

The All Souls Message

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church • Volume 106, Issue 3 • June/July/August 2006

From the Search Committee

Living our History

Approximately 60 All Souls parishioners joined the Search Committee on April 30 for parish History Day. All present were encouraged to share their stories and reminiscences, and thus learned about the sometimes-rocky history of the church. In the process they found the beginning of a path to the future.

A capsule view:

- In 1911, fifteen men and women gathered in a house, led by the Rev. James MacBride Sterrett. In 1913, the members petitioned the Diocesan Council for recognition as a new parish, but there was great concern about the would-be parish's financial base.
- Rev. Sterrett served the church without payment for six years. His son, the Rev. Henry Hatch Dent Sterrett took over in 1917 and continued as rector until 1948.
- The third rector of All Souls, the Rev. Francis Winfield Blackwelder, was a powerful preacher, and the parish reached a high-water mark of 400 people attending 11 a.m. Sunday services. Toward the end of his ministry, a conservative All Souls distanced itself from the liberal-leaning Diocese of Washington.
- During the tenure of our fourth rector, the Rev. E. Joseph Mackov, the church began to attract a few younger people from the neighborhood, but the average age of parishioners moved upward. In the mid-1980's, a financial dispute arose within the vestry. Mackov resigned in 1987.

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- Following four rectors in 76 years, there was a long interim, a short, disastrous rectorate, and another interim. Despite this turmoil, the church undertook needed renovations, re-engaged with its neighborhood, and began to reverse a decline in the size and vitality of the congregation. However, for two years the church funded a deficit by drawing down on its endowment.
- The Rev. John David van Dooren arrived in 1992 when Sunday attendance averaged 30–40 people. During his tenure, the church grew to its current average Sunday attendance of nearly 250. He left in July 2005.
- The Rev. Joan Beilstein, our current interim rector, arrived in September 2005 and is charged with helping the parish remain vibrant as it seeks its next rector.

The reminiscences demonstrated that many things changed through the years—political leanings, the liturgy, and the demographics of the congregation—largely reflective of the powerful and charismatic personalities of the parish's clergy. Despite stark differences among the rectors, however, a portrait of the parish as a resilient and devoted community emerged. Those members who remained at All Souls during the tumultuous time in the late 1980s were given credit for keeping the parish alive.

Common frustrations emerged at the event as well, including the historical lack of strong financial gifts, the fact that the two Sunday services feel like two separate congregations, and the absence of a shared vision of congregational ministry.

The strongest theme heard throughout the day was the feeling of warmth and inclusiveness that has strengthened the parish and attracted new members. Many, many people said their reasons for joining All Souls involved Fr. John David, and when he left, as one said, "We could have all just practically turned up our toes and died."

But we haven't. Nearly everyone credited members of the loving congregation for that resiliency. Uncovering this and other important threads in parish life will help All Souls create a constructive future, despite its reputation as a "rector-centric" parish. It will also help the Search Committee paint a

Continued on page 2

meaningful and fully developed portrait of the Parish, which will be incorporated into the parish profile, a key component of the search for a new rector.

The process of creating a bright future has begun, with the guiding hand of Mother Joan and the lay leadership. “This time the church has not fallen apart because of the departure of a rector,” concluded Search Committee Chairman Mike McGee.

*Cheryl Saenz
 for the Search Committee*

After a period of reflection and internal organization, the Search Committee has begun the formidable task of developing the Parish Profile, which is the first step of the search process. The profile is the method by which candidates measure their own gifts, aspirations and concerns against a parish’s self assessment of its history, its current status and where it hopes to be in the future.

On behalf of the committee, I want to thank all of you who made the April 30 history session such a great success. Our shared stories will give the history narrative the perspective that cannot be gleaned from a recitation of dates of specific rectorates and archived events.

A more difficult task faces us in the coming months. The Parish Survey and the focus groups that will follow will call for prayerful reflection on the part of every member on what you see as the state of the parish, and the characteristics that are important in a future rector. I encourage every member to participate.

