



The Spirit of All Souls

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

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Building castles in the air

The **Vision 20/20 Team** is a large and energetic group of All Souls members who are leading us (per the Board's request) in a process to envision the next chapter of All Souls future.

This summer, the team invites your input into this process. Please attend a visioning session after any service during the months of July and August. These sessions, facilitated by a member of the 20/20 Team, will lead participants through a process of envisioning All Souls future. The Vision 20/20 process will continue through the fall and culminate in a report to the congregation at our Annual Meeting in December.



I thought of the Vision 20/20 Team and its work during my recent trip to Walden Pond with the youth of the church. At the end of *Walden*, Thoreau writes something that can serve as our inspiration during this visioning process:

I learned this, at least, by my experiment: that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will be met with a success unexpected in common hours. . . . If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost, that is where castles should be. Now put the foundations under them.

That the castles we build together through this visioning process will be glorious, I have great faith. That our foundation will be strong, I have no doubt.

Love, ROB

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July Worship Services

5 **“Independence Day: All in the Family” Rev. Green.** Living in the tension of the world as it is and the world as it should be, in our country, congregation, and families.

12 **“Shifting Paradigms, Planting Roots” Dr. Mark Hicks and Rev. Green.** Dialogue sermon with excerpts from the UUA Social Justice Convocation, previewing the DVD and book entitled, *“A People So Bold.”*

19 **“The Inconvenience of Compassion” Rev. Green.** In situations of tension, suffering and loss, it is easy to find enemies. When we move towards compassion for each being, our clear categories of right and wrong break down. How might we open our hearts to all, even if inconvenient?

26 **“Loving What Is and Whatever Comes” Trudy ann mitchell-gilkey.** Insight Meditation teacher and ASC congregant. *A People’s Voices* worship service on accepting life as it emerges, moment by moment.

2 **“Life as a Birthday Party” Rev. Green.** Time out, play with our friends and family, special gifts, celebratory meals—why not keep it going all year long? We will celebrate all birthdays as an invitation to more joyous living.

9 **“Building Interfaith Coalitions: The Work that Changes Us” Rev. Green and Dr. Sharon Groves.** Dialogue sermon on two tales of spiritual growth, resulting from work in community, across difference, and for LGBTQ inclusion.

16 **“UUs in Two Generations” Rev. Green and Adam Gerhardstein.** Dialogue sermon on building the progressive UU movement, from the vantage point of 50-something and 20-something participants in the arena of social justice.

23 **“Questions of Faith” Rev. Hardies.** On his first Sunday back from summer break, Rev. Hardies answers your questions (submitted and chosen ahead of time) about God, spirituality, faith, and the church.

30 **“When St. Francis Tamed the Wolf” Led by Gabrielle Farrell, Rev. Green, and Rev. Hardies.** When Rev. Hardies spent time in Assisi, people shared many stories of the ministry of St. Francis to the animals and the Earth. We will share some of those tales on this special Sunday, as we celebrate our own Blessing of the Animals. Please bring your friendly, leashed or crated pets!

August Worship Services

Celebrate Homecoming Sunday

Please join us on Homecoming Sunday, September 13, (when we return to two services—9:30 and 11:15 am) for the beginning of a new church and a celebration of the power of community. Rev. Hardies will preach and the All Souls Choir will provide the music, as we celebrate a new year in the life our community. Each service will be followed by a special picnic snack/lunch on the South Lawn.

**Letter
from
the
BOT**

Members of the Board of Trustees are grateful to those of you in the congregation who came out on a Friday evening, June 19, to listen and participate in a discussion about issues of church governance and procedure important to our entire church community. We appreciate that the presentations and comments made that night represented several points of view, and hope that our ultimate goal was met: to share as much information as possible so that we all have more clarity about the present situation.

Several members noted the need to review and make changes in our present by-laws and other governing processes and documents. We share those concerns and will move expeditiously to initiate that review and take action. Please know that we are also reflecting on other suggestions made that evening, and that we welcome further input from congregants at any time. We will provide progress reports to you as we have them.

As Board member Goldia Hodgdon noted that evening, the current Board-initiated All Souls 20/20 Visioning Process is an instrument for healing, imagining, and creating the church we want now and in the future. The Visioning Committee is conducting visioning sessions this summer every Sunday after church at 11:45 am in the Reception Room, and at many meetings and convenings during the month of September. All of this will culminate in an all-congregation, all-day gathering on Saturday, October 17.

The UUA document, *Vision, Mission, and Covenant: Creating a Future Together*, describes the many reasons people come to a religious community: to seek the holy, for community, for the chance to be with like-minded people, and for a chance to work to change the world altogether. The visioning process can honor all of those reasons and then bring what we hold in common to the surface and help us articulate how and where we want to be in 2020 and beyond. Please join us at one of these sessions.

