

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Visiting Lay Eucharistic
Ministry (PVLEM) *continued*

Washington and work closely with the clergy of All Souls to ensure that all pastoral needs within the parish are addressed.

Personnel

Personnel Committee

Staffing Activities at All Souls

The Personnel Committee was reconstituted with four Vestry members, *GENE SEXTON*, Chair, *JENNIFER CRIER JOHNSTON*, *MAT MOTEN*, and *RICHARD RUBIN*. The committee has worked to ensure that All Souls' personnel policies and compensation schedule accord with diocesan guidelines, a challenge in this last year's budgetary climate.

Worship

Acolyte Guild
Centering Prayer
Chancel Guild
Choir/Music Program
Flower Guild
Lay readers
Seminarian Committee
Ushers

Acolyte Guild ✠

A MINISTRY OF LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE. The members of the All Souls Acolyte Guild serve as attendants and assistants during Mass in a number of roles that keep each ceremony of worship moving smoothly; each role gives the acolyte a slightly different perspective on the church service and liturgy. All Souls acolytes are a diverse group, representative of our church community. If you, or your children, would like to participate in church services as an acolyte please contact *PAUL CARTER*.

Centering Prayer group ✠

ALL SOULS CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP. The group meets Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. in the Mary Chapel for a service that includes gospel readings and periods of silent and intercessory prayer. the service lasts approximately an hour, and on the third Wednesday of each month the group prays the rosary. (Enter through the Woodley Place door.) After the service, the group gathers in the library for refreshments.

The group also provides prayer request cards (available in the back of the nave each Sunday) on which parishioners may submit the names of those in need of prayer. Ask *RAM HANSEN* for details.

Chancel Guild ✠

CARING FOR THE IMPLEMENTS OF WORSHIP. Assuring that the focal point of All Souls' worship glows with quiet beauty is the responsibility of the Chancel Guild. Its members care for the silver, linens, altar hangings, candles, vestments, and all other liturgical items used in our worship services. Much of the work of the guild, led

Worship—
Chancel Guild *continued*

by *ED PERLMAN*, takes place on Thursday mornings. Members try to attend the Thursday morning Mass, and they offer their service in thanksgiving for the Thursday morning Mass community.

Choir/Music Program

A JOYOUS NOISE. The choir sings for the 11 a.m. service from Ingathering Sunday (following Labor Day) through Pentecost or Trinity Sunday, and for special services on Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Easter Vigil, and All Souls Day. They rehearse on Sunday mornings before the service as well as once a month after the service. The choir has 20 members and averages 15-16 persons on any given Sunday morning.

Music Director *SAMUEL BAKER* says that the choir's musical focus is on unaccompanied music from the 16th, 17th, and 20th centuries because the All Souls organ is not well suited to choral accompaniment. Highlights of the past year include: A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols on Rose Sunday (Advent 3), A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols on Christmas 1, and sung Mass settings on Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, and All Souls Day.

FATHER VAN DOOREN reports that he and the Vestry have agreed that, until the parish's financial situation improves considerably, the question of whether to replace the organ will be held in abeyance.

Generous gifts from *ED GRAVES* and *PAUL CARTER* and from *LAMAR SMITH* enabled the installation of a system to record services at All Souls. The system records clergy, choir, and congregation and can be used for

weekly services, weddings, funerals, concerts, or any other event for which an aural record is desired. The library of weekly services is available to shut-ins, travelers, or anyone who wants to hear or rehear a service. Contact *SAMUEL BAKER* for details.

Flower Guild ☼

“ . . . THE HOUR OF GLORY IN THE FLOWER.” The committee, chaired by *JENNIFER CRIER JOHNSTON*, supplies the glory of flowers arranged by *WAYNE BRYANT* to the chancel and chapel altars—and to the whole church on Holy Days. *BARRY HUBER* schedules dedications of both flowers and the sanctuary candle.

Lay Readers ☼

ONE WORD, MANY VOICES. It is led by priests, but our liturgy is richly enhanced by the people, among them the lay readers who faithfully read the lessons and prayers of the people at both the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses. And more of the people are sharing the joys of reading, reports *PAT DRESSER*, chair of the committee. Where there were 41 readers last year, there are 46 now.

