



The Spirit of All Souls

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

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Beloved

How welcoming are we as a community of faith? How welcoming are we in our individual lives? We'll ask these questions throughout the summer months as we continue our spiritual theme of "Beloved Community." In the fall, the church will explore new pathways to becoming the beloved community; the All Souls Church Multiracial Multicultural Transformation Team is preparing ways to do that. In the meanwhile, as we rest and renew our body, mind, and spirit, let's also include a tune-up for our heart. Let the following story be an inspiration.



Blessings, Rev. Susan

Bill, a college student, is brilliant, profound, and, well, unkempt. He has wild hair, wears T-shirts and jeans peppered with holes, and walks around campus barefoot. He is also a Christian. He decides one Sunday to visit the conservative and conservatively dressed church across the street from the school. Uncombed and shoeless, he enters and, because the service has already started and the pews are packed, he starts down the aisle in search of a seat.

The congregants can't help but notice, and they look at each other uncomfortably. Bill gets closer and closer to the pulpit and, not finding a place to sit, just squats down on the floor. By now the air is thick with tension and murmurs.

And then another sound: from the back of the church, the 80-year-old deacon, elegant in his three-piece suit and silver hair, is slowly making his way toward Bill, his cane clicking against the marble tile. The people whisper to their neighbors: Can you blame him? How can you expect a godly man of his age and dignified status to put up with some college kid on the floor? It takes a long time, but by the time the man reaches the boy, the church is utterly silent. All eyes are focused on him. Even the minister can't preach until the deacon does what he has to do.

And now they see this elderly man lean his cane against a pew. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits next to Bill, where he will accompany him in worship. Everyone chokes up with emotion. When the minister gains control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

All Souls Church, Unitarian

1500 Harvard Street NW
Washington DC 20009

202-332-5266
202-332-8968 (fax)

Summer worship schedule: **one service only, at 10:15 am**

Return to two services (9:30 and 11:15 am) on September 11

Summer Worship Services

July

- 3 ***Five Little Words, One Big Idea.*** Rev. Fred Wooden, senior minister at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- 10 ***Who Do You Say That You Are?*** Rev. Green.
- 17 ***The Spaces Between.*** Rev. Newman.
- 24 ***The Thin Places.*** Rev. Newman.
- 31 ***Learn and Let Learn: Lessons from Flying Trapeze.*** Rev. Rob Keithan.

August

- 7 Sermon from Rev. Newman.
- 14 ***The UU Trap.*** Rev. Green.
- 21 ***Questions of Faith.*** Revs. Hardies, Green, and Newman.
- 28 ***Pet Blessing Sunday.***
- Sep. 4 Sermon from our minister intern, Lex Cade-White.

Summer Series: What Is Beloved Community?

Join Rev. Louise Green and members of the All Souls Multiracial Multicultural Transformation Team in an exploration of the ways All Souls reflects Dr. King's dream of a Beloved Community. What do we mean by "beloved"? Who is that community? How can we connect, serve, and thrive at church, in the neighborhood, and in the city? The source documents for the series include writings of Dr. King, the UUA's and All Souls' statements on Beloved Community, and *A People So Bold* (Skinner House, 2010).

~~Part 1: Sunday, June 26, 11:45 am–12:45 pm.~~

~~Part 2: Thursday, June 30, 7:00–8:30 pm.~~





Part 3: Thursday, July 7, 7:00–8:30 pm.

Part 4: Sunday, August 14, 11:45 am–12:45 pm.
After church, Rev. Green leads a dialogue around that day's sermon, *The UU Trap*.

All four sessions: \$15 members/\$25 non-members.
Register online at www.all-souls.org. Individual sessions: \$10 drop-in fee.

For the August 21 service, **Questions of Faith**, the ministers will answer questions submitted by congregants. You'll have the opportunity to write your questions on note cards at the two prior services (August 7 and 14), but start thinking of challenging questions now!

August 29 is the church's annual **Pet Blessing**, one of the year's most joyous—if anarchic—services. While we revel in a church-full of beasts furry, feathered, and scaly, here are some guidelines.

-  All animals must be leashed, caged, or otherwise under your control at all times.
-  Space yourself throughout the Sanctuary based on your pet's ability to be friendly, and also be considerate of others.
-  The balcony is reserved for humans only.
-  If your pet has an accident, please clean it up (both within the church and on the grounds).

The ministers will also bless favorite toy animals and photos of animals best kept at home.