By the time you read this, both the online and paper administration of the survey will have

occurred. The committee will continue its work of formulating the focus group questions that follow from the responses and expand upon their content. While the summer vacation period is not ideal to conduct focus groups, we ask your understanding and cooperation to assure that your voices are heard.

Other segments of the profile have been assigned to subcommittees which continue their work in parallel to the survey. If we can continue to press forward, we hope to have a draft of the profile ready for the Vestry’s review in the early fall. Once that profile is approved by the Vestry and the Diocese, and posted to the National Deployment Office website, we can begin the major task of candidate evaluation.

We are making progress in this journey and have many more exciting milestones to come. May God grant us all discerning and open hearts and minds in this search for the next rector of All Souls Parish.

*Mike McGee
 Search Committee Chair*

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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 September 2006 issue of The Message is July 30, 2006

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. Call George with story ideas, questions, and complaints at (W) 202/512-1801, extension 32067, or (H) 202/986-2998. ■

Thanks to the increasing number of experts in the areas of congregational and organizational development, we know more today than ever about what makes parishes grow and thrive. As we might expect, worship is often what attracts people to congregations and is the primary venue for the gathered community to come together to praise God, build friendships based on love and acceptance, and receive spiritual nourishment and comfort. I have recently been reading a book by one such expert, Thomas G. Long, *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship*, (Washington: The Alban Institute, 2001).

Long raises up nine characteristics of vital and faithful churches—VITAL, meaning they are active, growing, and drawing crowds of people to worship, and FAITHFUL, because they manage to remain true to the great worship heritage of the church. The foundation of this book was Long's study of a diversity of congregations throughout the U. S. He discovered that they shared nine features in common which had positive impact on congregational life and worship:

1. Making room, somewhere in worship, for the experience of mystery;
2. Making planned and concerted efforts to show hospitality to the stranger;
3. Having recovered and made visible the sense of drama inherent in Christian worship;
4. Emphasizing congregational music that is both excellent and eclectic in style and genre;
5. Creatively adapting the space and environment of worship;
6. Forging a strong connection between worship and local mission—a connection expressed in every aspect of the worship service;

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to grow and thrive,
all must work
and offer
their gifts...
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7. Maintaining a relatively stable order of service and a significant repertoire of worship elements and responses that the congregation know by heart;
8. Moving toward a joyous festival experience near the end of the worship service; and
9. Having strong, charismatic pastors as worship leaders.

Given how central and important worship is to the life and ministry of the people of All Souls, I've been pondering which characteristics from this list our faith community is living out, or not living out, fully. For example, how does All Souls make room for visitors and newcomers in all areas of parish life, in essence making physical and emotional space for the "stranger?" Is there an intentional and articulated connection made between worship and mission in the world, and what concrete ways is this mission being lived out? Does worship send the gathered assembly forth feeling joy-filled and empowered for daily living?

I invite you all to ponder these questions. I believe that for any congregation to live fully into

its call by God to be a vital and faithful congregation, it is a ministry that "all souls" must commit to. Making a church vital and faithful is not only the job of the pastor, but the work of the people in the pews. A spiritual leader is only as effective as his or her partners in ministry. Indeed, for a congregation to grow and thrive, all must work and offer their gifts together with steadfast dedication, mutual energy and enthusiasm, and passionate love of God and neighbor. As All Souls looks toward its future, it is my prayer that you will continue to find new ways to be a vital and faithful congregation. You are blessed to have the people, the resources, and I believe, the heart and soul to do so. In essence, you have what Thomas Long calls the continuing possibility of creating a *new thing on earth*—"a service of worship which is completely attuned to the American cultural moment but also fully congruent with the great worship tradition of the Christian church; a service that attracts young people and seekers and the curious and those who are hungry for a spiritual encounter, but that does so by beckoning people to the deep and refreshing pool of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it has been understood historically in the church."

Faithfully,
Mother Joan † ■

Casting Our Votes

Election Results from the Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of All Souls Parish was held following worship on Sunday, May 21, 2006. The by-laws of the parish stipulate that “The first business after the adoption of the permanent roll shall be the election of Wardens and of general members of the Vestry...”

