



# The Spirit of All Souls

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

## Letter from Rob

Last month a number of pastors across the country deliberately violated IRS tax code and endorsed a presidential candidate from the pulpit.

I believe that's a mistake. When churches endorse candidates it's bad for both politics *and* religion. The public square fractures with sectarian strife, and houses of worship feel manipulated and robbed of the ultimate perspective from which they try to speak to society.

However, it is perfectly appropriate for members of churches to live out their moral and spiritual values by working on behalf of candidates they believe best represent their values.

But how do we hit the campaign trail without getting hit back by its sometimes mean, petty, and manipulative ways? Here are a few tips for staying centered as you're pounding the pavement for your favorite candidate:

*First: keep your eyes on the prize.* Each of us entered the political process because we had hopes and dreams for a better future for ourselves, our loved ones, and our nation. What dreams brought you into the political process this year? Keep those before you as the campaign wears on, and don't forget them when you get disillusioned by nasty ads and cheap tricks. Stay focused on the big picture.

*Second: build relationships.* Politics—like the democracy it serves—is ultimately about relationships, about people building their communities, together. Whether you're making turnout calls or knocking on doors, the people you meet in a campaign are unforgettable. Try to be more than instrumental in your interactions with people...make a connection.

Pulpit endorsements cheapen religion and politics. But practicing democracy as if it were a shared spiritual practice can lift both our spirits and our nation. Happy campaigning!

Love, ROB



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## Time to review our Ends Statements

Join the process. Stop by our table in Pierce Hall.  
The Ends Statements are printed on the back page.

# Communal Power

Shana A. Lynngood, Associate Minister

It is wonderful to gather together again as a whole congregation. I so savor the experiences in the life of this church that remind me of the power of community—singing a hymn with 500 people, sitting with my daughter in RE class, praying with a smaller circle of souls in The Soulful Path, having rich and meaningful conversations about the ups and downs of your lives. Ministry reminds me of the truism that our lives are magnified and held in miraculous and mysterious ways by our connections. What a gift it is to be a part of this place. Fall seems to bring with it a turn toward the inward life after all of summer’s outdoor and outwardly directed energies. This time of year brings All Saints Day/Day of All Souls, when we remember those we have lost, and reflect on all the ties of our lives that have been significant. May we once again turn toward one another and remember to



Welcome back! Shana

## October Worship Services

5      **“Saying ‘No’ to Conscience” Rev. Robert Hardies.** In the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur is a season for examining the conscience and atoning for the times when we’ve fallen short of the admonitions of the Spirit. This morning we explore what happens to us when we hear the voice of conscience but fail to heed it. What price do we pay for saying “no” to conscience?

12     **“A Greater Citizen” Rev. Shana Lynngood.** During this all-encompassing political season we have been asked by the candidates many times over to reflect on the role each of us plays in contributing to our common life as Americans. This morning we’ll bring that notion both closer to home (who are we as family members and neighbors?) and further away (what kind of citizen of the world are we?).

19     **“For All That Is Our Lives” Rev. Robert Hardies.** Many of us long to give our whole lives in loving service to something larger than ourselves. But one of the keys to greater service is greater acceptance of all that we are. Only when we *receive* all of life as a gift, can we *give* our whole lives as a gift.

26     **“Here I Am” Rev. Shana Lynngood.** Several powerful stories from the Hebrew Bible tell of the moment when someone with both courage and humility presents themselves to the Spirit. What does it mean to offer ourselves to the Spirit? What can we learn from these wisdom stories?

The theme of the fall pledge drive, **Grace, Gratitude, Giving**, gives us the opportunity to reflect on how the three are connected and what our individual role is in sustaining and growing the wonder of All Souls. There are basic definitions for these words, but what do they mean for us as Unitarians?



A few years ago, at the Weekend on the Bay, Shana Lynngood facilitated a workshop on grace. During the workshop participants sat in pairs and exchanged images with connections to grace: a smile, sunset, hug, cool breeze, silent moment, supportive touch, forgiveness. For many this was a transformative experience. Not only do we as individuals receive grace, we give it. The divine in all of us works on a daily basis. As a community we can regularly and generously give and receive grace.

What keeps us connected to this is All Souls Church, whether it's the music on Sunday morning, a covenant group, a moving sermon, or one of the many children's smiles. If All Souls has graced your Sundays or your life, there's a way to turn your gratitude into action by pledging generously during the campaign now underway to support the church's 2009 operating budget. This year in particular, because of the state of the economy, it is important for those of us who can give to do so, since some church members may be experiencing financial hardship. If you've pledged in past years, consider increasing your gift.