Caring Network: Pastoral Joys and Concerns from June 2011

Congratulations and Thanks

☺ **Sharmila Khare** on the arrival of seven-year-old **Kanchan Anusha Sharmila Khare** from India ☺ **Michael Sheridan** for coordinating the North American Spirituality and Social Work Conference ☺ All Souls Music Director **Tom Colohan** on receiving the award for best director for his work with the Washington Master Chorale ☺ **Bob and Molly Freeman** on the marriage of their son, **Teddy** ☺ **Emily Chiarello and Mark Bown** on their marriage ☺ **Nina Swanson and Brian Simmonds** on their marriage ☺ Thanks to **Steve Godwin** for creating the new All Souls banner ☺ thanks to Chair **Marilynn Schuyler** and the **Auction Committee** ☺ thanks to Chair **Eric Hoy** and the Weekend on the Bay Committee ☺

Healing Thoughts and Prayers

◆ **Cycy Cherestal**, who had her tonsils and adenoids removed ◆ **Joan Joseph**, who remains in home hospice with brain cancer ◆ Mother of **Lairoid Street** and mother-in-law of **Kathy Feger**, who is in the hospital ◆ Parents of **Fred Tipson** ◆ **Peter Gartrell**, after surgery ◆

Condolences for Mourning and Loss

∞ **Henry Mayo**, on the passing of his brother ∞ Family and friends of **Jacqueline Pendleton**, who died in May ∞ **Jill Valentine**, All Souls' CPA, on the death of her sister ∞ **Rev. Susan Newman**, on the death of her aunt ∞ **Anne Tager**, on the loss of her grandmother ∞ **Mary Beth Hatem**, on the death of her father ∞ **Martha Holley-Miers**, on the passing of her father ∞ In June, we held three memorial services: Dawud As 'Salam (June 11), Nancy Linton (June 13), and Elizabeth King (June 18)

Membership and Welcoming

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 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. (Fall dates TBA)

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. (Fall dates TBA)

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).

Support group

Thursdays, Jul. 7 - Aug. 11, 7:00-8:00 pm, Longfellow Room. Does someone close to you have serious mental illness? Would you like a safe space to speak with and share support with others in similar circumstances? This summer, All Souls will offer a **peer support group for family members and loved ones of people with serious mental illness**. For those who cannot come Thursday nights, you are welcome to a Sunday brown-bag lunch session on July 10, 11:45 am-1:00 pm, in the Library. To RSVP or to get more info, contact Catharine Clarenbach ([summerallsouls\[@\]gmail.com](mailto:summerallsouls[@]gmail.com); 240-515-4366).

Monitoring All Souls' Vision Goal Two

In the May Spirit, Trustee Victor Braham described the Board of Trustees' monitoring responsibility for ASC's vision statements. Separate implementation teams are monitoring the church's three goals, and each team's success depends on the collaboration of lay-led committees whose work/activities most closely align with the specific goal. Victor discussed the report of Goal 1 implementation team, and I will now talk about Goal 2, which states: "All souls feel welcomed, engaged, valued, and supported in a congregation that reflects the diversity of the city in which we worship." The pertinent committees for Goal 2 are the Multiracial Multicultural Transformation Team, Archives, Silver Souls, Caring Network, Nourishment Ministry, Gardening, Black Folks Potluck, Weekend on the Bay, Membership and Welcome, Young Souls, Greeters, Lambda Souls, Denominational Affairs, and Seder.

The newest and least well known of those is the Multiracial Multicultural Transformation Team (MRMC). This committee cuts across all we do and, upon full realization of its efforts, will ensure the ethical and organizational integrity of All Souls' dream of becoming the Beloved Community. In the coming months, the MRMC will share proposals, strategies, and guidance on how congregants might work together with common purpose without losing touch with our individual uniqueness.

At the Board's June meeting, we received the Goal 2 implementation team's first monitoring report. After meeting with the pertinent committees at the April 30 Church Council meeting, the team developed a worksheet to collect information on the committees' plans for the next church year, the diversity of their membership, the human and financial resources they now have and will need, and the ways in which their activities reflect Goal 2 and address the relevant measurable results. The team already has baseline data for the first two measurable results: the number of members and children who identify as persons of color, and attendance at Sunday worship and Religious Education. Collection of data for the third measurable result—the number of people engage in sustained ministry—may take longer because of on-going concerns about the definition of sustained ministry. Once the Goal 2 implementation team has collected and analyzed all data, it will provide a qualitative description of the current state of things and offer recommendations for moving forward.

In addition to defining sustained ministry, the team faces challenges in determining how best to communicate with the other goal implementation teams, interface with the church's budgeting and resource determination process, and maximize the ASC database for tracking purposes.

