

# The All Souls Message

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church • Volume 108, Issue 1 • February/March 2008

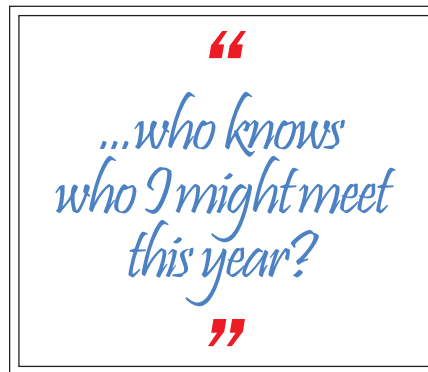
From the Rector

## The Way of the Cross

Some years ago, as a newly ordained Presbyterian minister, I was invited to join other local clergy and churches in an ecumenical Way of the Cross on Good Friday. Basing our procession on the traditional fourteen Stations of the Cross, the idea was that the community would pause in front of the various churches in town and at each church one minister or priest would offer a brief reflection on the particular station.

I was assigned the Sixth Station: "Veronica wipes the face of Jesus." Being a conscientious young pastor, I was immediately worried that I could not remember Veronica from scripture. I glanced back at each of the Gospels, but couldn't find her. I consulted my concordance: not there. Finally, I looked in my *Oxford Dictionary of Saints*, and there she was, Veronica, "traditionally a pious woman of Jerusalem who wiped the face of Christ when he fell under the weight of his cross on his way to Calvary." Some have suggested that the name Veronica is symbolic and comes from a combination of Vera and icon, true picture, and that through her, one is shown what it means to follow Christ. I guess you could say I met Veronica that Lent, but I also learned something about the Stations of the Cross.

The devotion known as Stations of the Cross, sometimes known as the Way of the Cross, is thought to have begun in fourth century Jerusalem, as pilgrims sought to be close to the places where Jesus walked. The number of stations, or places where Jesus paused on his way to be crucified,



has varied with tradition and time. Monks and nuns who visited the Holy Land took the idea of the Way of the Cross back to their monasteries, and so, by the 16th century, a number of monasteries and convents had small artistic representations of the Stations of the Cross in their chapels. Prayers and devotions would be said at each representation and this practice eventually spread to churches. The number of stations, which at first varied widely, finally became fixed at fourteen. Of these, eight are based directly on events recorded in the Gospels. The remaining six (stations three, four, six, seven, nine, and thirteen) are based upon tradition.

Many of you were at All Souls in the mid-90s when our current Stations of the Cross were crafted by Joan Gardiner of Middleburg, Virginia and installed in our church. They are one of the first things I noticed about All Souls. Many churches have no stations. Others have badly painted, cheaply crafted stations that sometimes are more a distraction to prayer than an aid. But All Souls is uniquely blessed.

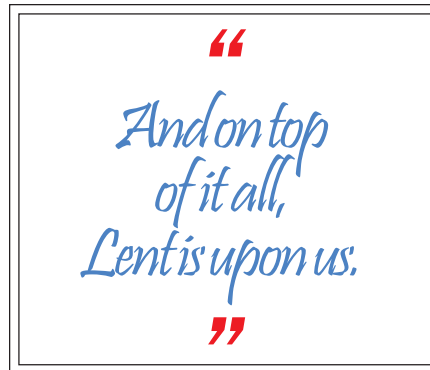
Father John David, Ms. Gardiner, and others worked to create stations that would be evocative, yet beautiful; strong, yet sedate. The more one looks, the more one sees. When we walk Stations of the Cross, as we will do every Friday night in Lent at 7:00 p.m., we are given an opportunity to see each station with new eyes. We are invited to hear the scripture with new ears. We are invited to respond to the Way of the Cross, and indeed, to the Way of Christ, with new hearts. One year I met Veronica at a station—who knows who I might meet this year?

