.

If you are progressive and I am conservative, it will not matter.

If you are straight and I am gay, it will not matter.

If you are Christian and I am Jewish, it will not matter.

If we join spirits as brothers and sisters,
 the pain of our aloneness will be lessened, and that does matter.

In this spirit, we build community and move toward restoration. Amen.

May Marjorie's prayer be ours.

Love, ROB

All Souls Church, Unitarian

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Washington DC 20009

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We have moved to our summer worship schedule:

one service only, at 10:15 am

- 5 **Your People Shall Be My People. Rev. Hardies.** How do we build the Beloved Community? How do we overcome the divisions that separate us to create the great family of All Souls? Drawing on stories from our church, our lives, and from one pair of extraordinary women in the Bible, Rev. Hardies explores how we can practice solidarity not merely as a political strategy, but as a spiritual discipline.
- 12 **The Dash. Rev. Newman.** There are two things in life that we have no control over: the day we are born and the day we die. These dates will be engraved on our grave markers, yet, in between is “the dash.” What does your dash say about you and your life?
- 19 **God of All the Nations. Rev. Hardies.** Did you know that the largest Unitarian congregation in the world is in the Philippines? Or that All Souls has a sister Unitarian congregation in Lagos, Nigeria? Joined by the Rev. Derrick Pariat, president of the Indian Council of Unitarian Churches, Rev. Hardies will ask what the many global expressions of Unitarian Universalism teach us about our faith.
- 26 **The Alternate Metric. Rev. Green.** Modern US culture is full of measurement and comparison, driving many folks to constant competition. What if the contest ended and the metric was simply “beloved”? Continuing our summer exploration of the Beloved Community.

Thanks

Dear All Souls Family, Thank you for affirming my presence here at All Souls. Last Sunday’s vote and the entire week of candidating was so wonderful—a bit tiring, but wonderful! I pray that my gifts and graces will be of benefit to our church, and you will join me in building the Beloved Community starting at 16th and Harvard Sts. NW. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard the things that we will be able to accomplish together!

Always love, Rev. Susan

Thank you! Thank you! We are grateful for the overwhelming endorsement of the congregation in calling Rev. Dr. Susan Newman last Sunday, May 8. Because we were convinced she was a great match for All Souls, we were not entirely surprised that 95% of the 265 members attending the meeting voted to call her. We are excited about the possibilities for new growth in our congregational life and expanding endeavors in the social justice work that All Souls undertakes.

As we wrap up our work, we want to thank everyone who participated in the Candidating Week events sponsored by our committee and everyone who helped in the preparing for those events. It is not possible to thank everyone by name in this space, but we want to recognize a few who were especially helpful. Claudia Liebler brought lots of energy and fresh ideas to the evening of hand-dancing with Susan; the Silver Souls (Judith Clark, Bonnie Seabron, Emily Dyer, and Dorothy Bledsoe in particular) hosted two lovely events: the “Memories Tea,” and the reception following our vote to call; Rebecca Dalton led the work of hosting 75 new members at a brunch with Susan; Alicia Dixon coordinated all the logistics of room reservations and set-up, while the staff did a wonderful job in having everything ready when needed; Laurie Lester coordinated the events with the RE families .

Two ongoing groups will carry forward as a direct result of the search process: a Transition Committee of five congregants who will provide feedback and act as a sounding board for Rev. Newman in the coming year as she settles more fully into our church’s culture. If you have concerns, you may contact Sheila Campbell, Sharon Groves, Mark Hicks, Paula Cole Jones, or Josephine Nieves. The other committee, not yet fully defined or formed, will examine how our church can better strengthen and celebrate the rich theological diversity of our members – Rev. Hardies will lead this effort. If folks are interested in the theological pluralism committee, they should send Rob an email describing their interest.

The Search Committee

Letter from the BOT

How I learned to love General Assembly

When I first joined All Souls, I had no idea what people were talking about when they said they were going to “GA.” It was enough for me to learn the ins and outs of our congregation without trying to figure out the whole denomination. Yet every spring, people talked about going and the church looked for delegates. People who had been—some many times—recounted the awe of celebrating UU worship with a thousand other people at once and about the governance process: debates, votes, and actions.

