



# The Spirit of All Souls

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

## Letter from Rob

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### *The Times, They Are a-Changin'*

On Sunday, May 25, Memorial Day weekend, we will transition to our summer worship schedule, with one service beginning at 10:15 am. We will worship at this hour from Memorial Day through Labor Day, returning to two services on Homecoming Sunday, September 7.



Though we worship at a single service, these summer Sundays still offer a full range of experiences, including religious education for children and food and fellowship for all after the service. We also hope that during our brief one-service season, you'll get to meet people who've been worshipping at the "other service" since last September.

**After Labor Day, we will return to our two-service format, with a slight change. Next fall our service times will be 9:30 and 11:15 am.** We hope that by starting the early service 15 minutes later, more people will choose to worship at that time. The change also gives our choirs and worship leaders more time to prepare for worship.

Thanks to everyone for making our first year of worshipping at two services a resounding success! Our worship attendance has increased quite a bit this year. I look forward to us all gathering for one service throughout the summer.

Love,  
ROB

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# Seeking Meaning

Shana A. Lynngood, Associate Minister

Many theologians will tell you that we human beings come to church or faith or religion because we want to make sense of our lives. We long for a sense of purpose and meaning. We want to know that our living matters. At All Souls, as the leader of the adult spiritual development program, I have been looking for new ways (and more opportunities) to offer members this type of deep exploration. To that end, I want to let you know about some upcoming possibilities that I am very excited about. As many of you know, I led a spiritual renewal retreat that 40 members attended in March. It was a rich and meaningful weekend. I plan to lead two similar retreats next church year—one in the fall and one in the late winter (likely mid-October and late February). I feel strongly that these retreats offer a unique opportunity for members to get to know each other and connect (more) deeply (and again) with their spiritual lives.



In addition to the weekend retreats, I am putting together a new spiritual formation path for a small group interested in spending the full church year (September 2008–June 2009) working with the program staff of the church to examine spiritual practice, UU history and theology, and living one's faith in the world. This new program is entitled *The Soulful Path*, and an application for the program and full details will be available this month.

Finally, several members of the church and I have dreamed for quite some time about taking a group from All Souls on a pilgrimage. We are actively investigating just such a journey for June 2009. The vision we have at the moment is hiking some portion of the renown Santiago de Compostela. While not a Unitarian Universalist pilgrimage location *per se*, it is a trail walked by many pilgrims over many centuries and will no doubt serve as a wonderful means for us to reflect as a group on devotion and place and walking meditation and myriad other spiritual topics. If you think you'd want to journey to Europe with about 20 other Souls, start saving your pennies now and check-in with me for details.

At the heart of what it means to be a church community is the work of growing spiritually and being encouraged along that path by your community. I hope that many of you will join me on some of these adventures of the heart, soul, and spirit. I hope that, like me, you are excited by these new pathways for connection with others, with self, with the Spirit of Life.

Blessings and love, Shana

Vamos a la Auction! The All Souls Auction is May 3, 6:00 pm, and this year's theme is Cinco de Mayo. Bid on magnificent offerings while enjoying Spanish and South American hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Admission: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, free if you volunteer. Childcare provided. Gracias para todos. More information at [www.all-souls.org/auction](http://www.all-souls.org/auction) or e-mail the All Souls Auction committee at [allsoulsauction@yahoo.com](mailto:allsoulsauction@yahoo.com).

**Auction  
de  
Mayo!**

# Interested in joining All Souls Church?

ASC's Welcoming and Membership Committee invites you to learn more about the church. Attending the sessions does not constitute a commitment to join.

1. Introduction. Join us to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and All Souls Church. Sunday, May 18, after both services in the Eaton room.
2. Orientation. At this three-hour session, you will explore your spirituality and tour the church. If you decide to join, you can sign the book of members. Saturday, May 24, 9:00—1:00 pm, in the Eaton room.
3. New Member Sunday. June 1. We introduce the new members to the congregation.

## May Worship Services

**4**      **“Is Jeremiah (W)right?” Rev. Hardies.** Barack Obama’s pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright, put African American Liberation Theology on the front pages of America’s newspapers. What are the sources and claims of this theology, and what is its critique of America and Western Christianity? Was Wright justified in his controversial comments?

**11**     **“Playing with Fire” Rev. Hardies.** What do we mean when we ask every Sunday, “Spirit of Life, come unto me”? The Spirit can work in powerful, transformative and unwieldy ways. Do we know what we’re getting ourselves into when we beckon the Spirit to enter our lives?

**18**     **“Transformation” Rev. Shana Lynngood.** Often when we speak about experiences in our lives that have touched us deeply or changed us in some significant way (especially our church and spiritual experiences) we describe them as transformative. What does that mean? Where do we hope transformation will lead us?

**25**     **SWITCH TO ONE SERVICE AT 10:15. Rev. Joyce Palmer** delivers her first sermon as an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister. Topic to be announced.

# Letter from the Board of Trustees

As a Board member of All Souls Church, I am often asked what it means to be a Board member. Some questions asked are: what do we do exactly or what are we primarily responsible for. Particular concerns, problems or issues are also frequently brought to my attention with the expectation or request that the Board fix it or do something about it. The “it” often refers to an operations or administrative matter clearly the responsibility of the executive branch of the church.

