

The All Souls' Message

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church • Volume 107, Issue 6 • December 2008/January 2009

From the Rector

Navigating the New Years

Because this issue of *The Message* covers the months of December and January, it allows us to think about the beginning of two new years, the liturgical new year and the secular one. Our church year ended with the week following Christ the King Sunday on November 23. The new church year began with the First Sunday of Advent, November 30.

Each church year focuses on one Gospel. In Year A the church hears primarily from the Gospel of Matthew. Year B, which we are just beginning, allows us to hear mostly from the Gospel of Mark. Year C draws primarily from Luke. The Gospel of John is read in each of the years, particularly during the seasons of Lent and Easter.

One way of preparing for the new year might involve our looking into Mark's Gospel and noting some of the characteristics that are peculiar to it. Mark is thought to have been the first Gospel written. There is no story of Jesus' birth. Instead, the Gospel begins with a story about John the Baptist and Jesus first enters the Gospel when he is baptized by John. The Gospel takes off from there, speeding along with the frequent use of the word, "immediately." The story reveals Jesus as the Son of God, but also as a somewhat mysterious healer and miracle worker. Mark often refers to Jesus as "Son of Man," a term that has deep associations with several passages in the Old Testament and would have connected very significantly with Mark's Jewish hearers. Jesus continually asks the disciples

“
...the new
church year
actually helps us
get ready
for the new
secular year.
”

to help him keep secret that he is the Messiah. The Gospel culminates in the account of the crucifixion and resurrection.

Highlighting aspects of Mark's Gospel can help us get ready to enter a new church year, but what might help us enter a new secular year?

We have made it through national elections, but serious questions about our country and our economy continue. Many in our community find themselves in changed financial situations. Our parish budget feels the strain, as do most of our family budgets. To get ready for the new secular year we might put away holiday decorations, clean out our closets, arrange bills and receipts, and try to

put things in some kind of order. But in a very real way, our getting ready for the new church year actually helps us get ready for the new secular year.

Mark's Gospel (like all of the Gospels) can speak truth into our lives. The Holy Spirit takes the Holy Gospel—what was spoken and repeated, then written down, then translated, and finally heard again by our ears—and helps us to hear God's word to us. We hear God's word as it helps us navigate the uncertainty ahead and helps us to celebrate the blessings we enjoy.

The Good News (or Gospel) of Christmas is that Jesus Christ is born for us, that God has become flesh to save us, to redeem us, to love us, and to lead us to God. One Christmas hymn puts it this way, "God comes down that we may rise, lifted by him to the skies; Christ is born for us that we born again in him may be." May we lift up one another and may we be lifted up by Christ as we enter these new years in faith and hope.

*Blessings this Christmas
and Epiphany*

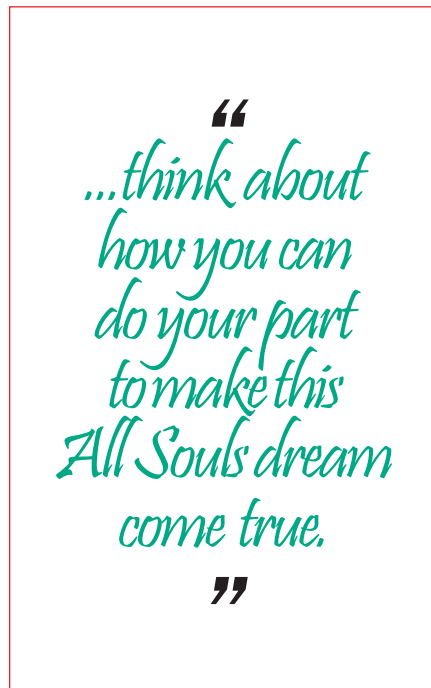
John Beddingfield ✧

In This Issue is on page 4.

