
The All Souls' Message

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church • Volume 62, Issue 6 • December 2011/January 2012


From the Rector

Preparing for Winter


For several days in September, I was able to get away to Holy Cross Monastery: an Anglican Benedictine retreat house on the Hudson River, just across from Poughkeepsie. Over the twenty years or so that I've been visiting, I've sometimes noticed on their calendar a spring or fall "gardening retreat," though my schedule never seemed to coincide with the dates. Finally, this year, I was able to attend.

For four days, a small group of us prayed with the monks in the chapel; and in between prayers, we worked outside. We deadheaded Black-eyed Susan and Echinacea, cleared peony beds and added mulch, and pulled weeds. We clipped and cut out dead limbs, mindful that, as winter comes, the plants and trees would need all their strength to withstand the wind, snow, and ice.

Somehow, I became the wheelbarrow guy. I must have loaded and hauled twenty or thirty wheelbarrow loads, emptying them out on a compost heap. As I worked and prayed with the other gardeners, I felt like God was teaching me a few things that week. God taught me about pruning, about protecting for the upcoming season, and about the use of compost.



I had mostly thought of spring as being the time for pruning. But there is also fall pruning.



Until the retreat, I had mostly thought of spring as the time for pruning. During Lent, both the season and the scriptures have highlighted the way things are pruned to allow for new growth. But there is also fall pruning. In autumn, pruning gets rid of whatever is extra or has lost its usefulness. It cuts back to the essentials so that the plant can remain strong in the coming season. Pruning helped me think about places in my own life that have become overgrown and cumbersome.

During the retreat, we also tried to add protection to plants and shrubs for the winter weather. In some cases, we added supports. In other cases, we provided mulch. This reminded me that my own spirit might need some extra protection for storms or trials or challenges that may come. Perhaps my own spirit could use the

support of some new discipline of prayer or study. Perhaps I should be more attentive to the ways in which other people add support and strength to my life.

As I kept dumping weeds and other debris on the compost pile, it occurred to me that composting is a little like confession. We bring all the various things we no longer need—our weaknesses and problem places, our wrongs and our sins—and we place them before God. And God takes away our sins, as if placing them on a great compost heap. Once there, they don't just disappear. We can see them change over time, with God's care and with God's grace. Like refuse that changes into compost that will be useful again, our sins and shortcomings are eventually changed by God into things that help us move forward, that teach us, and that show us how to be more loving.

The root word of humility is "humus": the ground, the dirt, the compost. At Christmas we proclaim that God has come into the world in humility to be grounded like us, to be human like us. As we prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, may we allow God to rid us of what's extraneous: to forgive us of sin, and to help us grow into more loving and faithful people. ✧


John Beddingfield

In This Issue is on page 4.


This article will primarily be a big THANK YOU to everyone who made the two weekends of centennial events so successful.

Now, before I jump into the “thank yous,” let me try to establish a bit of perspective that should be relevant to everything that we’re going to do in the next few years. I think that I am pretty much in touch with the strengths and the shortcomings of All Souls. Looking at our centennial, let me point out a couple of considerable parish strengths to you. Most importantly, pulling off those past two weekends was the work of a significant number of individuals and families in this parish. There were definitely some heroic efforts, but the events happened because a lot of people engaged—not just because of the heroic efforts of a few. Second, the people who said that they would do things actually did them. Ten people signed up to set up for the 1911 Dinner, and eleven signed up for clean-up afterwards. The setup was easy (we were ready with time to spare) and clean-up went quickly (I couldn’t even get near a sink to help!), so that all-in-all we were done at a very civilized hour.

The fact that parishioners so reliably support these events means that we can feel good about scheduling them in the future.



The centennial events happened because a lot of people engaged—not just because of the heroic efforts of a few.



SO NOW ON WITH THE “THANK YOUS”—and humblest apologies as well, in case there’s anyone I forgot:

TO FATHER JOHN for seeing to every detail of the great centennial worship services and for making sure that nothing fell through the cracks...and for not reading too much of the Rev. Dr. Sterrett’s philosophy at the 1911 Dinner.

TO MARCIA ANDERSON for everything she did to make the Open House a success and for seeing to the main course for our (very well attended) 1911 Dinner.

TO BARRY HUBER for his wonderful graphics work (*inter alia*, the outstanding stained glass self-guided tour booklet and a picture-perfect centennial brochure).

TO ED McALLISTER for his marvelous decorations for the 1911 Dinner.

TO DONNA WHITED and the choir for all the beautiful musical contributions, particularly a magnificent Choral Evensong.

TO JENNIFER CRIER JOHNSTON AND SUSAN MORRISON for filling in lots of gaps and keeping the kitchen on track.

TO JAMES GASSER AND GREGORY RAMSEY for the glorious tea after the Choral Evensong.

TO THE GARDEN GUILD for making sure, as always, that the All Souls grounds looked so lovely.

THANK YOU, ALL!