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of eight nominees for general member and two for Junior Warden, from which the following were elected:

JUNIOR WARDEN (2 YEAR TERM)–Ray Myrtle,

GENERAL MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY (3 YEAR TERM)–Darla Brown, Susan Morrison, and Stephen Rhody.

Ray Myrtle’s election as Junior Warden created an unexpired 2-year term, which, according to provision in the by-laws, was filled by Norman Whitmire, Jr.

In total, 10 members agreed to be nominated for parish office, in line with the Vestry’s desire to run contested races for each available seat. Please congratulate those elected, and extend a word of thanks to those who were not. ■

Announcing...

A Change in Service Times for the Summer Months

In the April/May edition of *The Message*, the Interim Rector and Vestry asked for your thoughts on going to one 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sundays for the months of July and August, in order to give parishioners from both services the opportunity to worship together. We would like to thank those of you who have responded. It was very helpful in making the following decision.

Given that the character of our two services is different (ie., one is said and one is sung) and that several people from the earlier service would have difficulty in making a later service because of work commitments on Sunday, ***we have decided to maintain both services but with a time change.***

From Sunday, June 11, 2006 through Sunday, September 3, 2006 only, our worship service schedule on Sundays will be:
8:30 a.m.—Rite I Said Mass
10:00 a.m.—Rite I Mass with Music

Given that there is no Adult Forum or Church School until Ingathering Sunday, September, 10th, 2006, the earlier time of 10:00 a.m. will allow members of both services to attend a series of brunches, which will be held at Pesto Restaurant (at the corner of Connecticut and Cathedral Avenues) following the 10:00 a.m. service. Please look at our Weekly Announcements Bulletin at worship and the Website for upcoming brunch dates. The owner of Pesto has graciously offered to open up the restaurant to us for a Sunday Brunch during the summer at a fixed price and menu. These brunches will not only allow members of both services to get to know each other, but also give members of the parish an opportunity to talk with the Interim Rector, members of the Vestry, and members of the Search Committee about all aspects of parish life. An RSVP will be required. ■

From the Vestry

Reports from March & April 2006

At its March meeting, the Vestry:

- Received the treasurer’s 2005 year-end financial statements noting that All Souls finished the year on budget
- Discussed the need to augment our clergy staff with a part-time priest and agreed to explore the possibility
- Agreed to place a Holy Week advertisement in *The Washington Post* to highlight the daily worship opportunities offered this year

At its April meeting, the Vestry:

- Learned from the treasurer that the late Ann Clary left a substantial bequest to the All Souls Endowment
- Received an update from the search committee on the parish profile questionnaire and plans for the parish history brunch
- Thanked outgoing members of the Vestry for their faithful service to our parish. Retiring members are George Barnum, junior warden, Heidi Fritschel, Deidre Hill, and Norman Whitmire. ■



The Vestry meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month from September through June.

All Souls needs two nursery care providers to begin work immediately.

Employment Type:

Permanent (5-7 hours per week primarily on Sundays).

Role: The nursery care provider is responsible to the Interim Rector and works directly under the supervision of Heidi Fritschel. He/she is responsible for providing nursery care primarily on Sunday mornings. The nursery care provider can be requested, with advance notice, to provide nursery care at other times for special worship services and parish events and activities, for an additional wage. Hourly salary will be paid according to the Diocesan Personnel Guidelines.

If you know of interested candidates, please have them contact The Rev. Joan Beilstein, Interim Rector, at 202-232-4244 or at revjeb@comcast.net. This position may be of particular interest to high school or college students looking to make an income while they are pursuing their education. ■

The Day of Pentecost, which occurs on June 4 this year, is also called Whitsunday. It is the fiftieth day after Easter and the eighth and last Sunday of the Easter season. The Day of Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in the form of tongues of fire. Peter was the preacher on that day, and three thousand were baptized. The liturgical color for the Day of Pentecost is red. Following the Day of Pentecost, we enter the Season of Pentecost, which is also called Ordinary time. This period forms the longest period of the church year, lasting twenty-two to twenty-seven Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. The emphasis during this period is the Christian life and its liturgical color is green. Several important feast days occur within Ordinary Time, including:

THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS
June 23rd

THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
June 24th

THE FEAST OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL
July 29th

THE FEAST OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE
July 22nd

HOLY CROSS DAY
September 14th

THE FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL
AND ALL ANGELS
September 29th

and, of course,

ALL SAINTS' DAY AND ALL SOULS' DAY
November 1st and 2nd.