After a lot of work and thought, we have, with the assistance of our architect, Marc Fetterman, devised a draft plan that will make our church buildings totally accessible for all. In order to accomplish everything we need to do, we need a little more building space than we currently have. The plan would call for extending the building out slightly from where it currently is. Where do we propose to do this? If you look at the west facade of the church from the Reflection Garden, you will notice that the building is recessed slightly as you look towards the area where the bathrooms are located. Plans call for extending the building so that it is flush straight across. You will probably have to go look at the area in question for this to make sense to you! The best news about this design is that we will not have to break through walls into the church nave and the elevator won't be positioned where it might disrupt worship.

The Latest Technology Brings Us a New Type of Elevator

A new type of elevator exists that is highly energy efficient, would not require a hydraulic lift, and would not require us to increase the amount of electricity currently in the building. While satisfying all the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), it would do everything we need it to do, without having to set aside space for a mechanical room and the other trappings associated with elevators. On the building plan you see on the facing page, look for the red shape on the plans. That represents our future elevator.



It is important to note that all of this work should be part of one project and not done piecemeal. To do any part of this work in the area indicated would require demolition and rebuilding, and it is impossible not to do it as one unified project. All of these new features are equally needed at any rate. We will be getting back to you soon with more information. In the meantime, think about how you can do your part to make this All Souls dream come true. If we work together to secure funding and endure the demolition and construction phases, we will be well positioned for the second century of our life as a parish.