This Lent, as many Christians attempt to give up particular things, I invite you to consider as well whether there might be something to “take up” rather than “give up.” At All Souls we pray Matins Tuesday through Friday at 7:15 a.m. On Thursdays, a Mass follows at 7:30 a.m. On Wednesdays we continue our Noon Mass. And this Lent, on Fridays we will observe Stations of the Cross, which will take the place of the normal Friday evening Low Mass. In the prayers that conclude this weekly service we will give thanks to God that by Christ’s death, “he has recalled us to life.” Properly understood and observed, Lent calls and recalls us to new life in Christ, that he may live more vibrantly in us and that we may offer that life to all the world.

John Beddingfield ♦

The presents have all been opened. The lights are off. The trees and wreaths have been taken down. There is no anticipation of things to come. The trees outdoors are bare. The garden is forlorn. The days are dark, bleak and long. It is cold. The parties are over and done. The blahs have set in with a vengeance. When I was growing up, my grandmother called this “the Februaries”. And on top of it all, Lent is upon us.

Now is the time for self-examination. We give up something we are particularly fond of (chocolate? movies?), and we substitute something more serious (brussels sprouts? spiritual texts?). We attempt to deny ourselves something enjoyable or pleasurable and take on something inconvenient or difficult. We ponder the



great mysteries of our faith and attempt to walk the way of the cross. We are tired.

Just as we are about to be overcome by the need for a doughnut or a trip to a sunny beach, we see a crocus or a daffodil and we remember what spring is like and how it feels and smells and that small gift of renewed life gives us the energy to continue our journey.

In the midst of Holy Week, in our despair, we remember the joy of Easter Morning. We visualize the stone rolled away from the tomb and the angel awaiting our visit. We remember the Resurrection and how it feels to be in the Light. We are restored, renewed and redeemed! Alleluia and Amen. A blessed Easter to each of you, my friends.

Nancye Suggs ◆

**T**hank you to everyone who helped make the CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY on January 12 such a special day. More than I could list were those of you who cleaned, organized, sang, practiced, hosted, gardened and did so many other things to make the day go smoothly. A very special thank goes to Oscar Prado, who worked above and beyond what might normally be requested. Thank you for sharing the warmth and welcome of All Souls with all of our visitors and guests. — *John Beddingfield*

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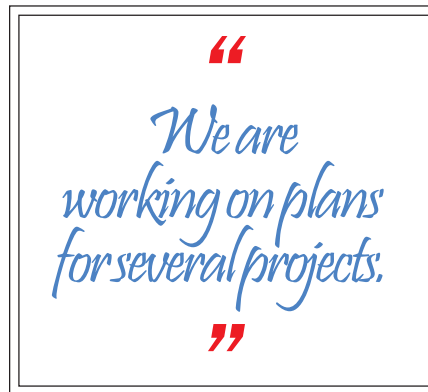
*The Message is published every two months except for a June/July/August issue and a single issue in September.*

**Copy deadline for articles for the April/May 2008 issue of The Message is February 24, 2008**

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

It may seem very quiet to you in the Buildings and Grounds area right now and as if no further work were going on with either building improvements or our Handicapped Accessibility Project. Actually, nothing could be further from the truth! As I write this article, it is mid-December and we are working on plans for several projects. Some of them we hope to tackle immediately and some may be staged out over a period of several years. Here is a summary of what is in the works right now.

- Last month the Vestry approved funds for a study of our major building systems: HVAC (heating, ventilation, and AC), plumbing, electrical, “building envelope”, and fire protection to create a long-range plan for building improvements. We know we need to work on all of these areas, both for accessibility purposes, but also to modernize parts of our building and its infrastructure that are rapidly ageing. What should be our priorities? How much will all this work cost? How shall we modernize areas such as bathrooms that will result in energy savings, incorporate ecologically friendly designs, and still keep renovation costs reasonable? These are all answers we need in order to put a multi-year plan in place.
- The Vestry also approved funds to develop plans for a proposed elevator. Fetterman Associates, our architects, are working with both electrical and mechanical engineers to determine what our needs



would be if we went forward with such a project and to determine how to integrate energy consumption issues with size, design, and placement of a potential elevator. Both of these two above projects go hand in hand as all the systems of our building need to work together. You can't pursue one project single-mindedly without thinking of other work that needs to be done.