In the weeks leading up to Generosity Sunday, October 19, you may be contacted directly by a visiting steward to talk about the church and your pledge. But please don't wait for a call. Visit the pledge table after the service in Pierce Hall, where volunteers are ready to answer your questions and provide you with a pledge card. Please fill one out today and turn it in. If you want to talk to someone about your pledge or would like to volunteer for the budget pledge campaign, please contact co-chairs Aaron Knight ([aaronmknight@hotmail.com](mailto:aaronmknight@hotmail.com)) or Allison Denny ([allison\\_denny@hotmail.com](mailto:allison_denny@hotmail.com)).

## Interested in joining All Souls Church?

ASC's Welcoming and Membership Committee invites you to learn more about the church.

1. Introduction. Join us to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and All Souls Church. 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. On a Saturday morning or Wednesday evening, in the Eaton room.
3. New Member Sunday. New members are introduced to the congregation.

Direct Service is the journey to becoming an openhearted servant, a giver, a generous soul. It is a way to participate in the mending of the world. No matter how adept we get at systems, or powerful at organizing, or savvy about political change, we must not forget that *all* our social justice work rests on caring about the lives of individual people and creatures. The pain, the disappointment, the need, one by one. If we never hear that single story, or empathize with that one face, our work can become abstract and our process cold. Giving service is a way to find our own heart, and to bless the heart of another. It is reciprocal, for as we offer, we do receive. A large, growing, and passionate congregation can do much service, and so we are expanding choices. I urge each of you to choose at least one way to give over this church year.

Blessings, Rev. Louise Green, Minister of Social Justice

## Social Justice Ministries Direct Service Projects

- **Christ House Connection** moves to 4th Saturdays. Prepare and eat lunch with residents of this hospital for our formerly homeless neighbors. Ann Steinecke ([asteinecke1@yahoo.com](mailto:asteinecke1@yahoo.com)).
- **ESL Tutors and Community Hour.** Sunday afternoons, 2:00–4:00 pm, at All Souls. Marian Patten ([mspatten@gmail.com](mailto:mspatten@gmail.com)).
- **International Rescue Committee.** All Souls match with a resettled refugee family to be announced in Sept. Louise Green ([lgreen@allsouls.ws](mailto:lgreen@allsouls.ws)).
- **Neighbors in Need/Holiday Alternative Giving**  
Thanksgiving Food and Funds Collection. Sunday, Nov. 23.  
Direct Aid to Iraq/Medical Assistance for Iraqi Civilians. Sunday, Dec. 14.  
La Posada Gift Drive. Sunday, Dec. 21.
- **New Orleans Service Trips 2009.** Feb. 14–21 for adults over 18, and Apr. 5–11 for adults and children over 12. Gabrielle Farrell ([gfarrell@allsouls.ws](mailto:gfarrell@allsouls.ws)) or Louise Green ([lgreen@allsouls.ws](mailto:lgreen@allsouls.ws)).

## Wednesday Social Justice Reflections – Deepening the Dialogue

Every Wed. through Nov. 12, 7:00–8:30 pm. Come when you can! No registration necessary.

**Oct 1:** What can we learn from the ongoing war in Iraq? Discussion led by congregant Miriam Pemberton, one of the editors of *Lessons From Iraq: Avoiding the Next War*.

**Oct 8:** Discuss the *UU World* article on a theology of paradise, from original Christian roots and anchored in UU social justice. This concept is proposed by Rebecca Parker and Rita Nakashima Brock, excerpted from their new book. Led by Megan Foley, candidate for UU Ministry.

**Oct 15:** How might All Souls Social Justice Ministries developed more projects with an international focus? Discussion led by congregant Kip Beardsley and Louise Green

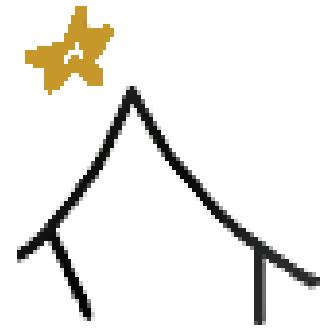
**Oct 22:** What are the historical roots and current philosophy for the All Souls commitment to affordable housing? Who is the city for? A discussion led by Louise Green, with contributions from the AS Housing Corporation leaders. Info on WIN community organizing and Open Door Housing Fund investment.

**Oct 29:** Discuss the *UU World* article on classism in UU congregations: how does this show up at All Souls? Led by Megan Foley, candidate for UU Ministry.