Erika Landberg, President
All Souls Board of Trustees

**BOT
meeting
dates**
July 23
Aug. 20
Sept. 24
Oct. 22
Nov. 19
Dec. 17



Share your vision

Every Sunday this summer at 11:45 am in the Reception Room (opposite the church office).

The All Souls 20/20 Committee wants to hear your ideas about what our church and community should look like in 2020.

Update on the sabbatical of Gabrielle Farrell

While Gabrielle is on sabbatical from October 1 through January 31, 2010, Nikevia Thomas will be the Acting Religious Educator. During those four months:

- the church will hire a person for six hours per week to help prepare the supply bins for Sunday morning.
- Laurie Lester will remain chair of the RE Committee, assisted by experienced committee member, Kim Vitelli.
- the RE Committee will grow from 10 to 13 members to ensure that, in addition to committee leadership, each class has one liaison.
- the liaisons will expand their role to include leadership of a teaching team, coordinating, teaching the teachers, problem solving, communicating with parents, etc.
- Dawn Star Borchelt, Youth Ministry Coordinator, will expand her current responsibilities of working with High School families and teachers to include working with Middle School folks as well.
- teaching teams at the younger levels will expand to three teachers in the classroom each morning.

Reflections

RE calendar

Summer

June 28–August 23

One-room schoolhouse for those aged 5 and older. Younger children go to the Nursery, where they'll enjoy group games, songs, and art activities.

August 30 Pet Blessing

September

6 No RE; childcare for 4 and younger

13 Homecoming Sunday. Children attend the inclusive service

20 RE classes begin again with a pancake breakfast

27 Parent orientations after each service

The one-service summer months include nursery care (through Labor Day) and RE classes (through August 23), at 10:15 am every Sunday.

All Souls Just Souls Awards

On June 14, All Souls presented this year's Just Souls awards to Gail Oliver and the Rev. Don Robinson.

Gail Oliver is the executive director of the Columbia Heights Youth Club (www.chycdc.org), which, since its inception in 1954 as the first integrated club in the DC metropolitan area, has remained committed to enhancing the quality of life for young people. Every year, it provides social, physical, and intellectual activities for over 200 young people.

Rev. Robinson, an ordained UU minister, is the founder and president of Beacon House (www.beaconhousedc.org), which supports at-risk youth and families in DC's Edgewood Terrace neighborhood. Founded in 1991, Beacon House offers cultural, recreational, and athletic programs, with a primary focus on academic enrichment.

Social Justice Action

Writing Reflections on the Border: A Service/Learning Trip

This fall, from October 31 to November 7, Rev. Louise Green, ASC Minister of Social Justice, will lead a journey to learn more about Mexican border issues and American Indian culture in the US Southwest. The program will include volunteer work, reading, discussion, worship, and journal writing, as we explore social justice issues in a small group. Louise is investigating locations now, and will announce more information soon. To get on a list of interested folks, email Louise ([lgreen AT allsouls.ws](mailto:lgreen@allsouls.ws)).

Happenings and Opportunities

Happy gardening days. Whether you are an experienced gardener or a novice, there are plenty of fun opportunities to care for the flowers and trees at All Souls Church this summer and fall. It's a great way to get outside, exercise, and spruce up our beautiful church. Join us on any of the following Saturday mornings, 9:00 am–12:00 noon: July 11, Aug. 15, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, and Nov. 7. Contact Meg Staines (202 238-0044 or mstaines@starpower.net).

Autumn Soul-stice 2009: Discovering Soulful

Support. Saturday, September 26. A day of spiritual reflection and community gathering, a time to get away while staying close to home. For more information, contact Dori (own_boss123@yahoo.com).

Women & Religion retreat. October 16–18, Bishop Claggett Center, Buckeystown MD (not far from Frederick, directions at www.bishopclaggett.org). This year, at the Joseph Priestly District's annual retreat, Anne Mason and Sonny Ditzler lead a weekend workshop using meditation, breathing, singing, drumming, and other activities to help women reclaim the power of their bodies and voices. Register by September 30. More information at www.jpdw.org.

Greeter coordinator. Looking for an easy leadership role? Serving as greeter coordinator could be the right fit. You'll be in touch with the friendliest Souls—the ones who give folks a big smile every Sunday as they come through the door—to coordinate their schedules. Once the schedule is set, you need only send brief weekly e-mail reminders. Best part of the job: no meetings. Interested? Contact the current greeter coordinator, Marilynn Schuyler (MLSchuyler@aol.com or 703 319-1050).

Café meister. If you or anyone you know are interested in running the Sunday cafe in the new church year, please contact Katie Loughary (kloughary@allsouls.ws or 202 332-5266).