Things can get hard in the middle of October. I’m caught in the wake of a job change at the first of October (a very good change, I assure you, but I sure miss my old team), along with two weekends of centennial, and now it’s about an hour from leaving on vacation to think about Christmas. About the only thing that occurs to me now—but it’s relevant, I think—is the extraordinary peace that I experience as I am headed home after the Midnight Mass (fresh snow on the ground and a clear, cold night really make it right). That’s about as close as I get to experiencing the Kingdom of Heaven. As a parish, let’s pray about how we extend that peace to the people who come in our doors. And, certainly, I wish you that peace throughout the Christmas season and always. ✨

Dale Lewis


It is Autumn, with the leaves either turning or turned; pumpkins have been carved and discarded or smashed up for soup or even pumpkin-flavored coffee (do they cook the coffee in the pumpkin? Or strain the pumpkin flesh into boiling coffee? I never quite figured that one out!). And here in the United States, it is Thanksgiving time.

Many years ago, when I was planning to come to the United States, I ventured up to London and the U.S. Consulate to apply for a visa to the land of opportunity. It was an ordinary week in November—foggy, cold, with chances of rain—when I approached the front door of the consulate building. I was very impressed by the height of the U.S. Marine, his chest decorated with a phalanx of medals, white braid all over the place, white gauntlets on his arms that were folded across his chest. This magnificent figure, bearing some resemblance to a genie from the Arabian Nights and surely seven feet tall, barred my way into the magic kingdom of visa applications.

Yours truly, only five feet and two inches of me, peered up at this tower of strength. “Excuse me, but I have come to get my visa for America.” The genie peered down at the curly headed redhead, bundled up as if venturing to the North Pole, and responded in the deepest baritone voice (a cross between opera singers Paul Robeson and George London), “We are closed, ma’am.” Well, we all know that only the Queen is addressed as Ma’am, and I certainly was not she! Knowing that this was a term of great respect, I put on my brave go-to-meet-the-Queen-at-a-garden party face and enquired “Why?” “It’s



Yes, this is the land
of opportunity
to help others less
fortunate than
ourselves by giving
of our time,
our talent,
our treasure—
and our thanks.



Thanksgiving, ma’am,” he responded. To which I replied, “Thanksgiving for ‘wot’?” I do not remember how or if the conversation continued, but I now know all about the “wot.”

It is Thanksgiving for living in this land of opportunity, for good health, for good friends, for my family, for the loving and faithful community of All Souls Church, and for ‘all the blessings of this life’.

It is Thanksgiving for being given the opportunity to pursue a career that pleases me, to live in a beautiful and vibrant city. The traffic may be stopped yet again for the President or a visiting dignitary, but I can see the Capitol dome from my balcony, see herons as I drive along the water to my office. It is Thanksgiving for

the knowledge that every Wednesday morning I can bring a little joy into the lives of the homeless at breakfast at Christ House. Yes this *is* the land of opportunity, opportunity to help others less fortunate than we are. So as we contemplate all the things we are thankful for let us share our thanks with the less fortunate—volunteer, donate food or clothes, or time. That is the time of which we speak when we talk of our gifts to the church of time, talent, and treasure.

There are so many ways to give: in addition to *time* given (in volunteering in the garden, in the office, singing in the choir, preparing food here or at a soup kitchen), there is no virtue in hiding one’s *talents* under a bushel (whether they concern computer knowledge, bookkeeping, cooking, event planning, filing, archiving, decorating, and so on). But finally, consider giving of your *treasure*; yours might come in the form of cash or check, or proceeds from the sale of those antiques you do not need anymore, or donations to a particular fund, or those undefinable treasures such as useful contacts with contractors, builders, kitchen renovators, and suppliers.

No matter how you give of your time, talent, and treasure, be sure to give with thanks. ✨

Jennifer Crier Johnston

Brenda Sol joined All Souls this fall as our seminarian. She is a senior at Virginia Theological Seminary and a candidate for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Olympia in Washington State. Before heading East, Brenda began her theological studies in an ecumenical program housed in Seattle University. As part of her discernment process, she spent a year doing ministry at Our Little Roses: a home for abused, abandoned and neglected girls in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Brenda was raised in rural North-eastern Montana—specifically a town called Wolf Point, located on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. She holds a BS in elementary education and a master’s degree in spiritual psychology. Since it took her a very long time to decide what she *really* wanted to be when she grew up, Brenda has worked in roles including teaching, accounting, administration, personal coaching; she



Our seminarian emphasizes education, multiculturalism, women's empowerment, and hospitality.



worked most recently as a director of marketing and membership. The common components in this mix have always been education, multiculturalism, women’s empowerment, and encouragement of the same hospitality she learned growing up next door to her grandmother’s tavern.