I welcome knowing of any concerns our church members share with me, since it keeps me attuned to their thoughts and wishes. However, I explain the difference between the Board’s governance or policy responsibilities and the executive or administrative responsibilities of our ministers and program directors. We have tried hard to maintain the boundaries of our separate functions as spelled out in our by-laws and policy governance statement. Broadly speaking, “the Board sets top level policies that reflect the priorities of the congregation and leaves the work of implementing the policies to the Executive Team” (our two ministers and church administrator).

I would like to address an additional and more intangible aspect of our work as Trustees that goes beyond our fiduciary and oversight responsibilities. We bring a very personal and deep commitment to our charge--a sense of mission and heartfelt desire to give our all to All Souls. It is the “how” we fulfill our charge as Trustees that is so significant--the love and caring with which we address every issue and every decision we make--the thought that the good of All Souls, its importance in shepherding our spiritual

journeys and in bringing about social justice to our community and our City is of consummate importance. It is these mutually shared beliefs and values that bind us as a Board and forms the foundation of how we do our work.

- BOT meeting dates**
- May 22**
  - June 19**
  - July 24**
  - August 28**
  - September 25**
  - October 23**
  - November 20**
  - December 18**

The Board also seeks to reflect the wishes and perspectives of our congregation as we provide the leadership needed to achieve our church goals. These goals are found in our End Statements. As we begin the process of reviewing, and if needed, revising the End Statements, we wish to involve our members, leaders and stakeholder. Towards that end, we will soon be asking for your participation in offering your thoughts and recommendations. Our aim is to continue to reinforce and make even better the already outstanding record of All Souls in its mission: “To create a diverse, spirit-growing, justice-seeking community that transforms ourselves and our world into one great family of all souls.”

Josephine Nieves,  
ASC Board of Trustees

At All Souls, congregants often express a yearning to create spiritual practices that nourish their daily lives. They seek to apply Sunday morning's concepts and practices more fully throughout the week. Adult spiritual development courses help to a certain degree, but don't always pave an ongoing path. To fill that gap, the church will invite a small group of members to join the program staff for an entire year to discuss, explore, and practice the soulful path.



The soulful path can be envisioned as concentric rings that represent the components of a whole, well-rounded spiritual life. You begin in the center with personal spiritual practice, which grounds your life in meaning and purpose through prayer, meditation, and other contemplative practices (you and God/Spirit). In the second layer, you move to relational spiritual practice, which encourages you to live with heart and integrity through personal bonds (you and your closest ties). Next comes communal spiritual practice, which sustains you through worshiping, singing, and praying (you and church community). Finally, you live your spiritual beliefs through acts of social and environmental justice (you and the world).

During the year, you will forge new tools and strengthen existing practices that move you within and among the four circles, develop language to articulate your spiritual beliefs, and expand your knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and All Souls to connect you to the congregation and highlight your sense of ministry.

The program staff will hold special sessions throughout the year. Possible topics include contemplative practice (Rev. Shana Lynngood), UU practices, history, and theology (Rev. Rob Hardies), social justice (Rev. Louise Green), community (Gabrielle Farrell and Nikevia Thomas), ministry (Rev. Joyce Palmer), and arts (music staff and lay leaders).

The group will begin with an overnight retreat in September, then meet twice a month until ending in early June with a weekend-long retreat.

If you are interested and committed, please submit an application by July 27 to Rev. Shana Lynngood by e-mail ([slynnngood@allsouls.ws](mailto:slynnngood@allsouls.ws)) or by leaving it at the church office. Your application must include your contact information and answers to the following questions:

- What is your current spiritual practice?
- What challenges you in growing your soul/deepening connection to God/feeling attuned to the Spirit of Life?
- Why do you wish to be a part of this path?
- What questions or concerns do you have as you consider taking this step?
- How will you maintain focus and hold as a priority spiritual practice and growth throughout the year?

Friday, May 2, 7:00–10:30 pm. **Music, food, and fun for New Orleans!** Join folks from both our NOLA trips at the Potter's House, right down the block on Columbia Road. Donation of \$10 requested; all proceeds benefit our partner organizations. Dinner and dessert for sale, with great entertainment. All ages welcome to the party.

Sunday, May 4, 1:00–2:15 pm, sanctuary. **Social Justice Forum on Southern Sudan.** Beth Rogers-Witte, All Souls member, will speak about her experience of living and working in Southern Sudan in 2006–2007. She will discuss the role that civil society has played in maintaining peace after the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Special guest, David Gak, will also share his experience growing up in Southern Sudan during the war, later becoming a “Lost Boy,” and traveling to the US. Join in reflection and discussion of these firsthand experiences.

Tuesday, May 13, 6:30-8:30 pm, Pierce Hall. **Social Justice Movie Night.** *At the Death House Door*, a newly released film on the death penalty, follows up on our April reflections on the KUUMBA Players' production of *The Exonerated*. This week, the movie is premiering in congregations around the country.