**The 2008 Social Justice Awards Benefit Gala.** Co-Sponsored by UUSJ and OpenDoor Housing Fund, the Gala will present the Minister's Award to Rev. Phyllis Hubbell (Paint Branch); the Racial Justice Multicultural Award to Barbara Johnson, Ann Ulmschneider, Phyllis Dogan, and the Arlington Journey Toward Wholeness Team; the Collaborative SJ Program Award to **the KUUMBA Players of All Souls** (Group Award) and Towson's Marilyn Thorn (Individual Award); the Environmental Justice Award to Dr. Jackson Harper (Bull Run); the Young Adult Award to Beth and Todd Harrison (River Road); and the Interfaith Affordable Housing Award to Mary Fenelon (Reston). Please join us Sun., Oct. 12, 5:30 pm at Positano Ristorante Italiano 4948 Fairmont Ave. Bethesda, MD 20814 to honor them. All proceeds will go to the new UUSJ Collaboration Fund to advance effective social justice in the region. \$80/person. RSVP by Sept. 30 to Cyn Snavel (301-588-1951 or [CSnavely@uusj.org](mailto:CSnavely@uusj.org)). Checks to UUSJ, 8605 Cameron St. Suite 200, Silver Spring MD 20910 by Oct. 3.

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**The Tent is Raised!** As part of a nationwide series of events to raise awareness of and funds for the Darfur crisis, our high schoolers, with the help of Adam Gehardstein, Dawn Star Borchelt, and Peter Meyer, are pitching a huge tent on the South Lawn. The tent may one day shelter a school in Chad for Darfurian refugees, and congregants are invited (Oct. 12–26) to paint a square of hope for the children who will sit under it. The tent will join thousands of others on the Mall the weekend of Nov. 7–9. That weekend culminates in an interfaith service and, possibly, a video address from the president-elect. Bear witness to the genocide in Darfur while teaching our children to advocate for social justice. Visit the tent table or [www.tentsofhope.org](http://www.tentsofhope.org) for more information. Sign up to paint a square of hope or to provide hospitality to UUs who will come to DC for the main event.



## Pilgrimage June 2009

For over a thousand years, pilgrims have walked from all over Europe to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. While a visit to the shrine of St. James isn't a Unitarian tradition, in June 2009, a group of 20 or so All Souls members and friends, led by Rev. Shana Lynngood, will walk a portion of the Camino de Santiago, imbuing the journey with Unitarian meditations, songs, prayers, and meaning.

Participants will first attend six Tuesday-evening classes led by Shana and Claudia Liebler to discuss ideas and traditions of pilgrimage, think about goals for the walk, and begin to get to know their fellow pilgrims. The group will also do some practice walks and get information from Sheila Campbell about boots and blisters.

Portugal Walks, a certified Responsible Travel company, will organize the 74-mile walk. The cost per person sharing a double room with bath is £400 (about \$800); the single room supplement is £150 (about \$300). This price does not cover the flight to Portugal or the train to Tui. Participants will also pay for packed lunches and dinners, plus any incidentals.

Participants must register both with All Souls and directly with Portugal Walks. Sign up at [www.portugalwalks.com](http://www.portugalwalks.com). The "tour name" is Camino Portugues, and the start date is June 10. Specify in the comments section that you will be walking with All Souls. All rooms will be shared doubles unless you specify otherwise. Once you've received a confirmation, e-mail Shana ([slynnngood@allsouls.ws](mailto:slynnngood@allsouls.ws)) to let her know you've registered. Simply telling Shana that you plan to go will not hold a space. All spaces are first-come, first-served, so register as soon as possible.

# REflections

Last year’s curriculum, *You Can’t Say You Can’t Play*, instructed teachers to leave an open spot in each gathering circle to symbolize the space that is always there for others. Such welcome openness has been a calling of this church throughout its history. That’s what I responded to when I came here eight Septembers ago. That’s what I still feel.

So it’s always difficult to have to inform families when some RE classes close to new registrations. I wish that our staff, both volunteer and paid, were characters in a Harry Potter book, and our building, Hogwarts. Then we could multiply and expand whenever the need arose. But we aren’t and the church isn’t. And while I’m quite sure that magic happens here, realistic limitations mean that certain classes fill up while others remain open to newcomers.

The RE Committee and I are committed to honoring the work that our volunteer teachers do each Sunday. In just one hour per week, they create community. Too many children in one class mean names unlearned and relationships, to one another and to All Souls, unformed.

***Please hear me. No child or family will ever be turned away from participating in the religious education program at All Souls. Ever.*** We will never close one age group’s classes at both service times. But a class during the service you wish to attend may be unavailable. We do keep a waiting list, and we will soon post guidelines on our website.

These limits ensure that we offer a primary religious experience and not simply childcare. They protect the ability of your child to develop relationships with peers and with the adults who have committed to helping them grow up. A mighty promise to make and one we mean to keep.

See you in church – at 9:30 and 11:15!