Although missing her two cats, who now live with her parents in Montana, Brenda is enjoying community life in the VTS dorms and the daily rhythm of corporate worship. When she last had time to read for fun, she enjoyed the novel, *Cutting for Stone*...and her current, favorite question to ponder is: “How can we as Episcopalians stop treating our faith as if it should remain a ‘best-kept secret’?” If you haven’t already, be sure you introduce yourself to Brenda. She’s only with us until May! ✨

Clergy Notes

A Season of Ordinations



December 10, 2011

*Norman Whitmire
Ordination to the Priesthood,
St. Stephen's Church, Richmond, Virginia
at 10:00 a.m.*



January 17, 2012

*Brenda Sol,
Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate,
St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle Washington
at 7:00 p.m.*



January 22, 2012

*Seth Walley
Ordination to the Priesthood,
St. Peter's Church, Oxford, Mississippi
at 5:30 p.m.*



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

The All Souls Message continues its occasional series from parishioners and volunteer staff with these reflections from the Rev. Christopher Worthley. Father Christopher Worthley assists Rector John Beddingfield most Sundays and preaches occasionally, all on a strictly volunteer basis.



*Reflections
on vocation—
and my
volunteer work
at All Souls.*



It is not uncommon for visitors and parishioners alike to ask me a question I often ask myself: “What do you do exactly?” By all outward appearances on a Sunday, I look, dress and perhaps even act as any associate parish priest might. I attend both masses on Sunday—the contemplative 8:30 mass and the ever-festive high mass at 11:00 a.m. I have a bit of breakfast and a lot of coffee and attend Adult Forum with the undercroft crowd. On most Sundays I can be found happily doing all these things at All Souls, though on some Sundays I am away for work...and that’s when the question tends to come: “What do you do exactly?”

The short answer is that, when not serving on Sundays as a volunteer assisting priest at All Souls, I am otherwise busy serving as the Executive Director of the Allianz Foundation for North America, a small corporate

foundation of the Munich-based financial services company, Allianz. Our mission is to empower young people to shape a secure future, and we do this through various youth development projects with not-for-profit partners in cities coast to coast: New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, San Francisco, San Diego – any city in which an Allianz company has a head office. I first began working for Allianz during the ten years I lived in Germany after college, after having first worked for a number of

years as a business journalist, based in Frankfurt. I returned to the US in 1999 to attend Yale Divinity School and soon found myself involved not only in theological study and the ordination process but also—as a freelance consultant anxious to earn money to eat while at seminary—with the creation of the Allianz Foundation, which I have directed since my graduation from YDS in 2002.

One of the Allianz projects closest to my heart is one I have directed for two years now, the Third Generation Initiative in partnership with the American Jewish Committee and Germany Close Up. The program is focused on German-Jewish dialogue and each year brings young Jewish professionals from the US to Germany to meet with business and nonprofit executives, academics and representatives of Germany’s once again vibrant Jewish community. Under Jim Child’s able tutelage here at All Souls, I have continued my study of Hebrew, which has proved very valuable in programs such as these. Such opportunities here in the parish also serve as a helpful reminder to me that everything I do is somehow connected and is indeed part of a larger ministry between—and in—different worlds. ✧

Father Christopher Worthley

The Centennial: 1911–2011

Centennial Insert Errata

IN THE RECENTLY DISTRIBUTED CENTENNIAL INSERT to the October/November issue of *The Message*, two errors were discovered. Both relate to the stations of the cross on page 12.

The corrections are:
In the opening sentence under the heading **Stations of the Cross** the sentence should read, *The tiles are by Joan Gardiner.*

At Station XI, two names were missed and the entry should read, *“In Loving Memory of our grandchildren Kenneth and Louise Withington, Harold and Ethel Naylor.”*

1989-1992



*We visited once;
dead as dead can be.
But Jane and I
decided to give it
another try.*



The All Souls Message is proud to continue the parish centennial celebrations with a series of “reminiscences” from senior wardens. These thoughtful pieces, collected with the aid of Tony Domenico, trace the history of the parish from a moribund period about 25 years ago to its current flourishing state.

When I started around 1986 or 1987, Joe Mackov had left and Canon Smith, a retired chaplain at the University of Maryland, was the interim. When Jane and I first moved to DC, in 1985, we visited All Souls since it was the nearest parish church...one time. There weren't more than 20 people at the 11:00 service. Dead as dead can be. About a year later, however, I was at a rehearsal of the Cathedral Choral Society when the conductor, J. Reilly Lewis, made an announcement. Lewis said that a good friend of his, Jim Weaver, had become the organist at All Souls and was looking for singers who were not committed to any other church choir. Since All Souls was so close after all, Jane and I decided to give it another try. Jim wouldn't play the old organ—he said it was not even playable—but used a small electric continuo instead. We went up after that

service to meet him, and he explained that Canon Smith felt that the best way he could build up the church would be by getting a good music program. (Word was that Smith had been sent to the parish to shut it down and turn it into an Hispanic mission).

The second month we were there I was asked to be a vestry member. That is when I found out that the rectory had been rented to a former ves-

try member who was behind in the rent and had sued other vestry members, etc. etc., some of whom had been summoned to give depositions. My first goal was to get the lawsuit dismissed, which took almost a year. And then one Sunday, a young man visited the church and loved the way the choir was singing the Psalm and asked if he could sing with us. That was John David van Dooren, who was a seminary graduate, living in the Calvert Apartments and teaching at Episcopal High School. By that time the Howells arrived (also drawn in by the music program), and we together enlisted John David to help with the liturgy. Canon Smith was having problems getting through the service so, with the approval of the Bishop, John David started to assist him. Later, when we set up a search committee, we were told by the bishop that John David would not be eligible to become the rector.