Ray Myrtle ✨

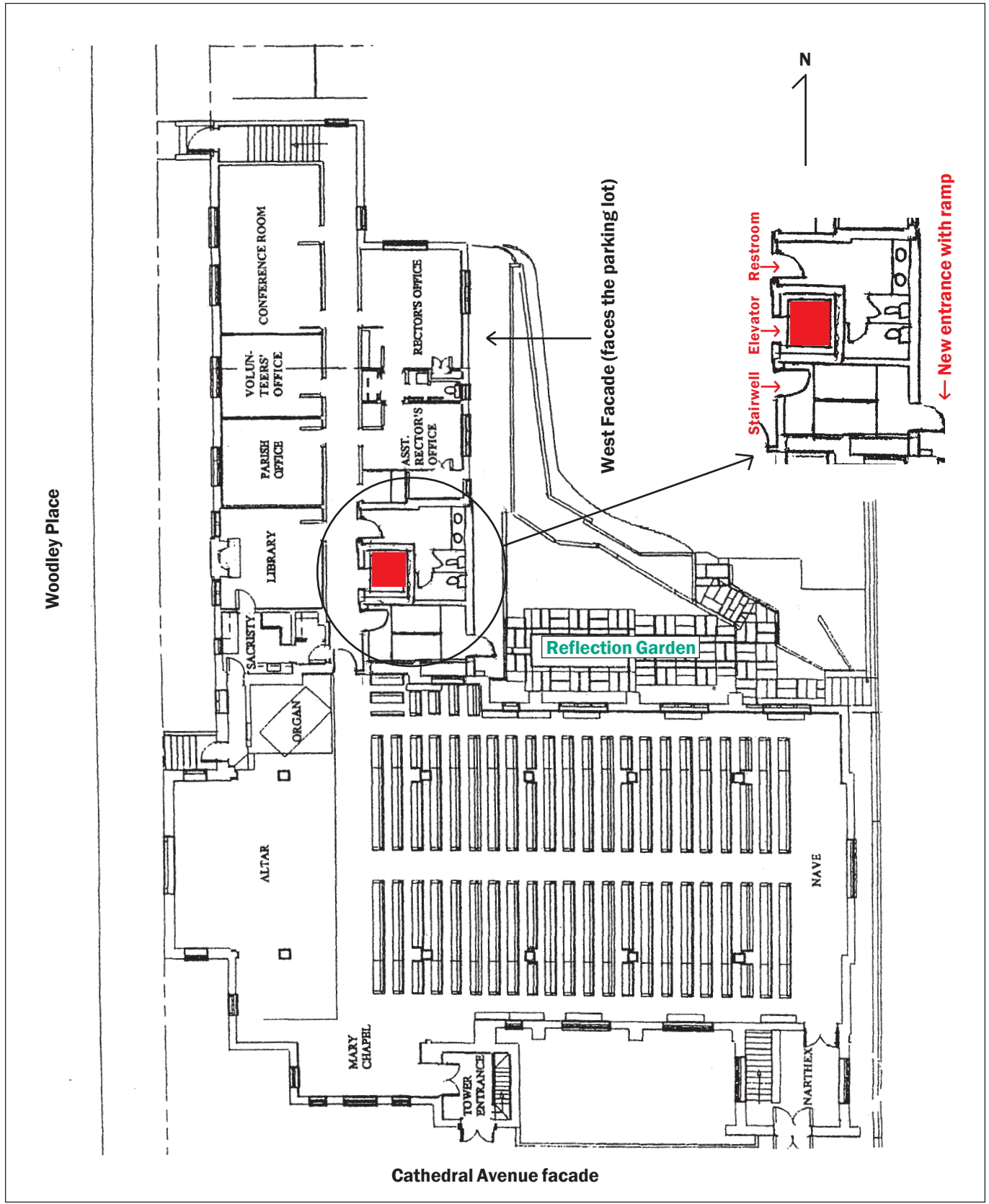
Accessible Restroom Facilities

These are long overdue at All Souls and many of our restrooms are quite old and decrepit anyway. The current proposal is to wrap these around the elevator on each floor. You will see them on the building plan. As noted, there will be one on each floor, one for women and one for men, that will accommodate two people at a time, each fully accessible, and containing new plumbing fixtures.

Staircase Replacement

The staircases in this area, must, as we reinvent this area of the building to accommodate accessibility, be altered as well. You have probably noted that they are narrow and only allow one person to walk up or downstairs on them at a time. According to ADA, these must be widened to four feet. Probably, we will require a new entrance to provide access from the parking area to the elevator as well.

Draft Accessibility Plan for All Souls is on the facing page.



NEWS FLASH:

The holidays are close at hand!!

Some of us await the arrival of Christmas with great anticipation—others with more of a sense of dread. Some are overwhelmed by a sense of obligation and others invite opportunities to bring joy and hope. For me the holidays have changed over the years—or could it be that I have changed?

I still: go to church; sing carols; decorate; bake; inhale all of the wonderful smells of Christmas; go to parties; wear sparkly clothes—and yes, believe in Santa Claus.

Here’s what I don’t do: feel stressed out; expect perfection (from myself or others); need presents (but if I get some it’s nice); spend hours at the Mall; go into debt; or sing “Happy Birthday Jesus” (very cute if you’re 6—not so much at 60).

My granny practiced “radical hospitality” and “spontaneous generosity,” not just at Christmas, but all the time. There was always an extra place set at her table for every meal—a “just in case” place—should someone happen in. She routinely gave away her crafts to visitors who admired them. She worked outside her home for many years. She was a

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church, family,
friends and food.
”

mom, grandmom, great-grandmom, cook, and crafter. She was an industrious, practical, creative, can-do, fearless woman who was sparkly, funny, competent, generous, assertive, and sometimes outrageous. She survived the Great Depression, the loss of her only son, cancer, and marriage to my cranky old grandpa for more than 65 years. I asked her about those extra table settings and giving away her favorite craft pieces. She answered in her most matter-of-fact manner: “Jesus expects us to extend hospitality to everyone—not just people we like” and “Well, you wouldn’t expect me to give people things I didn’t like or want, would you?”

Most of our Christmas memories consist of church, family, friends, and food. I don’t remember what gift I received at age 6, 16, or 60. I do remember placing Baby Jesus in the creche at church, the smell of evergreens, candles, visiting my cousins, and my Granny’s ambrosia and coconut cake. In the end, even Scrooge came to understand the value of REAL hospitality and TRUE generosity. May your holidays be filled with all of the gifts God’s Son brings to us, and may you enjoy all of the blessings that Church, family, music, and food bring to this holiday season.