- Both Finance Committee and the Vestry agreed that it is past time that we began work on repointing the exterior walls of the church building. Walls are helpful things. They hold the roof up so that it can do its job, just for starters! Most of the stone that forms our walls is soft and flaky and is, to one degree or another, depending on where you look, falling out of its mortars. Repointing is structurally necessary and not just cosmetic. However, this necessary work will also make the church building look much more the way a stone building ought to look as currently mortars are far too prominent. Slow, almost undetectable deterioration over the years has gone unnoticed to the casual observer, but it has hap-

pened. The total cost of repointing the entire church is \$200,000. This is not a sum to which we can commit ourselves right now, but we can do some work on it every year until we have finished. We will begin where the damage is worst, on the building's west side.

- Finance Committee and the Vestry also committed to a comprehensive plan for moisture abatement in the Sunday School and Nursery rooms. Leakage is being caused by cracks in the building's joints where older and newer construction come together. These problems are not structural yet, but will be in the future if they are not addressed. We need to repoint these cracks and treat both inner and outer walls in this area so that they are watertight, repair the areas damaged by water, and address the concomitant mold issues once and for all.

So you see, it may seem quiet now, but don't be fooled. There is much design work currently in progress although you don't see signs of it just yet. We thank all those who pledged this year. Your generosity makes this work possible. If you are interested in donating specifically in the elevator project as well, your check, payable to All Souls Episcopal Church with the memo “Handicapped Accessibility” would be most welcome!

Ray Myrtle ◆

A special study series for Lent, Pioneers of the Spirit, will examine the lives of five spiritual pioneers, on Wednesday evenings, February 13, 20, 27, March 5 and 12, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Join us on Wednesday evenings for a simple soup dinner followed by a video and discussion. Over the five weeks we will watch short videos that introduce us to major personalities in Christian spirituality. We will look at some of each person's original work and discuss the implications of that work and life for us and the Church.

For more information on this special Lenten series, contact the parish office at 202-232-4244.

John Beddingfield ◆



**February 13**  
**HILDEGARD OF BINGEN (1098–1179)**

A German nun and abbess, Hildegard was an intellectual, writer, composer, and artist. She wrote about music, art, medicine, natural history and theology and her musical compositions are played to this day. Hildegard is also remembered for her visions, which she wrote about in great detail.

**February 20**  
**AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO (354–430 AD)**

Augustine of Hippo was bishop in North Africa in the 4th century and one of Christianity's most influential thinkers. A brilliant theologian and prolific writer, his longing for God was restless and relentless. Chronicling his spiritual journey in his *Confessions*, Augustine is forever pushing the boundaries of self-knowledge in order to understand himself in relation to God. His pilgrimage holds meaning today for anyone searching for the point where God and self meet.

**February 27**  
**JULIAN OF NORWICH (1342?–1416)**

Julian of Norwich is recognized today as one of 14th century England's most compelling mystics. A contemporary of Chaucer and survivor of the black plague, Julian received sixteen startling images of the crucified Christ that forever changed her life. Her descriptions of her visions in *Revelations of Divine Love* have given birth to enduring images of God's nurturing and familial love that continue to inspire seekers today.

**March 5**  
**WILLIAM BLAKE (1757–1827)**

Visionary, mystic, engraver, printer, poet, artist, writer, William Blake's extraordinary creative skills flowed through many forms to give expression to the extraordinary inner world he inhabited. As a result he helped us to see with new eyes. His ability to tap the depths of Biblical imagery remains a gift to the ages.