John David took a position at Severna Park, and we eventually called Julian Cave to lead All Souls. He'd begun his career as a Baptist minister, but had become an Episcopal priest, and he started off very well—drawing in new members, gaining a reputation of giving wonderful sermons. After some personal problems, however, he resigned. Joe can pick up on how we eventually called John David. ✧

1993-1997

I followed in the footsteps of Roy Woodall, who had done virtually all of the heavy lifting for the rebirth of All Souls. Roy was senior warden before we called Julian Cave, during which time Roy moved the altar out from the wall of the sanctuary, got the “new” prayer book in the pews, and made a number of changes in

order to comply with the new liturgical directives from the national Episcopal Church. These requirements were controversial at the time but were believed necessary to bring All Souls into the latter half of the twentieth century. Roy was warden during Julian Cave's troubled years and was instrumental in holding the

church together during their aftermath. Thanks to Roy, John David van Dooren was ordained; Roy was later instrumental in John David's call to be the rector of All Souls.

By the time I took over the reins, it was downhill sledding. John David already had a couple of years under

1993-1997



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How could this happen?*



his belt at All Souls (to say nothing of his time assisting Canon Smith in the pre-Cave interim), and the church was thriving with new members and new energy. We grew from something like an average Sunday attendance of well under 100 during the interim period that followed Julian Cave to over 200 persons a Sunday: slightly more than we average today. Our budget more than doubled as well, and we were able to operate in the black. Perhaps most remarkable to me was that we were able to get a Sunday school program going, one which probably had more children under twelve than we do now. One year there was even a children's Christmas pageant. The word at Church House was that some kind of miracle had happened at All Souls Church. The *very* church they were considering closing down or converting to a Hispanic mission somehow had become one of the most vital parishes in the diocese. How could this have happened?

The way it happened was this: first of all, the essential ingredient that makes a parish successful (or fails to) is its rector, period. Of course the reputation that John David van Dooren still enjoys today speaks for itself. He was naturally friendly, warm and unpretentious—and must have had a photographic memory, for as far as I could tell never forgot a name or a face. He was a solid preacher. He also had a terrific partner in Gary Norcross; and the two in some respects functioned like a team. Did a newcomer ever enter the narthex and not get a dinner invitation within days to dine at the rectory with John David, Gary, and several other interesting parishioners?

John David was also an extraordinary liturgist who deeply and genuinely loved the traditional Episcopal worship service. Not many people

realize that, prior to his arrival, All Souls was probably the lowest church in the diocese—or close to it. We were Rite 2 all the way; and with the previous rector being a former Southern Baptist, you did not smell a lot of incense or hear a lot of chanting (though you did get some great preaching). With very little ado, John David transformed All Souls from a run-of-the-mill Rite 2 parish to what I like to call the only “warm and fuzzy high church in the diocese.” (Ed Perlman has reminded me on several occasions that we are actually *not* a high church. Compared to Ascension & St. Agnes, or St. Paul's K Street, he is certainly correct. The correct term, I am told, is that we are a “traditional parish.”) Whatever we are called, the church liturgy changed quite dramatically toward what many people

tend to associate with high church: incense, bells, a sung *sursum corda*, lots of a *capella* singing, a very strong music program, and the Rite 1 liturgy. John David formed us into not so much a strict Rite 1 church as a Rite 2 church that used the Rite 1 language, you might say, and that style to some extent remains with us today. Perhaps the most important thing about all the change in worship was that, unlike some Episcopal churches—often those that stick exclusively with Rite 1 or fashion themselves as leaning toward high-church style—All Souls has always stressed inclusivity and welcomed diversity. Women were welcomed and even recruited to serve at the altar under John David, and there was a strong sense of welcoming newcomers almost from day one. Part of the welcoming process was being a gay-friendly parish. John David was in fact the first openly gay priest ever recruited in the diocese, and this sent an unmistakable message that we were truly a parish for All Souls.

Of course the rector may be the essential ingredient to a successful parish, but he or she is not the only one. The other key ingredient is the people. Just as we have been blessed with exceptional clergy, then and now, we had then (and have now) a truly exceptional parish of good people. We are a diverse, loving, warm and friendly church that feels to a lot of the parishioners like family. When I think about how the church of my term as senior warden compares with the church we are now, many of the faces are not the same; but I am taken by how similar we are rather than how different. We have a great rector, strong committed lay leadership, and the church remains friendly, welcoming and diverse. We remain a Church for All Souls. ✨

1997-2001



*Stewardship was
an important focus
for the Vestry.
We thought a great
deal about how we
used the funds
entrusted to us
by the congregation.*



I served as senior warden during the tenure of Fr. John David van Dooren. The character of our parish, a place where all were welcome and traditional worship enhanced by beautiful music was cherished, was as it is today. The Foyer Dinner program helped us all to know each other. During my four years as warden I worked with three junior wardens (Ray Myrtle, Bill Glew and Dan Gross), three treasurers (Larry Amon, John Coates and Harrington Mahood), and three parish administrators (Steve Clyburn, John Coates, and Barry Huber). At the beginning of my term, the committee system was expanded so that a member of the vestry could serve on all of the committees: finance, buildings and grounds, personnel, fellowship, outreach, newcomers, Christian education, and pastoral care. The congregation was somewhat larger than today, too, and our needs for programs and building maintenance expanded as we were growing. During my first year we created a website, a parish nurse program, and a new EFM class. We also began work on the south garden, and realized that our beautiful old building needed care. New heating and air conditioning was installed, the stained glass window project was completed and—after many unexpected glitches—the new lighting in the sanctuary was finally completed as well. Costs often exceeded estimates, as problems were uncovered as projects progressed.