The season of Pentecost takes us all the way up to the season of Advent, with

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING
November 26th



JOYOUS
PENTECOST!

When we ponder what the season of Pentecost is all about, it is quite simple. It is a season to celebrate and reaffirm the on-going gift of the Holy Spirit as we strive to emulate the examples of those men and women, saints and pilgrims, who carried out God's work in their daily lives. By doing so, we live out the mystery of faith, "Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again"...and again...and again...working anew in each and every one of us.

Mother Joan † ■

"All our lives, we are repeatedly in the position of finding, revealing, explaining, and teaching—or conversely, of being led, taught, and illuminated. Everyone is the priest of a mystery that someone else does not know," says L. William Countryman in *Living on the Border of the Holy: Renewing the Priesthood of All* (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 1999). He describes the priesthood as a "fundamental and inescapable part of being human" and our priestly ministry as "the ministry that introduces us to arcana—hidden things, secrets." Most of these secrets are not kept secret on purpose; the deepest arcana, "are secret because they are hard to know, hard to reveal, hard to learn." Such things cannot be adequately conveyed through language, only through experience. At most, language can serve as a guide or map to the experience itself. Countryman begins his book with a discussion of the priesthood, not just of all Christians or all believers, but of all humans.

"The deepest arcana take us beyond the realm of everyday things" to something Countryman refers to by a number of different names, including THE HOLY, GOD, REALITY, LOVE, TRUTH OR THE HIDDEN. Our encounters with the HOLY can be imagined as "life in a border country" where we catch glimpses of a hidden world, which is really just the everyday world seen at greater depth and from a new perspective. In this border country we discover both how small and finite we are as well as how connected we are, not just to other humans but to all of creation and to the REALITY which undergirds it. One way this connectedness can be seen is in the fact that we all need

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This type of ministry is not something that can be learned or mastered; neither can it be resisted. Indeed, it is sometimes our enemies, people who are deliberately trying to be cruel, who end up ministering to us. "The only absolute qualification of a priest is insight, an insight that comes from some encounter with the arcana, some time spent in awareness in the border country." Though we cannot control our ministry, we can cooperate with it. As we allow ourselves to become more open and attentive, we see that the border country is everywhere, even in the most mundane aspects of our lives. We cultivate this attentiveness through faithful humility, hopeful patience, love and integrity. This priestly ministry is not something that the strong and powerful give to the weak or marginalized; rather it is a sharing between people who are fundamentally equal. Sometimes it is our very weakness that "drives us to the contemplation of a reality more encompassing and truer and more fundamental than the everyday, and then shows us that this revelation, granted in this way to us, must be granted in the same way to all."

Countryman also talks about how the priesthood can be dangerous and gives Hitler as a powerful

example of this potential for evil. According to Countryman, "Hitler must have spent time in the border country. The very power with which he evoked and encouraged and fed the passions of his audience identifies him as a man with experience of the arcana." Hitler's ministry was warped by his desire for status and power; he saw Jews, Gypsies and others as demons, never realizing that the demons he saw were really the projections of his own internal evil. People all over the world live with the consequences of such "demonic priest-hoods."

Religion or the Sacred, as Countryman uses those terms, does not belong to the border country; it belongs to the everyday world. Religion is not GOD; rather, its purpose is to point beyond itself toward GOD. When we mistake Religion for GOD, we commit idolatry. Similarly, Countryman quotes the prayer book definition of the sacraments as "outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace." As Countryman says, "[t]hey may even be said to convey grace, for behind them stands the boundless generosity of GOD. Yet they hold no monopoly on grace, which is an uncontrolled and uncontrollable gift of the HIDDEN REALITY itself." The priesthood of religion is secondary, intended to assist rather than replace the more fundamental priesthood of humanity, but it is easy to forget this and to see the priests of religion as the "real" priests. Jesus, who was not a priest of religion, resolved this problem, not once for all, but "in principle by reasserting the dignity of the fundamental priesthood in his own person." Thus, "[t]he priesthood of the Christian people is the priesthood of all humanity,

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interpreted and formed by the priesthood of Jesus.”