Saturday, May 31, 8:30 am–1:00 pm, UU Church of Arlington ([www.uucava.org](http://www.uucava.org)). **Inspiring Ideas, Sharing Resources, Working Together.** Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice creates a forum for congregations to share ideas, resources, best practices, and opportunities for working together. Workshops will include topics such as programming on anti-racism work, connecting to your local community through social justice work, fundraising for social justice, involving young adults, and more. Attendees are welcome to stay for lunch (1:00–1:30) and the UUSJ board meeting to follow. Register by sending name, congregation, phone, and e-mail and mail addresses to [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org) or UUSJ, 8605 Cameron St. Suite 200, Silver Spring MD 20910.

## **All Souls Housing Corp Affiliate Gets \$2.8 Million from City**

An affiliate of the All Souls Housing Corporation (ASHC), the Change ASHC, recently received \$2.8 million in low-interest loans to keep 4000 Kansas Avenue, a 19-unit building housing tenants with very low incomes, affordable. ASHC has promoted affordable housing since 1971, making it one of the longest active social justice ministries at ASC.

ASHC also organized a successful “paint party” for the neighborhood organization, Hope and a Home, on April 26. Hope and a Home helps homeless families transition to a stable life by providing an affordable apartment, counseling, and other services for three years. It has placed 20 families, including 54 children, in good, safe, affordable housing.

ASHC also preserves affordable housing in the church’s neighborhood through its work at Columbia Heights Village, a development of over 400 units at 14th Street and Harvard. Through principles of anti-oppression and anti-racism, ASHC is guiding the predominantly African-American residents towards a greater ownership stake in their property.

ASHC next meets Thursday, May 8, 7:00 pm, in the Eaton Room of All Souls Church. Come find out what is happening to fight racism and preserve affordable housing right here in the All Souls neighborhood.

**Book Discussion Group.** The next Book Discussion Group is May 4, 1:30 pm. The book is Toni Morrison's *Love*. The group is welcoming and fully committed to multi-cultural in-reach as well as reading a broad selection of literature. If you're looking for a group open to your point of view, join in, for one book or for many. PLEASE NOTE: The June date has changed from June 8 to June 1, when the group will read *Year of Wonders*, a novel of the plague by Geraldine Brooks. Contact Denise Rathman ([djrathman@yahoo.com](mailto:djrathman@yahoo.com)) for locations.

**The All Souls Plant Sale.** Spring is here, and so is the Plant Sale. Sunday, May 11. Bob Freeman (301-656-0948).

**2008 Spring Green Resolution.** Having tallied 2007's results, the Seventh Principle group unveils the differently focused 2008 Spring Green Resolution. The Resolution is a congregational project; members commit to green actions in our personal lives, at church, and in the larger community. Take a few minutes to fill out the easy form (find the link at [www.all-souls.org](http://www.all-souls.org)) before the end of May.

**SpeakeasyDC presents *Chocolate Jesus*.** On June 11, 8:00 pm, at ASC, SpeakeasyDC presents *Chocolate Jesus*, a collection of first-person stories about the push and pull of faith and identity. Listen to an aspiring Baptist minister discovering true love; a nice Jewish girl transforming in a DC jail; a confused Argentinean teenager rebelling against atheist parents; and a wide-eyed American in Mexico finding her inner goddess. Tickets \$10; [speakeasydc.org](http://speakeasydc.org).

**Transitions.** Our hearts go out to Kathy Ferger and Lairold Street as they adjust to his new living situation.

**Missing You.** We miss seeing Bob and Peachy Murray, Betty Atherton, Betty and Benton Hickok, Mary Jane Fisher, Virginia Gray, Loretta and Wesley Hanes, Marianna Sewell, Peter Stebbins, and Larry Stone.

**Illnesses and Recoveries.** Melissa Schoeplein's father has been ill, and Alicia Dixon's father is recovering from serious burn injuries. Miranda Schuyler, Marilyn Schuyler and John Miller's 3-year-old daughter, suffered a colon infection. Mary Ann Anderson had successful ear surgery, and Buddy Adams and Lorie Allion escaped injury in a serious car crash.

**Passings.** James Edwards lost an uncle; Claudia Liebler, her mother; David and Judith Bauer, a good friend; Michelle Collins-Williams, a half-brother and nephews killed in a plane accident; Amy Caiazza, a grandmother; Lloyd Wright, a brother; Marion Connel, her step-mother; and Henry Tate, his son.

**Awards and Congratulations.** Louise Green won a JPD peace sermon award. Joyce Palmer will be ordained as a UU minister. Barbara Corprew joined the JPD Board. John Strang was appointed as a doctoral psychology intern at Children's Hospital. Rob Hardies and his partner, Chris Nealon, celebrated their 10th anniversary.

**Thanks** to Sheila Rawls, Bruce DePuyt, Alex Wilson, Adam Gerhardstein, and Meredith Schonfeld-Hicks for their leadership on the New Orleans trips.

## MINISTERS

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## MISSION and 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.** In 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.



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Return service requested

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

### Upcoming deadlines:

June issue: May 17

July/August issue: June 21

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