Seminarian Committee ☼

The Seminarian Committee, convened by *GEORGE BARNUM*, supports and guides the development as a priest of our field education student from Virginia Theological Seminary, *CARRIE SCHOFIELD-BROADBENT*. The committee meets with Carrie regularly, providing counsel and loving critique of her growth as a preacher, pastor, and leader. We are fortunate to have welcomed Carrie as a middler (a second year seminary student),

Worship—

Seminarian Committee *continued*

and that she will continue with us through her graduation from VTS in June, 2003. Serving on the committee are *SARA JOHNSON, LEONORA NEVILLE, HEIDI RASCINER, and JOHN MICHAEL SOPHOS.*

Ushers ☞

THIS WAY, PLEASE. Ushers set the tone of friendly welcome that is All Souls' trade mark. Beyond meeting and greeting and dispensing the bulletin, they are the facilitators of the Mass: collecting the offering; guiding people to the communion rail; helping with other needs as they arise. After the service, the ushers collect any remaining bulletins, clean up the pews, and assure that the offering is secured in the parish safe. They also try to find the owner of items left in the pews or, failing that, take them to the lost and found box in the volunteers office. Consult *BUTCH BRADBURN* if you think you'd like to serve on All Souls' front line.





THE MISSION OF ALL SOULS CHURCH IS TANGIBLY MANIFESTED IN THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH. HERE BEGINS A SERIES OF SPECIAL REPORTS THAT FOCUSES ON SPECIFIC MINISTRIES. EACH YEAR WE WILL LOOK AT ONE OR TWO MINISTRIES, TO GET A CLEARER VIEW OF THEIR HUMAN DIMENSIONS.

Poetry & Potluck ✨

To get a clearer view of the human dimensions of one of All Souls' more unusual ministries—Poetry & Potluck—FRED JORDAN sat down for this conversation with its chair, MICHAEL DAVID.

- FJ: How did you become involved with Poetry and Potluck?
- MD: I went to one when the Young Adults group was sponsoring it because my curiosity was piqued, and found it very enjoyable, coming as I do from an English Lit and poetry background when I was in college a million years ago.
- FJ: What is the reason that the young adults no longer sponsor it?
- MD: I am not really sure. The Witters (Ray Christian Witter and Julie Kara McConnell—ed.) were the organizers. They left to go to seminary. John David asked me to honcho it.
- FJ: As a young adult yourself? (*Laughter*)
- MD: As a young adult myself. I understand they are in Durham, N.C.
- FJ: So, you said yes to Father John David?
- MD: Yes. That must have been the better part of a year ago. After his sabbatical...in the Autumn sometime.
- FJ: What have you found to be the most difficult part of being in charge of Poetry & Potluck?

- MD: Nothing. Oh, a minimal frustration is getting the attendance up a little bit and getting people interested in it who should be interested in it.
- FJ: What are the most positive things that come out of this job for you?
- MD: Seeing keen people just being themselves in an unexpected venue. You have seen the bumper stickers that say "Kill Your Television"? We all know "Thou shalt not kill". . . . nevertheless. Poetry is such a refreshing entertainment that is 180 degrees from mass entertainment. Seeing a wide array of parishioners and friends enjoying themselves, it's wonderful.
- FJ: I don't think there is a Biblical injunction against unplugging.
- MD: So the bumper stickers could be rephrased to just "Unplug Your Television."
- MD: I had friends that did that, and their kids turned out pretty good.
- FJ: Do you have any goals for growth?
- MD: No. If I had a goal it might be to share our success with other parishes in the diocese; show them that this is something they could do. Both the potluck and the poetry are pretty self explanatory.
- FJ: Tell me more about the kind of poetry that one hears.
- MD: We have all kinds. We have people writing their own and very talented people they are. We have people that are extremely knowledgeable about poetry and that branch of literature.

Jim Child, who most people know from his chairmanship of the Adult Forum, is extremely knowledgeable about poetry and gets a big bang out of it. It's a fun thing to see people like that enjoying themselves.

What I like most about it is that there are very few rules and regs. I encourage people to come even if they don't want to read. Remember, I encouraged you to come the other night, and you didn't read, and that is fine.

FJ: You need an audience.

MD: We had a good size group, 19, which might not be the largest we have had. My initial meeting with the young adults was more than 19. The 19 we had Friday the 8th (of March) was a nice size. Three tables. This is not the kind of thing people will come out for at the end of a work week when they are tired unless they really enjoy it.

FJ: Do you have any plans to keep or expand the number of young adults attending?

MD: I haven't seen many young people since that initial Friday night I told you about. There were couples that I have never seen since. I don't know whether they were members of the congregation or people from the neighborhood.

We have a cadre now of, I would say, middle age and older folks. It would be nice to have younger people.

FJ: Do you have a committee?

MD: No, but I would like to have some more help recruiting people. Some people that attend like to have a theme for each evening. I am ambivalent about that, but maybe we can have one poet for one evening, someone prolific like Frost, Wordsworth, or Coleridge, and talk about that one poet. We can also expand more on the meaning of the poems that we hear. But that means a group smaller than 19, in order to give everybody an opportunity to participate and still get out of the Undercroft at a reasonable hour. Most people want to wind it up by 9:30 or 10. Three hours is a good long evening.

FJ: I was surprised by the entertainment value of the evening. You mentioned the restorative value of the evening. I found that—I felt restored—and I wasn't expecting it. How do you manage to communicate the themes to people?