Countryman explains many of the ways in which the clergy are mistakenly seen as different and apart from “mere” lay people and the ordination process as a sort of competition to find the purest or holiest. Instead, candidates should first show themselves to be “people who are faithful to their roles as priests in the fundamental sense” and should mirror the diversity of the fundamental priesthood. According to Countryman, “[t]he point of the church’s sacramental priesthood is not its own power or authority or even its sacredness, but the way in which it emerges within and points toward the priesthood that is dispersed throughout the Christian people and the whole human race.”

Heidi Rasciner

Often congregations believe that it is only the Search Committee and the Vestry who carry out the ministry of calling a new rector. Nothing could be farther from the truth. If a search process is healthy, it should involve all members of the congregation. The characteristics and skills that YOU want to see in a new rector as well as the future direction that YOU would like to see the church take are pieces of essential information for the leadership of the church to have. Thus, the interim time is not a time for people to take a passive stand and a “wait and see attitude.” It is a time for all to be proactive. The Search Committee is at the beginning of engaging the congregation in some very important activities. The first was the History Day, which was held on April 30. While attendance was good and energy high, only about ¼ of the church membership was there to participate. Since then, you have received a parish survey. It is important that you fill out this questionnaire and return it by the deadline. This summer the Search Committee will begin holding focus

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groups for you to attend so that you can help identify desirable skills for a new rector and express your spiritual and pastoral needs in terms of worship, programs, and fellowship.

Once again, it is important that you be present at these so that you have the opportunity to be an active participant in calling a new spiritual leader for the church. The bottom line is that the interim time is a *shared journey* which is intended to involve all members of the parish, longtime attendees and newcomers. From my experience, there is nothing more frustrating than for leadership to call a new rector and then receive negative feedback from those who have not claimed their voices and made their wishes, desires, and needs known throughout the search process. I encourage all of you to be not mere spectators, but partners in calling a new rector and charting the future of All Souls in the days to come.

Faithfully,
Mother Joan †

ANTON & TED’S RULES

- 1. Don’t punch others.
- 2. Don’t say bad words.
- 3. Don’t hurt people.
- 4. Be good to God.
- 5. Be nice to everybody.
- 6. Never say “stupid.”
- 7. Don’t pollute the water.
- 8. Respect living things.
- 9. No more wars.
- 10. Don’t steal.

From June 13–21, 2006, bishops and deputies from every diocese will gather in Columbus, Ohio, to attend the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the United States. It is important to note that at this Convention, which gathers every three years, significant decisions are made regarding life and future direction of the church. The theme for this year's convention is "Come and Grow." Our Diocese of Washington will be represented in the House of Bishops by our bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Chane, and our retired bishop, the Rt. Rev. Jane Dixon. In the House of Deputies, our diocese will be represented by four clerical deputies, four lay deputies, four alternate clerical deputies, and four alternate clerical deputies, who were elected at our diocesan conventions in 2005 and 2006. This Convention is important for several reasons. First, the House of Bishops will be electing a new Presiding Bishop who will be the chief pastor of the Episcopal Church and who will be a leader in the Anglican Communion as our Primate. Second, the Convention will be considering hundreds of resolutions which encompass everything from liturgy and music to social concerns, world mission, the state of the church, financial decisions,

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interfaith and ecumenical relationships, and church development. And lastly, the Convention will be addressing the divisions that have occurred in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion as a result of the 74th Convention's actions to affirm the election of the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, a gay man living in a committed relationship, and the local option of dioceses to develop a same-sex blessing rite. For a full listing of resolutions and for general information regarding The 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church log onto www.ecusa.anglican.org.