**March 12**  
**TERESA OF AVILA (1515–1582)**

Teresa of Avila was one of the most colorful mystics of the church. A Carmelite nun, she struggled in prayer for nearly twenty years before she experienced a profound conversion. Reflecting a remarkable determination in her quest to know God, Teresa of Avila speaks across the centuries to those yearning for transcendence amid the distractions of modern life.

## *Lent & Holy Week at All Souls*

**Tuesday—February 5**

**SHROVE TUESDAY—MARDI GRAS**

*Evening Prayer, Burning of Palms, and Pancake Supper, 5:30–8 p.m.  
Gather in the undercroft for something to drink and then join us in the lower garden/patio  
for the burning of the palms. A pancake supper follows in the undercroft.*

**Wednesday—February 6**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

*Low Mass with Imposition of Ashes at 7 a.m., noon, and 7 p.m.*

**Friday—February 8, 15, 22, 29, March 7 & 14**

**FRIDAY NIGHTS IN LENT**

*Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.*

**The Daily Office**

*Tuesday—Friday Matins, 7:15 a.m.*

**Weekly Holy Eucharist**

*Wednesday noon, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.*

*The Sundays in Lent, 8:30 and 11 a.m.*

**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday—March 16**

*Blessing of the Palms and Low Mass, 8:30 a.m.*

*Blessing of the Palms, Procession, and High Mass, 11 a.m.*

**Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week—March 17–19**

*Matins at 7:15 a.m., Low mass, 7:30 a.m.*

**Maundy Thursday—March 20**

*Matins at 7:15 a.m., Maundy Thursday Liturgy, 7 p.m.,*

*The Washing of Feet and Holy Communion*

**Good Friday—March 21**

*Matins at 7:15 a.m.*

*The Good Friday Liturgy at noon.*

*Solemn Collects, Veneration of the Cross, and Mass of the Presanctified*

**Holy Saturday—March 22**

*The Great Vigil of Easter at 7 p.m.*

**Easter Day—March 23**

*Low Mass with Easter Hymns at 8:30 a.m.*

*High Mass at 11 a.m.*

### Adult Forum for February/March

The Adult Forum will begin a new series on “Exploring Our Call” this winter. To begin this series, Fr. John will introduce us to the nature of call and how we might respond to God’s call in our lives. Then, he will share with us some inspirational stories from scripture and tradition of people who have heard and responded to God’s call. Ed Perlman will share with us how we might respond to our highest call – to worship God through the liturgy of the Church. Sprinkled throughout this exciting series will be various presenters sharing the stories of their call to mission and ministry in the world. Let us pray that this might be a time that we can further explore God’s call for us as individuals and as a parish as we enter into this new era of ministry.

*January 27*  
**“What is Call?”**

**with Fr. John Beddingfield**

Within the Church, there is much talk about hearing God’s call. But what does this mean? Is God’s call exclusively reserved for those contemplating Holy Orders? Or is God calling each and every one of us to a life of faith and ministry? How can we all live out our call from God as ministers of the Church? Come join Fr. John for a discussion about hearing and responding to God’s call in our lives.

*February 3*

**“Speak Lord, for your servant is listening”**

**with Fr. John Beddingfield**

Both Holy Scripture and Tradition share many stories of people who have heard God’s call in their lives and responded. However, those re-



sponses were not always easy and oftentimes included a price. Fr. John will share with us these inspirational stories as we further explore how God’s call may take shape in the lives of others, in our own lives, and the life of this parish.

*February 10*

**“Hurricane Katrina Relief”**  
**with John and Mary Miers**

John and Mary Miers, members of St. James, Potomac and active in the diocese and national church in a variety of ways, spent the month of September in New Orleans assisting with Hurricane Katrina relief. Come hear their stirring story of working with local parishes to help rebuild a city devastated by storm.

*February 17 & 24:*

**“Our Theology and Calling in Liturgy”**  
**with Ed Perlman**

All Souls parishioner Ed Perlman will share with us a discussion on our greatest calling in life – worshipping God through the liturgy of the Church. Come hear more about the history and inner workings of our liturgy. Why do we say what we say when we say it? How do the various pieces of our liturgy come together?