During the second year of my term, All Souls raised additional funds outside of the budget to enable us to commission an engineering study of our physical plant. We then had a blueprint of all that needed to be done. Our first projects were to repair water damage in the undercroft and to increase the maintenance schedule for the roof. In 1999, the

columbarium was installed. We reached out to the neighborhood, sending five thousand brochures with an invitation to join us for the Easter services. We had more children in the congregation already, and we wanted to grow.

The Vestry began to focus on the need for an Associate Rector. After much prayer and discussion we chose to step out in faith to raise the necessary funds to call a priest for a two-year contract. With a portion of the funds from the budget and with two particular bequests, we undertook a campaign to raise the rest of the money needed. Our campaign ended with a Dinner Auction, and we reached that goal. In September of 1999, we welcomed the Rev. Andrea Hayden as curate. Her major respon-

sibilities were to oversee the children's Sunday School and to reach out to newcomers to All Souls. Over the summer we had reorganized our office wing to create a volunteer office, added new furnishings for the offices of the rector and the parish administrator, and had the wing repainted, carpeted, and provided with new window treatments. An office space was ready for the curate. Our beloved Carlos Guerra retired that year from his position as sexton, but he has remained an important helping hand and a smiling presence among us to this day. There were some Sundays when we had church in the undercroft as the beautiful stenciling was completed behind the high altar.

Stewardship was an important focus for the Vestry. We thought a great deal about how we used the funds entrusted to us by the congregation. All Souls was already part of a planned-giving pilot program in the diocese, so we began the work to organize our endowment funds in a better way and to develop the charter and rules to create an endowment board that could, with the vestry, regularly give grants for mission and ministry. Our outreach projects included preparing meals at Christ House, services at St. Mary's Court, the Christmas Giving Tree, the children's participation in the Heifer Project, and an Evensong Service of Hope and Healing for those affected by HIV and AIDS.

In the spring of 2000 there was spirited discussion at two parish-wide Vision Meetings as we looked at our current programs and defined our priorities for the next few years. Our challenge was to take the enthusiasm and ideas from those meetings and make them realities as we welcomed new members and reached out into the world in service and

ministry. In the spring of 2001, before Fr. John David prepared to take a summer sabbatical, the rector and vestry participated in the process of a Mutual Ministry Review. This process, with the help of a professional facilitator, is a review of the strengths and weaknesses of both a rector and a vestry. At the end of the review, there are goals to work toward as the parish goes forward in ministry together. And we did go forward in ministry to be sure. Someone said that All Souls had the best coffee hours in all of Christendom, but we also had great fun at annual parish parties, with fellowship, good food and entertainment. We found ourselves in the “Rainbow Room” one time, all dressed up for a formal dinner on a cruise ship on another.

I learned during those four years that a senior warden is many things—diplomat, cheerleader, negotiator, fundraiser, problem solver—but the most important is the relationship to the rector. Wardens and Rectors met regularly and the Warden listens, offers suggestions and quiet support. My four years were very rewarding, and I appreciated the opportunity to serve. As my term ended in May of 2001, I felt that our parish family had accomplished a lot together. ✱

The period from 2001 to 2005 was little changed in worship and composition from our current parish demographic, but it was a time of change.

In early 2001, the parish was cited by the DC Zoning Board for unauthorized commercial rental of parking facilities. Brigitte Adams agreed to represent the parish in hearings before the Board of Zoning Adjustment with the goal of retaining the modest income from weekday rental of the unused facilities. Ultimately, one dissenting voice in the neighborhood prompted a decision against the parish with the exception of the Saturday Farmer’s Market. Upon consideration of a range of factors—costs of further litigation, costs of administration of the program if successful, taxability of income derived from the venture—the parish did not appeal.

The pledge campaign of 2001 occurred in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks and the economic downturn that followed. Funding fell substantially short of the asking budget necessary to retain the services of the Associate Rector and provided only bare-bones funding for operations in calendar year 2002. The Associate position terminated in early 2002 when the incumbent found other employment.

As the rector had earlier purchased his own home, the absence of a second clergy position meant the rectory was unused. The vestry had to decide: retain the property and rent it, or sell and place the sales proceeds in a restricted account to fund a clergy housing allowance? Given the trend of providing a housing allowance to give clergy the opportunity to acquire equity, the cost of needed renovations to bring the rectory up to market standards, the opportu-

2001-2005



*Modest growth
and financial success
also led to much
soul-searching on
future direction.*



nity to take advantage of the general increase in real estate value, and the administrative costs of a rental property, the vestry deliberated and then requested permission from the diocese to sell. The proceeds of sale are indeed administered in a restricted fund by the endowment board under guidelines established by the vestry, and these provide an annual housing allowance for the rector through investment income.