Faithfully,
Mother Joan † ■

*The Interim Rector,
who is a Clerical Deputy representing our diocese,
will be giving a pre-Convention forum
on Wednesday, June 7, 2006 from 6–8 p. m.*

The discussion will begin with a potluck supper, so please bring something to share, and come prepared with questions on any specific resolutions that interest you.

Vacuum Cleaners to Bells—An Appreciation

Oh, the thankless job of the junior warden! There is always something to be fixed or worked on, and it is very hard to please almost anyone!

I'd like to extend a very grateful and appreciative thank you to George Barnum, our outgoing junior warden. He has been very supportive and responsive to the sometimes multiple calls for help I have made during any one day to deal with building operations issues. I feel that he has been an effective member of our combined team.

Now about that vacuum cleaner. This piece of household equipment may not seem critical to our mission, but until George stepped forward to offer a durable and dependable cleaner, I was having to replace ours almost every three months—a small thing to do, but very aggravating.

On weightier issues, here are a few of the things completed during George's watch.

1. Upgrade and replacement of heating and cooling ventilators in the church proper.
2. Sale of the rectory.
3. Resolution of the parking lot rental issue with the Board of Zoning Adjustment.
4. Formulation and approval of a building use policy.
5. Installation of new sound system.
6. Replacement of the toilets to meet handicap accessibility standards and environmental low-flow standards.
7. Replacement of snow guards on the church roof.
8. Installation of signage in the office building that meets handicap standards.
10. Installation of bells in the tower.

George has said that he was only doing his job, and that is true. However, during my tenure as Parish Administrator I have not seen as much accomplished. Congratulations and thanks.

*Barry E. Huber,
Parish Administrator* ■

George Barnum Responds

I'm moved by the many words of congratulation and appreciation from the All Souls family as my term as Junior Warden ends, and in particular Barry Huber's very kind words here. He and I have developed a wonderful working relationship and a friendship I treasure. He has used two words in his tribute that interest me as I think back on my term, "teamwork" and "thankless."

I'm ambivalent about the overworked notion of teams, since it implies (to me anyway) competition, and I'm not a competitive person. That said, I am very clear

that whatever success can be ascribed to my term is directly a result of the cooperation and, ok, teamwork that has been a regular part of the landscape at All Souls. Whether working with Barry one on one, with the formidable combination of Barry and Oscar, with Scott Minos, Tom Mabon and the Garden Guild, or with my various committees, the results we achieved are all about the combined efforts of more than just me.

And then there's my pet hobbyhorse, "thankless." Being elected junior warden is not a ticket to glamour, however important it is to the operation of the physical space. But it's a tribute to the special

place that the All Souls buildings have in all our hearts that I cannot say that as "chief steward" of the buildings I have ever felt unappreciated or unremembered. Indeed, there might have been times when I'd have preferred a lower profile rather than hear, yet again, about the toilet in the ladies room behind the....well anyway.

I can honestly say that I have loved being junior warden and feel great satisfaction in the work we have accomplished together. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity the Parish has given me to serve.

*George Barnum,
former Junior Warden* ■

A great friend who chairs her Lutheran church's outreach committee shared a story with me recently. A member of her committee wanted to do more to publicize the work of their parish. To get credit for it. How would anyone know about their church and their good works otherwise? My friend related the true experience of a man held in protective custody in Togo who eventually was sent to New York City. The people who aided his passage from Africa to the United States provided him with an address and \$350. When he arrived at Kennedy International Airport he asked a taxicab driver to take him to the address he had been given. After some discussion and pleading, the driver relented. He agreed to drive the man from New York City to suburban northern Virginia. The man had been told that if he reached the address provided, the people there would help him. My friend's church did help him and he continues to benefit from their community.

The ensuing discussion revolved around the notion of doing good and helping people for its own sake versus being seen to be helping people. They eventually agreed that the important thing is making a difference in the world, not who gets credit for it. They were not advertising in Africa, yet word traveled.

Outreach means different things to different people—even at All Souls. Outreach means making grants from our endowment funds, furnishing an apartment biennially for Partner Arms, preparing meals

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at Christ House, celebrating the Eucharist at St. Mary's Court, underwriting meals at the Episcopal Center for Children, or providing space for music ensembles to rehearse and perform concerts. Outreach means sponsoring a booth at Capital Pride. It means offering prayers for our friends and relatives through our Internet prayer group. We at All Souls do reach out to the community around us. We often don't talk about what we do and we just as often reach out to others individually based on our particular talents.