You can find the full report on the All Souls website; click on "Vision Statements" near the top of the homepage.

The Board of Trustees is grateful to the Goal 2 implementation team; its planning and work are bringing us closer and closer to realizing our visions.

Goldia Hodgdon, Board of Trustees

Budget forms now online

You will now find the FY 2012 budget process/calendar and request forms online at www.all-souls.org/information/financial-information.php. Budget submission will be due from committee leaders on September 20. Questions? Contact All Souls Treasurer Barry Johnson (barryjdc [at] yahoo.com).

All Souls folks are just back from the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly 2011 in Charlotte, NC. This is our yearly all-Association meeting, which was attended by over 4,000 people. There were so many wonderful worship services, so much fun, so many great events – too many to mention. The delegate body also made changes to the UUA Board and made other important decisions. If you are interested, please visit the coverage website (www.uua.org/ga/2011/index.shtml). I would particularly draw your attention to the Ware Lecture, presented this year by Karen Armstrong of the *Charter of Compassion*; the video is posted on line (www.uua.org/ga/2011/184434.shtml).

Many All Souls folks were there in official capacities, representing UU work or presenting workshops. We are an important force in the national UU movement! Here is a list of All Souls people who I know were there sharing the love (in no particular order):



Report from General Assembly 2011

- Lenard Starks, our associate music director, provided music on the plenary stage several times.
- Taquiena Boston attended as the UUA's director of multicultural growth and witness.
- Mark Hicks, Angus MacLean Professor and director of the Sophia Fahs Center at Meadville Lombard Theological School, led a workshop (*Theology in Practice for a Multicultural World: Part 1*) and delivered the Fahs Lecture: *Religious Education for People of Color*.
- Kat Liu, Witness Ministries Program associate, led a workshop (*Theology in Practice for a Multicultural World: Part 2*).
- Rev. Rob Keithan was honored on the plenary stage for achieving preliminary fellowship and moving toward ordination as a UU minister.
- Rev. Archene Turner was honored on the plenary stage for achieving final fellowship as a UU minister.
- Chuck Wooldridge conducted UUA Board business as a member from the Joseph Priestly District and gave a workshop (*UUA Board Conversation Space: Biennial General Assembly Proposal*).
- Marion Connell represented the UU-United Nations Office as a board member and program committee chairperson.
- Catharine Clarenbach, Anastassia Zinke, and Lee Paczulla were there as ministry students, and Rev. Louise Green attended ministers' meetings.
- Katie Loughary, our executive director, attended as a board member of the Assoc. of UU Administrators.
- Beverly and Jim Hilbert carried our new banner in the opening Banner Parade.
- Simon Billenness and Vanessa Lowe presented at the plenary meeting as members of the UUA Committee on Socially Responsible Investing.
- Gabrielle Farrell, our religious educator for lifespan education and family ministries, was there as the vice president of the Liberal Religious Educators Association Board.
- Rochelle Rice, a member of our choir, sang a great solo during a plenary session.
- I, as a stewardship consultant for the UUA, took part in presenting three workshops (*Appreciative Inquiry and the Annual Budget Drive* and parts 1 and 2 of *FORTH: Growth, Stewardship, and Leadership*).

Most of the folks listed above were All Souls delegates (and could vote on denominational business), except those who are employees of the UUA or All Souls. The following good folks also served as delegates: Meredith Higgins Hargrave (adjunct staff coordinator, Joseph Priestly District), Tom Hargrave, Laurie Lester, Michael Milano, William Segal, Bob Johnsen, and Rev. Don Robinson.



I am sure I have neglected to list someone or their contribution. Nevertheless, to all I offer my thanks for serving All Souls and the whole world community of Unitarians and Universalists!

Mark Ewert, President, All Souls Church Board of Trustees

ASHC: continuing a legacy of affordable housing

In 1971, the church formed the All Souls Housing Corporation (ASHC) with the intent of developing affordable housing along a stretch of 14th Street NW that had been devastated by the 1968 riots. In partnership with Change, Inc., ASHC developed Columbia Heights Village (2900 14th St. NW), a 404-unit complex of high-rise apartments, garden apartments, and townhouses. In 2001, a refinancing recouped some of investment dollars. In 2016, the current financing arrangements for Columbia Heights Village will mature and the tenants association will have a right to buy a 50% of the partnership. In preparation, Change—ASHC is looking at possibilities for further development on the site in which the tenants association would play a greater role.