Our financial position improved in 2003 through 2005, fortunately, culminating in a high water mark in 2005 in both pledge units and income. We weaned ourselves from annual endowment contributions to operating expenses and increased our diocesan contributions to the tithe. The improved financial picture allowed us to hire a part-time Christian education coordinator and begin the first steps toward addressing the accessibility issues of our facilities. We reviewed the insurance coverage on our valuable communion silver and collection of vestments. We were also

2001-2005

able to fund the rector's long-planned sabbatical. The endowment was now free to concentrate on its primary mission of outreach and future ministry. We also provided complimentary office space for the Solar Light for the Churches of Africa initiative: an effort to provide solar panel electrification for churches, primarily in Uganda, not serviced by an electrical grid.

Modest growth and financial success also led to much soul-searching on future direction. All Souls was a medium-sized parish with a strong "family" tradition and the potential for development into a larger "program" parish. This issue was the focus of vestry retreats and a parish

town hall. Ultimately, All Souls did not wish to lose its established character. We decided to look for opportunities to increase community presence and resources, but not at the expense of maintaining the good, close connection between parishioners, clergy, and staff. We were also in the position to consider the feasibility of a capital campaign to address areas of parish concern—accessibility, replacement of the Rieger organ, and further building renovations and preservation items identified by the buildings and grounds committee. The consultants' assessment, after interviews and surveys, was a disappointing \$350,000 estimate that would not even begin to cover the costs identified. Later on, in 2005, the

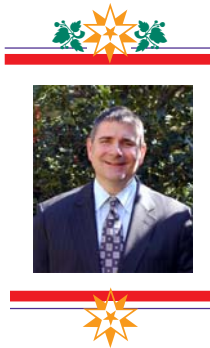
idea for a campaign was shelved as the parish faced the challenge of finding a new rector.

As in any organization, procedures grow up by tradition. During this period we implemented a by-laws change concerning filling partial vestry terms based upon total votes and provided for recordation of vestry resolutions. We also continued our program of parish events: foyer dinners, newcomer events, and parish parties. We gave Bishop and Mrs. Chane a rousing welcome with a special evensong and parish dinner.

The period reflected challenges met, consolidation of sound principles, and planning for the future. ✕

2005-2007

I had the privilege of being senior warden during the transition from John David van Dooren's long-time ministry to that of a then-unknown rector. Leading during periods of uncertainty and change is always a challenge; the size and nature of the community do not matter. Nations, corporations, families, and church congregations exhibit a mix of hope for the future, nostalgia for the past, discomfort with self-examination, and determination to soldier on. We at All Souls were no different. Reflecting on my term now as we celebrate our centenary, I certainly recall a number of tense and difficult moments—but what I remember most vividly, and for which I am always grateful, are the passion and dedication of everyone who worked to welcome newcomers, maintain our rich liturgy and tradition of pastoral care, maintain our buildings and grounds,



feed us each week, encourage us to grow through the adult forum, and, above all, nurture the search committee and support their charge. Here are a few of the highlights I recall from two very full years.

One of the first responsibilities was the selection of an interim rector. George Barnum and I received a number of applications from within the Diocese of Washington and from other dioceses, and after reviewing their qualifications and conducting

personal interviews we asked the vestry to support our selection of the Rev. Joan Beilstein. Joan brought tremendous energy with her to All Souls and encouraged us to experiment, a little, with our worship services; she also revitalized lay ministries, including licensing what were then known as Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and hired an assisting priest to help us explore what it could mean to stretch ourselves to move away from being a rector-centric parish. Joan and I spent untold hours together working on a range of issues and activities. We learned from each other and formed what I hope is a life-long friendship.

The next critical activity was to convene a search committee. George Barnum and I sought volunteers and asked people if they would serve. The vestry accepted our recommenda-

2005-2007



tions, and—under the very capable leadership of Mike McGee and Diana Kunkel— the search process began. With process suggestions from the diocese and the assistance of a paid search consultant (not always useful, but required), the committee set about their work. Using meetings at church, foyer dinners, and questionnaires, among other techniques, the committee created the parish profile used to describe what we sought in a rector and what a prospective rector might find in us. Following phone interviews, visits to candidates' parishes, and their visits to All Souls, the search committee recommended to the vestry and the bishop that we issue a call to the Rev. John Beddingfield. Few people know the tremendous commitment and personal sacrifices that each member of the search committee made. I do know, however, and offer prayers of thanksgiving for each of them.