Summer Choir

This intergenerational singing opportunity is a wonderful way to keep (or get) involved with the church's music program. Providing music for services through July and August, the Summer Choir meets at 9:00 am sharp, rehearses for an hour, and then sings at the 10:15 service. There are no weekday rehearsals, and choir members may sing on whichever Sundays they please. This year's Summer Choir will be alternately conducted by Lenard Starks and Tom Colohan. Singers needn't be members of any of our standing choirs; all who love to sing, including youth singers, are invited to participate. Dress comfortably, show up promptly, and be ready to take part in some exciting and engaging music.

Adult Spiritual Education

Planning fall classes. In the heat of the summer, let's start planning the fall's cool ASD program. ASD classes, an important part of the church's ministry, are interesting, informative, and a great way for congregants to share and bond. Please consider offering a course this fall, on your own or with a friend. Even if you've never facilitated before, you'll find it fun and very rewarding!

The ASD committee would like to offer courses in several broad categories: UU history, social justice, spiritual practice, arts and culture, and practical matters. We'd especially like to offer a class on UU history this fall, as it hasn't been given for several terms. The fall term will begin the week of October 5 and end by Thanksgiving or early December. A course can be as long as two months or as short as a one-day workshop. Examples of past courses include Unitarian Universalist Reading Group, Spiritual Theology and Race, Roots and Wings, Yoga, Photography, Environmental Justice, and Your Money or Your Life.

To propose a class for the fall, send a description to Waahida Mbatha (waahida AT hot-mail.com) by August 31. The write-up should include the class title, name and background of the facilitator(s), class objectives, meeting dates and times, location, minimum/maximum number of participants, and any fee for materials. The committee will set the charge for all courses. Classes should not begin before October 5. Courses can meet at the church on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings or during the day Monday through Saturday. Off-campus classes are scheduled at the facilitator's convenience.

If you'd like to discuss an idea for a course, contact one of the following committee members: Shana L yngood, Waahida Mbatha, Jon Lee, Cris Fleming, Jon Fleming, Brenda Ekwurzel, Vicki Childers, Tracy Davis, Wendy Anderson, Michael Milano, and Ruel Eskelsen.

Chi Kung. Chi kung (also spelled qigong), an ancient healing art encompassing many eastern traditions, has been crafted and honed since the 5th century in the Shaolin Temples of southern China. The Lohan form combines yoga, tai chi, ballet, and Buddhist chanting. Movements flow from one to the next in a prescribed series, and leave the practitioner with a great sense of health and well-being. Chi kung helps improve breathing, brain function, coordination, balance, and muscle tone. All ages and level of physical ability are welcome. Dr. Nathan Peabody (drnatep AT gmail.com) has studied chi kung for 12 years from Chinese and Hawaiian masters. Saturdays, 10:00–11:00 am and Wednesdays, 7:30–8:30 pm, Gymnasium. Suggested donation: \$10 per class (\$5 for dues-paying All Souls members).

Meditation. Hugh Byrne leads sitting meditation with teaching and discussion. Sundays, 6:00–7:30 pm, Eaton Room. Information at the Insight Meditation Community of Washington website (www.imcw.org) or by emailing Hugh (hughgbyrne AT yahoo.com).

Body and Soul

Births and dedications. Kari Rowe and Jack Baker welcome daughter Pamela Constance Baker, whom they will call Lia.

Celebrations. Congratulations to Fred and Laura Tipson on their 40th wedding anniversary!

Illnesses and recoveries. Elizabeth King and Laurie Ensworth are struggling with health issues, as is former member Leon Wilson, now at Arlington. Tom Hargrave's sister has cancer. Akbar Sharif had surgery on his hand. Jorge Melger was hospitalized for kidney stones. Nancy Simon is recovering well after injuring her leg. Carrie Boyle badly injured her ankle. Nikevia Thomas had a frightening car accident, but was mercifully spared serious harm. Mary Ann Anderson had eye surgery. Jim Gavin, brother of Denise Gavin and brother-in-law of Denise's partner, Christine Burkhardt, is dying of end-stage lung cancer. Laiold Street was hospitalized.

Departures. We said goodbye to Rev. Joyce Palmer, who has moved to Milwaukee, and to Lorie Allion and Buddy Adams, who have moved to Tennessee. Justin Kerlina is off to boot camp at Paris Island.

Passings. Our sympathies to the loved ones of Brenda Barron's uncle, Elmer; Juanita Gallion's mother, Sally; Harold Snider; and Jorge Melgar, who was a student in the All Souls ESL program and regular attendee at our worship services.

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MISSION and ENDS STATEMENTS (under review)

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 AT allsouls.ws](mailto:spirit@allsouls.ws).

Upcoming deadlines:

September issue: August 22
October issue: September 19

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