Gabrielle Farrell, Director of Religious Education Ministries

<b>Status as of Sept. 30</b>	<b><u>Class/ Group</u></b>	<b><u>9:30</u></b>	<b><u>11:15</u></b>	<b>Coming of Age Mentors</b>
The RE Committee asks for everyone’s help in communicating registration status while also affirming for families that they are invited and encouraged to check in personally with Gabrielle Farrell for further information.	2–3 year olds	<i>closed</i>	<i>open</i>	Our high school youth are studying church and life in a program that culminates in a service during which they testify about their religious beliefs. Each student is guided by an adult mentor. Interested in mentoring? Contact Gabrielle Farrell (gfarrell@allsouls.ws) for an application.
	4–5 year olds	<i>closed</i>	<i>open</i>	
	K – 2nd grade	<i>closed</i>	<i>open</i>	
	3rd – 5th grade	<i>open</i>	<i>closed</i>	
	6th –8th grade	<i>open</i>	<i>closed</i>	
	High school			

## RE Calendar

- 10/5 Parent orientation for those in the Coming of Age program (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade).
- 10/18 Mentor training for those ministering in the Coming of Age program.
- 10/24 Halloween party thrown by the middle schoolers and fun-loving adults. Gym, 5:00–7:00 pm.
- 11/2 Family Meet and Greet in Pierce Hall after the 9:30 service and in the Dining Room after the 11:15 service. Come meet Gabrielle Farrell and the RE Committee and have a bite to eat.

**Births and dedications.** Peter and Trish Meyer adopted 2½-year-old Mentesianet, aka Mick.

**Unions.** Recently married couples include Chanda O'Donnell and Orlando Ramirez, Heather Lee and Matt Schwenk, and Alex Hirtle and Jodi Hammer. Norm and Wini Williams celebrated their 65th anniversary.

**Transitions.** Adele Fering has moved to Delaware to be near family, and Anita and Jim Armstrong have relocated to Richmond. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the congregants who are able to get to church: Betty Atherton, Betty and Benton Hickok, Virginia Gray, Loretta and Wesley Hanes, Marianna Sewell, Peter Stebbins, and Larry Stone.

**Illnesses and Recoveries.** Janet Randolph had successful shoulder surgery. Elizabeth King has a new pacemaker. Julie Agarwal was injured at a subway station. Gail Frances and Paul Pjjeffer have both suffered with difficult bouts of pneumonia. Bob Murray, Mary Ann Anderson, and Wesley have all faced health challenges. Jean Porter had surgery for a detached retina. Joan Joseph had hernia surgery.

**Passings.** Bill Valdez lost his sister, Mark Ferrara, his mother, and Elizabeth Arnold, her father. Henry Tate's grandson was killed.

*Notes or cards always welcome; addresses in the church directory or at the Caring Table in Pierce Hall.*

**Jubilee Singers sing at PartnerFest.** The Jubilee Singers carry All Soul's message for freedom and social justice into the community at River Road UU's 17th annual PartnerFest benefit on Sat., Oct. 18, at 6:00 pm. PartnerFest benefits UU churches in Romania and India. The evening includes a social hour, dinner, and a Jubilee Singers concert at 8:00 pm. Adults: \$30 (\$20 is tax deductible). Children under 16: \$1 per year of age. Tickets available at the door. River Road is located at 6301 River Road, Bethesda, Maryland. More info at [www.rruc.org](http://www.rruc.org) or 301-299-0400.

**Conversations in the Spirit.** Every Sun., 11:00 am – 12:00 noon, congregants can gather in small groups to discuss the 9:30 worship service. Rev. Louise Green and occasional guests facilitate. No need to sign up; drop in whenever you want.

**Fair-trade goods.** First and third Sundays, the Fair Trade and Green Goods tables offer chocolate, coffee, and other goodies alongside 100% recycled, chlorine-free paper products. Come with tote bag in hand. Contact Marc Ferrera ([marc\\_ferrera@yahoo.com](mailto:marc_ferrera@yahoo.com)) to volunteer.

**Gardening 2008.** Come to any of these gardening events: Wed., Oct. 8, 6:00–8:00 pm; Sat., Oct. 18, 9:00 am–12:00 noon; Sat., Nov. 22, 9:00 am–12:00 noon. Contact Meg Staines (202-238-0044 or [mstaines@starpower.net](mailto:mstaines@starpower.net)).

**Painless fundraising.** Safeway Club Card holders, get the chain to donate 1–3% of your purchases to All Souls. Register at [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com). You can also register credit/debit cards for contributions from other merchants. Last year 360 of us produced over \$1,100 in extra income for the church. Last year's registrants, you need to renew by Nov. 1. Carol Falk (202-483-5607 or [falkjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:falkjohnson@gmail.com)).

## MINISTERS

Robert Hardies, Senior Minister ([rhardies@allsouls.ws](mailto:rhardies@allsouls.ws))  
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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.



*The Spirit of All Souls*  
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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:

Nov. issue: October 17  
Dec. issue: November 21

Editor: Gary Penn  
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