As our rector search committee gathers stories of our history, facts and figures about our place in the city, and our finances, it strikes me that this is a perfect time to talk about the difference we make in the world. Prospective candidates for rector will certainly want to know that we use our time, talent, and treasure to enrich the lives of those around us. So I will be asking sponsors of our endowment grant recipients to bring us stories and pictures of the lives and communi-

ties which benefit from our money. I will be asking participants in community events showcasing the parish and diocese to share their experiences.

Whatever outreach means to us and whether or not we get public praise for helping people, we do need to tell each other what we're up to. Our particular parish tradition has been to match individuals to particular projects based on interests and talent. We serve on boards, raise money for good causes, and, I expect, quietly do dozens of other outreach activities. And that's okay. But what could happen if we each invited one or two other parishioners to help with a project? Soon there would be tremendous momentum and new ideas for community outreach and a volunteer base to carry out the work. In a congregation as vital and active as ours, the possibilities are nearly unlimited.

In the April/May issue of *The Message*, I wrote about raising up new leadership in the parish. I'm happy to report that people are responding to my call. I hope that as Mother Joan and I work to reinvigorate our committee structure and programs, many more people respond with a passion for outreach and come forward with energy and excitement. We do make a difference in the world.

David Michael Hollis
Senior Warden ■

The mystic Evelyn Underhill writes:

“Christian worship is never a solitary undertaking. Both on its visible and invisible sides, it has a thoroughly social and organic character. The worshiper, however lonely in appearance, comes before God as a member of a great family; part of the Communion of Saints, living and dead. His/her own small efforts of adoration is offered ‘in and for all.’”

Each week a small group of All Souls parishioners gather faithfully at midweek services to praise God and offer prayers on behalf of this community and the world. We invite you to come and join us—as members of God’s great family—to share in the breaking of the bread and in fellowship, at either or both of these services. At 8 a.m., following the Thursday Mass, we gather in the rector’s office for coffee and cake. We have found that gathering for worship during the week, as well as Sundays, is a form of devotion and spiritual discipline that draws us deeper into the mystery of our faith, and draws us nearer in heart to God and one another. All are welcome—and indeed your presence will be a blessing to all! ■



Wednesdays, Noon
SAID MASS



Thursdays, 7:15
MATINS AND SAID MASS

Fourteen Lines

After Emmaus

Luke 24: 13-53

Two walked together, seeking mutual cheer,
Bone-weary, in despair as the dull day
Darkened to night. They spoke a mounting fear
of Israel’s loss, of leaders gone astray
To one who joined them as they took their way
To journey’s end. He told them how one must die
So all might live; they bade him stay
To share a meal, help put their grieving by.

He broke and blessed the bread to glorify
The Father who had sent him, and was gone.
And they, their minds illumined, spirits high
Walked through a night become as bright as dawn
To join their friends foregathered to accord
Their adoration to the risen Lord.

– Jim Child

Although our Interim Rector has been with us for nearly a year, she remains a little unknown to some. We put some questions to her in May, and will share her responses in this issue and the next. We'll also publish a longer version of the interview on the All Souls website.
– ed.

Tell us the basics about Mother Joan.

I come from a long line of native Washingtonians. I was born and raised in the Palisades area, near Sibley Hospital, where my mother still lives in the house of my childhood. My dad was a manager with IBM after serving in the Navy in WW II. My mother raised my older sister and brother and me, and then went back to work as a secretary for the Army Map Service.

I graduated from Immaculata High School (an all-girl Catholic school) on Tenley Circle, and the University of Maryland, College Park (B.A. in Sociology). After college, I worked as an office manager for BDM International, Inc. (better known as a “beltway bandit.”) I went to General Theological Seminary in New York (Master of Divinity). I’m now completing my Doctor of Ministry at Virginia Theological Seminary. I’m a trained Interim Specialist and have a certificate in Pastoral Care and Counseling. I’ve served as a hospital chaplain and CPE Supervisor, a Director of Pastoral Care in a nursing home, a parish rector, and as an interim rector.