Change—ASHC has been involved with several other smaller affordable housing developments. One currently underway is at 4000 Kansas Avenue, where the partnership is using DC's Housing Trust Funds to buy, renovate, and maintain as affordable a 19-unit property. ASHC has also invested some of the money recouped from Columbia Heights Village in the Open Door Housing Fund (formerly the UU Affordable Housing Corporation). Since 1989, Open Door has financed affordable housing projects by non-profit developers (which risk-averse banks are loath to touch) with funds raised from UU congregations, other religious investors, foundations, banks, and individuals. Hoping to be a model for other investors, ASHC has invested some of the money at 0% interest, another portion at 3% interest, and given yet another portion as an outright grant to help Open Door meet its equity requirement with bankers. Information on how to become an investor is available from the Open Door web site (opendoorhousingfund.org).



ASHC advocates in support of affordable housing, taking stands before the DC Council and holding information forums in the community. It also provides opportunities for hands-on work. In recent years, in partnership with Jubilee Housing, Manna, Habitat for Humanity of DC, and Hope and a Home, ASHC has sponsored one-day volunteer work teams to help build or rehabilitate affordable housing units.

ASHC, responsible for finding and appointing members to both its own board of directors and that of Change—ASHC, needs people who are interested in affordable housing issues and have experience in law, finance, tenant relations, or construction oversight. If you, or someone you know, fit this bill, or if you'd like to be added to the mailing list, contact ASHC President Jacqui Cosgrove (allsouls.ashc@gmail.com). The ASHC Board of Directors generally hold open meetings one Sunday each month after services.

Washington Interfaith Network Summer Institute: Skills for Democracy

Join WIN for a series of high quality and interactive leadership seminars that will strengthen your ability to lead and create positive change in your organization, congregation, neighborhood, and city. The seminars will be valuable for leaders, whether they have little experience or decades of experience.

Each seminar offered twice. Place to be announced.

- ◆ Workshop 1: July 12 or 14, 7:00–9:00 pm
- ◆ Workshop 2: July 19 or 21, 7:00–9:00 pm

Registration: Sign up with a WIN organizer or WIN core team leader at your congregation or organization. For more info, contact Coleman Milling (202-518-0815; milling32@msn.com) or James Pearlstein (202-441-2838;

The All Souls English as a Second Language program, a hands-on social justice ministry, takes place each Sunday afternoon from September through May. Led by seasoned ESL professional, teacher trainer, and linguist, Shirley Thompson, a team of dedicated volunteers guides adults from the surrounding communities through exercises in speaking, comprehension, and pronunciation. The program fills the RE classrooms with learning, laughter, and new friends. “It’s the highlight of my week,” one teacher exclaims, while another reports that “it’s the ideal volunteer job—you’re learning something new, working directly with people.”



In 2010–11, 52 students enrolled, adding to a list of represented countries, including China, Myanmar, Japan, Spain, Turkey, Switzerland, Ethiopia, Togo, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Senegal, and many of our southern neighbors—Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Chile, Nicaragua, Argentina, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Panama, Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. The students give up precious time on a Sunday, often their only free day of the week. All Souls, in turn, fulfills its social justice mission by providing them a quality learning experience, one-on-one respect, and help in achieving their goals.

The program kicks off its fourth year on Sat., Sep. 10 (9:30 am–3:30 pm) with mandatory training for teachers and tutors. The semester begins in earnest on Sep. 18, with registration at 12:30 pm and classes from 1:15 to 3:00 pm. Classes meet every Sunday at that time through Jan. 22.

The ESL team needs you to participate in this unique social justice ministry. Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs, including

- teachers and tutors who can attend training and commit to at least two Sundays a month (you’ll receive ongoing support from Shirley and your teaching team);
- administrators who can assist with coordination and other administrative tasks on Sundays;
- recruiters of students, especially those with contacts at organizations, schools, and other venues where potential students may be reached; and
- a one-time representative to sit at the ESL table at the All Souls Activities Fair on Sep. 18 (ideally a past participant who can answer questions about the program).



If you’re interested in being a teacher/tutor, contact Shirley Thompson (shirl.thom [at] gmail.com). For all other volunteer tasks and questions, contact Judy Leaver (judy [at] jleaver.com).

Welcome All Souls’ new minister intern, Lex Cade-White

Lex is a candidate for a Master’s of Divinity degree at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, expecting to graduate in June 2012. A member of the Unitarian Society of Amherst since 2006, she was most recently the director of religious education and youth coordinator at First Parish Church in Dorchester (MA). Lex begins her internship year at All Souls in mid-August and will deliver her first sermon from our pulpit on September 4.



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

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:

September issue: August 20

October issue: September 17

Editor: Gary Penn
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