*March 2*

**“Town Hall”**

**with Fr. John Beddingfield and the Vestry**

Continuing our open town hall meetings, Fr. John and the Vestry will give us an update on the mission and ministries of our parish. They will also be available for a question and answer session.

*March 9*

**Topic to be determined**  
**with Ike Brannon**

*March 16*

**“HIV/AIDS Ministry in Tanzania”**  
**with Embry and Joe Howell**

Embry and Joe Howell, long-time All Souls members, will share with us a heart-stirring presentation on their recent trip to Tanzania, Africa. Come hear their story of ministry to the people of a nation ravaged by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

*March 23*

**Easter – No Adult Forum**

*March 30*

**“Episcopal Relief and Development”**  
**with Erwin de Leon**

Nearly 3 billion people, almost half of the world’s population, live on less than 2 dollars a day unable to meet their basic needs of food, water and shelter. Every year, natural and man-made disasters decimate communities locally and internationally. The Episcopal Church responds to human suffering around the world through Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Erwin de Leon, former Interim Church Relations Officer and current consultant with ERD, shares his perspective on this important ministry and how we might participate as individuals and as a parish.

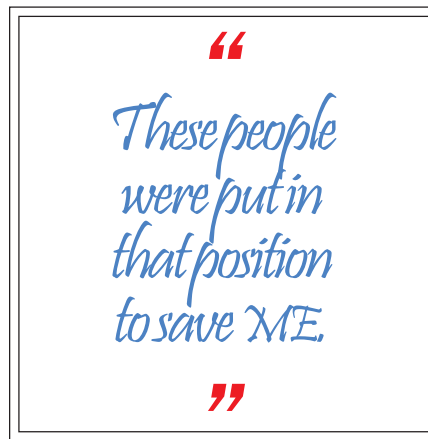
Shawn Strout ◆

Twice in my life I saved a person's life. Absolutely no heroism of any sort was necessary, and virtually no one realized it but me, but both incidents remain fresh in my mind even a decade or two after they occurred. It's almost trite to confess that they affected my faith, but it took me a few years to realize just how and perhaps why God entered my life in that way at that time.

The first occurred my freshman year of college. I was running a few miles after a snowstorm, feeling a bit gloomy about life. I was not doing well in my classes and I was afraid I was going to lose my academic scholarship. I felt like I didn't have a single friend at school and the prospect of a date seemed remote. Virtually the only thing that broke up the drudgery of classes and library time was a daily run—and I didn't especially like running all that much.

In the middle of my run I saw a young boy skipping along the sidewalk that intersected the one I was on, oblivious to the world around him. As he approached the intersection there quickly appeared a car approaching at a speed I knew would make stopping difficult. I took a few quick steps and grabbed the child by the back of his coat on the edge of the street corner as the car skidded by us, bouncing off the curb directly in front of us. The boy was completely unaware of what had transpired and I admonished him to be careful crossing the street before I went on my way.

The second time I got to play hero was a decade later, early in my tenure as a professor in Wisconsin. I was flying back from a conference where I had caught up with my classmates from graduate school and was dread-



ing my return home. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, my misery was caused by the same situation as when I began college—I felt sorry for myself because I had few friends and no dates and my job was not going well. My classmates from graduate school all seemed to have wives, positions at great universities, and lots of professional success, unlike myself.

As we queued to board our small twin-propeller plane to take us out of Chicago, I noticed an elderly couple ahead of me who seemed a bit uncertain about this juncture of their trip, no doubt because to get to our plane we had to descend down a dank, narrow, and steep stairwell. For some reason I put my Walkman away and cinched my backpack.