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I also had the opportunity to interact with Church House more than is usual for a senior warden during my term. I recall with thanks the steadfast support and gentle guidance offered by Bishop Chane and Canon Mary Sulerud. And although she is no longer at Church House, our good friend Bishop Jane Holmes Dixon found ways to encourage and sustain me from time to time. Finally, as in any family, it is the unsung heroes who keep everything working. I remember all of the volunteers who maintained, and still do maintain, the rhythm of life at All Souls. I continue to hold you up in my prayers. The work we began continues today as we celebrate our first one hundred years. Let us take the best of our past and re-imagine and reinvent ourselves for the century before us. ✧

2007-2011



I was recruited in the Spring of 2007. A much-beloved rector had resigned after 14 years in our parish. We were in the twentieth month of a protracted search process. Our music program was in trouble. Our interim rector left several months earlier than expected. The part-time assistant priest left unexpectedly. The parish was coming unglued. People were nervous, fearful and losing confidence in the leadership of the church. I never expected to stand for senior warden (at any time), and I certainly felt unprepared to deal with all the impending drama. I remember telling the congregation at that meeting after my election was confirmed that I would have a rector in this church by In-gathering Sun-



*Father Beddingfield
is a blessing, not only
to this parish and the
diocese but also to our
neighborhood.*



day—the Sunday after Labor Day in September, 2007. I wasn't sure how we were going to accomplish it, but I was sure that it was meant to be: God would take over and send us the right person, it was just a matter of keeping the lines of communication within the parish open and getting out of God's way to let Him do His work. During the time we were without a rector I came to every service and every event, and I spoke at both services during announcement time to keep people up-to-date. I tried to be available at breakfast and coffee hour in case people were anxious or had questions. There is no doubt that, with the Holy Spirit directing the vestry, we made the right choice for our new rector. Father Beddingfield

2007-2011

is a blessing, not only to this parish and the Diocese of Washington but also to our neighborhood.

During the last three years I have spent most of my time trying to stay connected to the congregation and keeping communication open through participation in various ministries and writing to members regarding births, deaths, illnesses,

problems, etc. I have tried to encourage and thank the volunteers (office, garden guild, EMF, Green Team, ESM, etc.). I want our members and friends to know that the vestry is aware of their work on our behalf and that they are appreciated. In June of 2007, immediately following my election, I started a recognition program for our children. We want them to know that they are an important part of

our congregation and let folks know what they are doing, so they each receive a letter commending them on their progress in school and other activities and a Target Gift Card. There are a lot of challenges for the next Senior Warden—Handicapped Accessibility is a major one—but I believe he or she will find things in pretty good order compared to four years ago. ✧

From the Endowment Fund Board
Endowment Grants for 2012

Due January 20, 2012

Applications for grants from the All Souls Endowment Fund for 2012 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 January 20, 2012, and will be acted upon by the Board and Vestry. If you have questions, please contact Pat Dresser or Mike McGee. ✧

Pat Dresser,
Endowment Fund Board Chair

From the Parish Register
Recent Activities (as of 10/27/11)

Baptisms

October 23, 2011
Alexander McNeil Lowry Ford
Charlotte Mae Kistler

Burials, Interments & Memorials

Memorial Service on October 1, 2011
Pamela Gordon Heintz Burdick
Memorial Service on November 5, 2011
Isabel Foster Cole

Confirmations & Receptions

None

Marriages & Blessings

Marriage on October 22, 2011
Mary Elizabeth Parr &
Andrew Scott Hecker

Reaffirmations*

None

Transfers In:

None

Transfers Out

October 6, 2011
Kathleen Louise Wilson

* This category includes new members who join by providing the required information, and existing members who provide missing information, primarily a baptism date. ✧

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE
is just after the holidays

Copy deadline for articles
for the
February/March 2012 issue
of The Message
is Sunday, January 8, 2012

Please have your articles in Leigh Harrison's hands by that date. Electronic submission preferred at message.allsoulsdc@gmail.com. E-mail Leigh with story ideas, questions, and comments.

Butch Bradburn, and until recently, Kathleen Scholl have been responsible for preparing publicity, recruiting group captains, and doing participant matching for our Foyer Dinner program over the last several years. Butch and Kathleen, *thank you* for all you have done!

As Butch steps aside from the post of coordinator, Greg Lebel and Greg DuRoss have agreed to work together to organize the Foyer Dinner program in 2012. To help them with this transition, they have asked for your feedback on the program. What's been good, what's been bad? Does the program need tweaking or should we not touch it because it is working fine?

Here are a few questions to ponder:

- Is the group size (currently around 10) about right or too large? Does it affect your decision on whether to host?
- Is one group per year good, or should we consider two cycles each lasting about six months?


*Help the new
Foyer Dinner
Program coordinators
by answering
a few questions.*


- How has the attendance been in your groups? Should we consider having a list of floaters for people who really would like to participate but whose schedules make it difficult to sign up as regular participants? (If attendance for a dinner is expected to be low, a host could choose to contact someone on this list and invite them to dinner.)

- How would you feel about making a special effort to invite a new member of All Souls to join one of your dinners during the rotation?

Changes will not be made just for the sake of change, but please let the new coordinators know if there are any changes that you would like to see. You can talk to either Greg on Sundays after the 11:00 am service, and you're also free to call or write them a note: Greg DuRoss can be reached via washgreg@verizon.net or 202-550-2472; Greg Lebel's e-mail is glebel412@aol.com.