If you find yourself in my neighborhood, stop in for Christmas cookies and hot chocolate—and if you REALLY fall in love with one of my goofy handmade decorations, I’ll give you one. No bah, humbug here!!

GOD BLESS US, EVERY ONE

Nancye Suggs ✨

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The Message is published every two months except for a June/July/August issue and a single issue in September.

Since our initial Endowment grants were made in the Spring, the Vestry and Board have approved two additional grants. \$1,000 was given to Hoops Sagrado for underprivileged D.C. high school students to travel to Guatemala. They participate in an intense Spanish language program in the morning and then teach basketball to young Mayan students in the afternoon. This year the group worked with 100 children in four villages. In addition, each D.C. student must raise \$100 to donate to the Mayan students for scholarships to attend high school.

A second grant of \$10,000 was made toward the costs of the nursery renovation here in our parish. The new nursery is now complete and being enjoyed by our young children.

Pat Dresser,
Endowment Fund Board Chair ✧

Applications for grants from the All Souls Endowment Fund for 2009 are available in the parish office. Grants may be made for projects in ministry or mission as well as for capital improvements. All applications are due in the office by February 7, 2009, and will be acted upon by the Board and Vestry. The Endowment has been funded by bequests from past generations of parishioners at All Souls. The grants we make now are the fruits of the ministry of those who have gone before us. The projects made possible by the Endowment are in addition to the outreach efforts of the current congregation and those funded by the All Souls annual budget. For any questions regarding grants, please contact Pat Dresser, Chair, or Mike McGee, Secretary.

Pat Dresser,
Endowment Fund Board Chair ✧

All Souls Memorial Church
requests the honor
of your presence,
for the Foyer Dinner Program
Beginning February, 2009.
Homes of parishioners.
RSVP by
2009 Foyer Dinner
signup sheet.

*Butch Bradburn &
Kathleen Scholl*

“
*An opportunity for fellowship
throughout the year.*
”

October 21, 2008 Meeting

The following items were discussed:

- a preliminary 2009 budget developed by the Treasurer and Finance Committee
- church investments
- plans for further action on handicapped accessibility.

The Junior Warden distributed copies of the Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Study.

November 18, 2008 Meeting

The following items were discussed;

- Father John asked our prayers for the sick in our parish. He gave us his schedule for the end of November and the month of December.

- The Treasurer reported on the current finances of the church through October 31, 2008. We have a deficit, and some pledges are not up to date in payment. There was also a discussion of the asking budget for 2009, and possible adjustments that may have to be made in some categories.
- The Senior Warden discussed the new procedure for the Christmas Giving Tree and asked for the Vestry to assist in getting the word out. We are also working on preparing our annual box for St. John's Hospital in Jerusalem filled with small stuffed animals and art supplies. We also have an opportunity to prepare shoe boxes for the poor

and homeless filled with toiletries and hats, scarves and gloves and socks and underwear.

- Marcia Anderson will be working with the Sunday School on an Advent Project to provide Malaria Nets for children in Africa. This is a project dear to Bishop Chane's heart. The children will do a skit during a coffee hour during Advent and will be asking us for change from our pockets. There are many opportunities for outreach during this Holy Season.

Nancye Suggs ✧



Since the middle of November, we have been selling pecan halves: plain, cinnamon glazed, and chocolate-covered clusters for your holiday cooking, gifts, and eating enjoyment. We also have Colonial Candles of Cape Cod and All Souls note cards. These goodies are available during the breakfast between masses and during coffee hour, and will continue until December 21 or until supplies are exhausted. Proceeds of the bazaar go to the Outreach Committee.

Butch Bradburn,
Holiday Bazaar chairman ✨



*It's almost time for your gifts
to the All Souls
Giving Tree.*

The Community of Hope has a new procedure for providing gifts to poor and homeless children in our area. They are requesting Target Gift Cards. These are the ways that you can participate:

1. Purchase a Target Gift Card (\$5, \$10, \$25 or \$50) and bring to the church. Place it in an envelope with your name in the corner and mark the envelope "Giving Tree" and place it in the collection plate, or leave it in the office, or give it to Nancye Suggs.
2. Write a check to All Souls Episcopal Church and write "Giving Tree" in the memo space. Place the check in an envelope and place it in the collection plate, bring it to the church office, or give it to Nancye Suggs.
3. Make a cash donation. Place the cash in an envelope with your name in the corner, addressed to "Giving Tree", and place it in the collection plate, or bring it to the church office or give it to Nancye Suggs.