When we began to proceed down I kept my eyes on the couple below. About halfway down the first flight of stairs the woman lost her balance and began to fall. I managed to quickly jump down a set of steps past a handful of oblivious travelers to the landing directly below and grab her before she hit the ground. Meanwhile, her husband had awkwardly spun around to grab her as well, but in the process he lost his balance and was about to tumble down the next set of stairs when I grabbed his outstretched hand and

righted him. Feeling a bit embarrassed for them and the commotion, I quickly took their arms and helped them down the remaining stairs and onto the plane. We never exchanged a single word. One passenger who witnessed this tried to say something to me on the plane but choked up from tears and walked away without uttering a word. No one else even looked at me.

After each event I felt a little bit like Superman—someone who is able to do great good for people, albeit as long as he is serendipitously placed in the exact spot where his help is needed. I embraced the metaphor so much I never told anyone afterwards about either event, but from hindsight it's clear that both events gave me a bit of a swagger that had been missing and my life got much better immediately after each incident. Perhaps that was bound to occur anyway as I became accustomed to my new environments and got the hang of things, but if life in Washington DC has taught me anything it's that confidence works wonders.

I don't think God meddles constantly in the affairs of people, but I have always thought that these two events were exceptions, and for a while I wondered why He placed me in that position. While it seems clear today that these people were put in that position to save *me*, a very blessed young man who was too self-involved to realize his good fortune, it took me a while to figure that out.

Ike Brannon ◆

**Baptisms**

January 13, 2008  
Finn Brose Anzalone

**Deaths**

January 4, 2008  
Dr. James Marshall Barnett  
1932–2008

**Burials**

January 8, 2008  
Dr. James Marshall Barnett

**Confirmations—None**

**Marriages—None**

**Transfers In—None**

**Transfers Out—None** ◆

**February 2008**

1 Randal Black  
4 Lee Cohen  
5 Lisa Zaina  
6 Stu Edwards  
Joanna Edwards  
7 Barbara Menard  
8 Keith Melchers  
9 Andoni Barreto  
10 Charles Johnson  
15 Julia Preston  
Bob Publicover  
21 Ram Hansen  
25 Tom Mabon

**March 2008**

1 Christine Burkhart  
John Coates  
2 Clive Brady  
4 Wes McCune  
12 Barbara Brady  
Josie Martin  
13 Kevin LeGrand  
14 Dale Lewis  
15 Caroline Fernandez  
18 Al Muller  
20 Claire Swain Payne  
21 Roland Houle  
23 Linda Iverson  
Richard McKewen  
25 Beatrice Beardsworth  
Kathy Nelson  
26 Martin Culbreth  
Annika Patricia Strandberg  
Gulling  
Karl Finn Strandberg  
Gulling  
30 Erin Piel

**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 Robin Jones. ◆

The Rev. Alistair So, who served as our seminarian from 2003 to 2005, has accepted a call to be the 40th rector of All Hallows Parish, South River in Davidsonville, Maryland. He will conclude his ministry as associate rector of St. Martin's-in-the-Field in Severna Park, Maryland on January 20, 2008

and begin at All Hallows on February 3, 2008, the Last Sunday after Epiphany. He will be installed by the Bishop of Maryland on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at 11 a.m. at the Chapel of All Hallows in Davidsonville. Further details on the installation will appear in the bulletin. ◆

## The All Souls Message

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Isaac Borocz, *parish administrator*  
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Oscar Prado, *sexton*  
Artie Roach, *interim director of music*  
*and organist*

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Frank Karel, III  
Dale Lewis  
Susan Morrison  
Ray Myrtle, *junior warden*  
Stephen Rhody  
James Solomon  
Larry Sturgeon, *treasurer*  
Nancye Suggs, *senior warden*  
Norman Whitmire, Jr.

*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*

*February/March 2008*

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

## *A New Website*

*Be sure to check  
our new web site  
at [www.allsoulsdc.org](http://www.allsoulsdc.org)*



Also, if you don't already receive email updates from All Souls, be sure to sign up for these. (*Look under the About Us section, click Email Updates, and follow the instructions.*)

Beginning the first week of Lent we will be sending a weekly message on Thursdays that will include a word from the Rector, announcements for Sunday, and the upcoming calendar for the week.