MD: I haven't been real good about that. We have notices in the Sunday bulletin and on the signup sheet in the Undercroft where you sign up for a dish according to the first initial of your last name. I did that because we had one evening where the entire meal was entrees made of noodles, and we didn't have any dessert. You are laughing, but you should have been there. Not good not having dessert. This way we have a starter

course, an entree, and dessert. The quality of the food is improving. Father John David is a big supporter. He makes announcements about the sessions and sometimes comes himself.

FJ: Yes, I have heard him recommending it to people. Anything else you want people to know about poetry and potluck?

MD: I welcome all people, their guests, their friends, their family members, and neighbors. Any time you spin more strands of the web that binds us together, that is good. There has been some thought about having it every month. I think that may be too frequent. Every other month may be better.

FJ: But if anyone that reads disagrees with that, you will be glad to listen?

MD: I am very accessible. Put my telephone number down (301/270-4347). I always return calls. We don't use the term warm and fuzzy here very much, but that is what these evenings are. It is a very unpretentious, fun evening that allows people to be themselves and learn and share.

All Souls’ Sunday School

All Souls’ Sunday school program is a work in progress. But, then, it has always been. A conversation between FRED JORDAN and SUSAN MORRISON, who is heading up the team trying to build a program of religion education that works.

FJ: Someone said you are going to do Montessori teaching in Sunday school. Tell me what that’s about.

SM: This is for the kids up to fourth grade; for the younger kids. It’s called Catechesis: a very hands-on approach. (“Teaching by word of mouth” is one dictionary definition-Ed.) Montessori may have gotten a bad name, but is essentially self-education by the children themselves, that is, learning by doing. That is pretty Christian. Linda Martin, who has trained in Montessori and is my partner in this effort, is very interested. She and Will Coley, who is a talented teacher, and I inspected the program at Virginia Theological Seminary.

It struck us that this is not only a way to teach the younger children but, as well, a way to involve people of the parish in Sunday school who don’t want to teach. The approach requires all kinds of props, for lack of

a better term. There are people in the parish who have the skills to make such props—a sign, for instance, or a scroll. This could offer them a chance for a little giving back to each other without a commitment to teaching a class. It offers all kinds of benefits to involvement.

I have been involved in Christian education since my kids came. That was about ten years ago. I will never forget one Sunday, someone said, “This is the birthday of the All Souls baby.” Not a new baby; the only baby, and he was four. When my kids came along, we had a critical mass of four children. This was 13 years ago. We began to see that the way to get something is to grow your own.

We have gone through several evolutions of Christian education in this church.

FJ: Can you go through them just briefly?

SM: One was a one-room school house, when we had a small group of children. It was focused on the service, on the sacrament. We had a little altar and would go through services: the smells and bells of our religion, rather than the stories of our religion.

We then had enough kids to break into classes. We had the traditional Episcopal curriculum, which works great for the younger kids but not for the older kids. But that was all right because we didn’t have any older

kids. I think our challenge now is instead of focusing on the trees, we are going to have to focus on the forest. The trees grow. We now have a group of older kids.

FJ: And we need a comprehensive program?

SM: It is tough to get teenagers into Christian education. Linda is going to take the Catechesis. I am going to worry about the big picture, and I am going to worry about the older kids. That is my challenge.

FJ: What are your preliminary thoughts about what you are going to do?

SM: We are wrestling with that. Will is helping with it. We don't take over until Fall. In the meantime, we are not going to respond to immediate crises in the Sunday school. We (at All Souls) have tried a whole lot of different things. You can get in a position where you are putting your thumb in the dike at the same time you are building the dike. That means that the dike doesn't get very tall.

That's our goal: to make Christian education manageable and useful.

The Vestry has been generous with us. Faced with the choice between spending our money on all the beautiful things at the expense of education—they chose the latter, and I think that what we have is a church that is representative of the community. But we have not spent all the money they gave us.

FJ: What T.S. Eliot would have called the objective correlative of All Souls occurred the Sunday we had an infant baptism, the baptism of a young man, and a recognition of the adoption of a child by a gay couple. Nobody said a word of interpretation, like, "Oh, look what this means!" It was just there for all to see. Stunning!

SM: The leadership of our parish has decided that the treasure, the monetary treasure, will be there. The other treasure we know is there, too: our children. We have the treasures of resource and recipients.

FJ: There is a third treasure, isn't there? The willingness of adults to perform . . .

SM: That's talent, as in time, treasure, and talent. By the end of May, we will have a pretty good plan for putting them all together. We will make a proposal to the parish.



Colophon

The *2001 Annual Report* was written by Fred Jordan with information provided by the chairs of the committees and ministries of All Souls and designed by Barry Huber. The typeface used is Palatino.