I hope that this new system will enable more people to participate. The deadline for this activity is December 14. Thank you for helping with this outreach project.

Nancye Suggs ✨

A Time of Fun and Fellowship
**Annual Sunday School
Christmas Party**
*Saturday, December 13, 2008,
5-8 p.m.*

Please join us for this annual Christmas potluck. It's a fun way to celebrate the season. St. Nicholas will be stopping by to read the "Night before Christmas," and we will all share a wonderful meal. And bring a stuffed animal for the children at St. John Hospital in Jerusalem (See article in the next column.) All are welcome to attend.

RSVP to Marcia Anderson at marcia51@rcn.com. Please indicate what you will bring: appetizer, main dish, or dessert.

Marcia Anderson ✧

Our Advent Series—"Wednesdays in Advent"
From Darkness into Light: An Introduction to the Book of Isaiah

December 3, 10, & 17, 7-8:30 p.m.

For the first three Sundays in Advent, as well as on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, our first reading comes from the Old Testament book of Isaiah. Even though entire seminary courses may be taught on Isaiah or on sections of Isaiah, we will use three Wednesday nights in Advent to look at a bit of the history and context for Isaiah, and then look specifically at the passages of scripture we will be hearing this Advent and Christmas. We will begin with a simple potluck dinner, followed by the Bible study led by Father Beddingfield. If you can, read ahead and bring your questions.

Wednesday, December 3

A bit of history and background for Isaiah. Focus on Isaiah 64:1-9, the reading for the First Sunday of Advent.

Wednesday, December 10

Focus on the readings for the Second and Third Sundays of Advent, Isaiah 40:1-11 and Isaiah 61:1-11.

Wednesday, December 17

Focus on the readings for Christmas Eve, Isaiah 9:2-7, and Christmas Day, Isaiah 52:7-10.

John Beddingfield ✧

One of our holiday projects during Advent and Christmas at All Souls is to collect stuffed animals and art supplies for the pediatric patients at the St. John Hospital in Jerusalem. As you are doing your holiday shopping pick up a stuffed animal, boxes of crayons, marking pens, or drawing paper and bring them to the Undercroft or to the Sunday School Christmas Party, December 13. You will make a big difference for a needy child undergoing eye surgery in Jerusalem. We will collect these items until the Sunday after Christmas and then send them to the hospital. Our gifts go with shipments of medical supplies for the hospital. Thank you for bringing joy to a small child.

Pat Dresser ✧

In December 2008, the Adult Forum continues its focus on Anglican Lives. Each week we will learn about a particular person who has been formed or shaped by the Episcopal Church or another church within the Anglican Communion. Come and learn more about such people as Desmond Tutu, Dorothy Sayers, C.S. Lewis, and Evelyn Underhill, just to name a few.

In January 2009, we shift our focus to Anglican Explorations: Ethical Questions and Dilemmas at the Beginning and End of Life and the Points in Between. In this series, we look at issues such as cloning and stem cells, reproductive decision making (contraception, assisted reproduction, etc.), genetic screening and interventions, pediatric and adolescent issues (consent, etc.), withholding and withdrawing futile treatment, end of life care, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. There are still some Sunday open, if you would like to explore one of these topics and lead a discussion. Please speak with Dan Davis or Bob Publicover, coordinators. ✧

A Gathering of the Wise and Mature
Senior Lunch Bunch

As a special treat for our seniors each month, the Senior Ministry provides lunch after the noon Mass. The December lunch is being coordinated by Susan Morrison and Nancye Suggs and is on Wednesday, December 10. Also, mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 28, 2009. Please call the parish office at 202/232-4244 no later than Monday of the week of the lunch, to *let us know if you will be attending.*

Mark Hoffman ▽

A Sonnet for Epiphany

Simeon

Luke 2:25–40

With faltering steps he slowly found his way
To the temple he had served for many a year,
Allayed forever now his mortal fear
For Israel's fate: he gloried in that day
As the Holy Spirit summoned him to pray
His thanks to God that Heaven had drawn near,
The Lord's Anointed, destined to appear
To liberate a mankind gone astray.