I reluctantly went to my first General Assembly because it was held near my childhood home and gave me an excuse to visit the old neighborhood. But while there, I experienced GA’s incredibly rich array of learning sessions and speakers. I vividly remember a transgender minister talking about how he had been called to his current congregation.

Since then, I have gone to more GAs, mainly to be a presenter, sometimes with my good All Souls friend, Sharon Groves. And I have learned much more about it: the amazing music, the interesting people, the chance to share a meal with All Souls folks. I’ve met some fellow congregants for the first time (in another state!) and deepened other friendships.

It’s also a thrill to see our ministers preach before the whole assembly, our KUUMBA Players perform on a huge stage, and other All Souls folks play significant roles. In fact, it wasn’t until I went to GA that I realized how prominent All Souls is in our denomination, in our movement, and in our collective history. I’ve met dozens of people at GA who talk lovingly of All Souls, some former members, others who came to DC for a protest or a visit and will never forget their experience at the church.

Then last year, the whole assembly debated whether we should hold a future GA in Arizona in light of the inhumane anti-immigrant laws that had passed there. The debate was intense, and both sides gave compelling, passionate arguments. Yet there was high energy around finding common ground, and the process was flexed to find a way forward. At one point, I was moved to tears by how we were living out our UU values in a formally run debate. I would never have imagined that!

I’m presenting a workshop again this year, accompanying many All Souls members and staff. Although it may be too late for you to attend, please consider it for future years. As someone who is really not the “GA type,” I can really recommend it!

Mark Ewert, President, Board of Trustees

Want to join All Souls?

Deciding to join All Souls is a commitment – one that we hope will enrich your life. All Souls encourages all its members to



- ♥ worship regularly at Sunday services;
- ♥ serve the church;
- ♥ connect with other All Souls congregants; and
- ♥ support All Souls with generous financial contributions.

Step 1: Welcome to All Souls. Learn and ask questions about Unitarian Universalism and All Souls Church. This session takes place after service (both 9:30 and 11:15 am), is informal, and

lasts about an hour. Location: Eaton Room.

- * Sunday, June 26, 11:30 am (after 10:15 am service)

Step 2: New Member Orientation. Prospective members learn more about Unitarian Universalism, All Souls Church, and what being a member means. Those who choose to can sign the Membership Book (no obligation), make their financial pledge, and have their picture taken for the member directory. Please RSVP to Amy if you plan to attend.

Location: Eaton Room.

- * Thursday, July 7, 6:30–9:00 pm

Step 3: New Member Sunday. New members are introduced and formally welcomed to the community at an ingathering ceremony during a Sunday service.

- * Sunday, June 19, during 10:15 am service

All are welcome to attend these sessions. Attendance does not constitute a commitment to join All Souls Church.

Questions? Contact Amy Mulry Wesolek, Director of Membership and Welcoming (202-332-5266 or

AMulryWesolek@allsouls.ws).

Membership and Welcoming

Happenings and Opportunities



Rev. Derrick Pariat to visit All Souls

Sun., June 19. All Souls will welcome Rev. Derrick Pariat, president of the Unitarian Union of North East India. Rev. Pariat, the elected, volunteer head of over 10,000 Unitarians in India, will briefly address the congregation and worship with us en route to GA in Charlotte, NC. He works as a TV news producer for Doordarshan, the Indian national network. Rev. Pariat will be accompanied by his wife, Dani, a PhD candidate in history. Global Souls is sponsoring a meet and greet for the Pariats after the service so that members and friends may welcome them to our midst.

General Assembly preview

Sun., Jun. 12, 11:30 am–12:45 pm. All Souls delegates, attendees and interested members will learn about the highlights for GA 2011 in Charlotte, NC (Jun. 22–26). All are welcome to attend and provide input. Contact Chuck Wooldridge (c.wool [at] verizon.net).

Church picnic

Sun., June 19, after service, Rock Creek Park, Grove 24. Join the Silver Souls and RE for the annual All Souls Picnic. Don't forget to bring a dish. For more info, contact Nikevia (nthomas@allsouls.ws).