Sign-up for the 2012 dinners will start early in January. ✧

Greg DuRoss & Greg Lebel

The Message is pleased to announce there are two new coordinators for the Foyer Dinner Program. This important activity will be led by these two parishioners. ✧



*Look for Foyer Dinner Program information
in future issues of "The Weekly"*



A Time of Fun and Fellowship

Annual Sunday School St. Nicholas Party
Saturday, December 10, 2010, 6 p.m.

Please join us for the annual Christmas potluck. It's a fun way to celebrate the season. St. Nicholas will stop by to read the "Night before Christmas," and we will all share a wonderful meal.

RSVP to Marcia Anderson at marcia513@verizon.net and indicate what you will bring: appetizer, main dish, or dessert. ✨

Marcia Anderson

From the Chairman
Annual Christmas Bazaar

YOHOs in 2011
Christmas Ornament Sale



Holiday 2011 Bazaar

Starting in late November, we began selling pecan halves (plain, cinnamon-glazed, chocolate-covered halves, and caramel-chocolate-covered clusters) for your holiday cooking, gifts, and eating enjoyment. In December we will have Colonial Candles of Cape Cod and All Souls note cards—as well as, this year, All Souls Christmas cards. These goodies are available during the breakfast between masses and during coffee hour and will continue until supplies are exhausted. Proceeds from the bazaar go to the Outreach Committee. ✨

Butch Bradburn

The All Souls
2011 Christmas Card



Front page

Inside message

God thus that manger poor
became a throne;
for He whom Mary bore
was God the Son.

Your
One-day
Holiday
Ornaments
sale

For one day only on December 11!

I will coordinate a sale of Christmas ornaments donated by members of the congregation. Brings items that day that you no longer want and are in good condition. Items will be available for a buyer-determined donation. The proceeds will go to the *Children-to-Children* campaign, part of the diocesan Southern Africa Partnership Committee ministry. **Cash is preferred; come prepared!** If you must pay by check, it should be written to the *All Souls Church*, and in the memo write *Children-to-Children*. Any remaining items will be donated to a charitable organization. ✨

Barry Huber

December

1 Chris Hudgins
2 Gary O'Neill
4 Amy Fox
5 Rebecca Fitzsimons
Wayland Jenkins
6 John Beddingfield
7 Derek Drummie
9 Arthur Warren
10 Jeff Wells
13 Margaret Scott
15 Lori Commins
18 Sarah Green
19 Bill Sherfey
20 Alix Woodall
21 Rick Taylor
25 George Barnum
Lynne Brown
26 Bill Henry
Judy Smith
28 Terry Cain
Barry Huber
Diana Kunkel
29 Nathan Parsons
31 Daniel Callis
Janet Jones
Ed Ramos

January

1 Betty Bird
Jean Chemnick
David Fernandez-Barrial
Javier Moncada
Gary Scott
Bill Welker
3 Jane Holloway
Jim Lewis
Joan Shapiro
7 Davey Morse
8 Irene Butcher
Gabriel Haines
10 Claudia Dumas
11 Anna Menard Clark
Louis von Rago
12 Ellie Martin
13 Dan Davis
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 have it included in this
newsletter, please call the parish office at
202-232-4244, and ask for membership
secretary ✧*

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church
2300 Cathedral Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1505
Voice: 202-232-4244
FAX: 202-232-8593
e-mail the church: allsouls1@aol.com
e-mail the rector:
jfb beddingfield@yahoo.com
e-mail the Vestry:
allsoulsvestry@gmail.com
Website: www.allsoulsdc.org

The Vestry

Martha Domenico
Stuart Edwards
Sally MacDonald
Susan Morrison
Katherine Nordal
Robert Publicover
Eugenio Sexton
Larry Sturgeon
Jeff Wells
Dale Lewis, *senior warden*
Jennifer Crier Johnston, *junior warden*
Stephen Jacobs, *registrar*
Terry Cain, *treasurer*

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. John Beddingfield, *rector*
The Rev. Christopher Worthley,
adjunct clergy
Isaac Borocz, *parish administrator*
Natty Dayal, *child care*
Moises Flores, *Sunday sexton*
Ivanna Velasquez, *child care*
Donna Whited, *interim director of music
& organist*

Volunteer Leadership

Harriet Curry, *assistant treasurer*
Patricia Dresser, *chair of the
Endowment Fund Board*
Carlos Guerra, *sexton emeritus*
Terry Horan, *financial secretary*
Barry Huber, *membership secretary*

The Message Staff

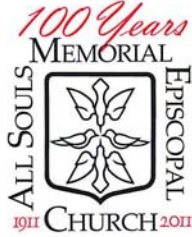
Editor: Leigh Harrison
Editorial review: John Beddingfield
Isaac Borocz
Harriet Curry
Dale Lewis
Sydney Ponturo
Graphic designer: Barry Huber

*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 2011/January 2012

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church
2300 Cathedral Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1505



*May 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 may 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 wishes you
the very best of all God's blessings in this season and for the new year.*