So may we hearken to his temple prayer
To celebrate a Savior come to earth,
The glory of all nations. Let each one bear
To Christ the Lord, in honor of his birth
The gift of self to serve 'til our release,
Then grant, O Lord that we depart in peace.

—*Jim Child*



NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE is just after the holidays

Copy deadline for articles for the February/March 2009 issue of The Message
is January 4, 2009

Please have your articles in George Barnum's hands by that date. Electronic submission preferred at message.allsoulsdc@gmail.com. Please also send a copy to allsouls1@aol.com and to barrybutch@aol.com. Call George with story ideas, questions, and comments at (W) 202/512-1801, extension 32067, or (H) 202/986-2998. 

December

- 1 Stan Kelly
Annabelle Regensburger
- 2 Gary O'Neill
- 5 Wayland Jenkins
- 7 Derek Drummie
Ray Myrtle
- 8 Jane Cazimero
- 9 Arthur Warren
- 15 Lori Commins
- 20 Alix Woodall
- 24 Mimi Clark
Cesar Perez
- 25 George Barnum
- 26 Charles Clark
Leonora Neville
Judy Smith
- 28 Barry Huber
Diana Kunkel
Janet Jones

January

- 1 Betty Bird
Jean Chemnick
David Fernandez-Barrial
Javier Moncada
Kym Rogers
Gary Scott
Bill Welker
Jeff Wells
- 2 Daniel Miller
- 3 Jane Holloway
Jim Lewis
Joan Shapiro
Ruby Griffith
- 7 Davey Morse
- 8 Irene Butcher
Gabriel Haines
- 11 Anna Menard Clark
- 12 Ellie Martin
- 13 Finn Anzalone
Dan Davis
- 14 Nathan Tsoi
- 20 Tud Steene
- 21 Nancy Charlton
- 24 Ed Perlman

Honoring the Great Sacrament of

Baptism If your name is missing from this list and you would like to receive a baptism anniversary card from the church, or if there is a mistake, please call the parish office at 202/232-4244, and ask for Barry Huber. ✨

Baptisms

October 12, 2008
Alessandro Francesco
Canfora Lyons

Burials

October 15, 2008
Calrice Gardner Gayle

Confirmations

November 1, 2008
Jessie Lynn Barnes
McKenzie Renee Barnes
Colin Alexandra Barnes

Marriages & Blessings

October 11, 2008
Geraldine Idrizzi &
Brent Hayhurst
(by the Rev. Luis Leon
of St. John's Church)

October 11, 2008

Jospeh Mantessa &
William Molasso

Reception

November 1, 2008
Brendan Glendining Doyle

Transfers In

None

Transfers Out

None

The All Souls Message

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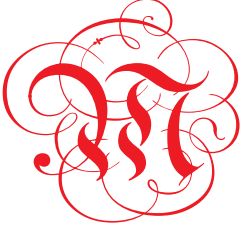
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William Miller
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Robert Publicover
Stephen Rhody
James Solomon
Larry Sturgeon, *treasurer*
Nancye Suggs, *senior warden*

The mission of All Souls Church is to be a Christ-centered sanctuary where a diverse community worships and serves. We live this mission through faithful celebration of the Eucharist, Christian education, and loving nurture of both members and neighbors. ✨

The All Souls Message

December 2008/January 2009

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church
2300 Cathedral Avenue, NW
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ay the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

*The staff of All Souls Parish wish you
the very best of all God's blessings
in this season and for the new year.*