WIN goes to City Hall

Tue., Jun. 14, 9:00 am gathering, DC City Hall (Wilson Bldg, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW). Join WIN at the final DC budget vote. WIN's budget campaign aims to restore cuts to affordable housing, the Neighborhood Investment Fund, and the Baseball Community Benefits Fund. Both funds were designed to benefit neighborhoods through affordable housing, recreation centers, libraries, youth programming, etc. At the May 16 Nationals game, All Souls and WIN leaders educated thousands of baseball fans about the city's promise to invest in communities surrounding the stadium. Links to news coverage on the Justice Joint page at www.all-souls.org.

All Souls B&B program

Thus far in 2011 the All Souls B&B Program has welcomed 24 guests and contributed over \$8500 to church programs. The Housing Team would like to express sincere appreciation to the following hosts who made this possible: Derek Brockbank, Linda Button, Janine Chambers, Marion Connell, Kathleen Courier, Kathy Ferger, Linda Gillespie, Robert James, Vince Lampone, Erika Landberg, Laurie Lester, Sarah Lucas, Mark Matthews, Chris Milner, Taryn Null, Laura Tipson, Heather Whitford, Carol Wilken, Patricia Wojnas, Robert Wood, and Tracy Zorpette. Your hospitality is truly a "shared ministry". We are always looking for new hosts with a spare bedroom who live within walking distance of public transportation. If you are interested in contributing to All Souls via this particular ministry, please visit the church website at www.all-souls.org and volunteer. You'll enjoy the experience!



Calling all thumbs, green or not

The time has come again for gardening at All Souls Church. Gardening volunteers help to keep the flowers and trees at ASC thriving. The group gathers on Saturdays, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. This year's dates are: Jun. 25, Jul. 16, Aug. 13, Sep. 17, Oct. 15, and Nov. 19. Questions? Contact Meg Staines (mstaines [at] starpower.net or 202-38-0044).

Banner for General Assembly in Charlotte NC, June 22–26

All Souls Church Unitarian

WASHINGTON, DC



Created by Steve Godwin

Congregation votes to call Susan Newman



Covenant Groups Study Guide for May

Building the Beloved Community

Chalice lighting

Opening reading: *I Dream a World*, by Langston Hughes

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn.
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind—
Of such a dream, my world!



Check-in: How goes thy spirit? What do you need to leave behind in order to be fully present here and now?

Centering: Take a moment to breathe, feel your feet on the floor and your body in the chair. After a few minutes of breathing, find your heartbeat (listen to your ear or place your fingers on your pulse). See if you can hold the attention of your heartbeat and listen to the sounds in the room. Our goal is to bring this sense of calm and way of listening to the readings and to one another, keeping our attention toggling between self and what you are listening to.

Focus reading: Prayer by Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley (see page 1 of this issue of the *Spirit*)

Discussion questions

- ④ How do we build the Beloved Community?
- ④ Share an experience you've had when you felt that the Beloved Community might really be possible in your lifetime.
- ④ What are the challenges to and opportunities for becoming the Beloved Community?

Closing reading: If you were all alone in the universe with no one to talk to, no one with which to share the beauty of the stars, to laugh with, to touch, what would be your purpose in life? It is other life, it is love, which gives your life meaning. This is harmony. We must discover the joy of each other, the joy of challenge, the joy of growth.

Mitsugi Saotome

Extinguish chalice

Closing check-out: Ask each person for a word or phrase that says something about how he or she feels as the meeting ends.

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All Souls Church Unitarian's Vision Statements

To build the Beloved Community, All
Souls Church cultivates and celebrates...

...spiritual growth and transformation
as we question, learn from others, and
seek lives of meaning and reverence.

...a welcoming, diverse, and vibrant
community where we love, respect,
and care for one another.

...service and prophetic action to
move the world toward justice, healing,
and sustainability.



The Spirit of All Souls
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Return service requested

The deadline for *The Spirit of All Souls* is the third or fourth Friday of the month. Submit notices, articles, and letters to [spirit\[\[@\]\(mailto:spirit@allsouls.ws\)\]allsouls.ws](mailto:spirit@allsouls.ws).

Upcoming deadlines:

July/August issue: June 18

September issue: August 20

Editor: Gary Penn
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