What about your call to the priesthood?

I am a cradle Episcopalian and from the day I was born my mother had me in church. I grew up in St. David’s Parish, Washington. My life in the church progressed

along usual lines: I attended church school, sang in the junior choir, and became an acolyte. At 16 I was struggling with some painful issues and I felt an emptiness inside that was quite profound. It was then I began to feel the first stirrings of my spirit toward a religious vocation, and I ran away fast and hard! I was scared to death of these stirrings! At 17, I had a distinct moment when I felt God tell me what to do with my life. I couldn’t run from what I now know was God’s pursuit. That began the journey toward ordination. I call this kind of calling “the 2 X 4” approach. I’m not sure I would have chosen the ordained ministry if God had not been so direct with me. I planned to be a writer and journalist. This was a time when women were first being ordained and for many this was an unwelcome change. I didn’t relish the idea of the resistance I might face. But I trusted God’s call and talked with my associate rector, who began to mentor me and gave me opportunities to test that call. I became a lay reader, a chalice bearer, and at the tender age of 19 was licensed to preach by our late Bishop John Walker. The rest is history. I love being a priest and I thank God every day for giving me the privilege of serving God’s people. I wouldn’t be doing anything else with my life.

We’d also like to know about your partner, Libby Griffin.

Libby is the most precious gift that God has given me. She is my partner and my best friend. I am very blessed that she has chosen to spend her life with me, given that her father was an Anglican priest and she is fully aware of what it is to be connected to a clergy person with all the demands of ministry. Libby is a native of Great Britain and a nurse by profession, having

done her initial training in London. Her elderly mother and seven siblings and their families all live in England. She arrived in the States in the 1970s to pursue her career and in the 1990s worked at Georgetown Hospital ministering to those with cancer, those in need of bone marrow transplants, and those with AIDS. For a while she worked part-time for PG Hospice, ministering to the dying. A few years ago, she became Transplant Coordinator for Kaiser Permanente. She loves what she does, which is to walk with patients and their families through the whole transplant process – obtaining the organ, getting to the transplant center, and post-care. Libby is also devoted to her faith. A long-time member of St. George’s Episcopal Church in Glenn Dale, MD, she has served in leadership positions there, including senior warden. She is splitting her time between there and All Souls and has formed some close relationships here. The people of All Souls have been really hospitable and she’s looking forward to getting to know even more folks and worshipping with us more.

You’re active in the wider church. Tell us what that means for you.

One of responsibilities that the bishop commends when one is ordained a priest is to “...share in the councils of the church.” I take this responsibility very seriously. I’m Vice President of our Clergy Association, Secretary of the Standing Committee, and a Deputy to General Convention. I’m someone who loves to be where the action is and am committed to striving to make a difference. I also love to learn new things and meet new people. Being involved at a diocesan and national level also enables me to bring back informa-

Continued on page 16

tion about the life and ministry of the church to the congregations I serve. It's a win-win situation for me and others.

Imagine you had the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Presiding Bishop, and Bishop Chane sitting on your sofa. You get to pick the topic of conversation. What would it be and what should they hear from you?

As people know, the Episcopal Church in the USA and some provinces of the Anglican Communion are in conflict over issues of human sexuality, episcopal authority, and interpretation of scripture. From reports in the media it would

seem that sexuality, in particular homosexuality, is the only thing on the church's mind. I often wonder how people view the ECUSA and the Anglican Communion: people of God, fighting about who has a place at the table and who should be included in the full life of the church. It must seem pretty hypocritical that Christ's disciples, who are called to love God and neighbor unconditionally, are treating one another so unkindly, especially when the world is faced with poverty, the spread of AIDS, the war in Iraq, and interfaith tensions resulting in terrorism and violence across the globe. My message to

those leaders would be that it is well past the time for us to stop focusing on our internal disagreements and turn our attention outward to minister together to our needy and broken world. There is so much of God's work to be done, can we really afford to make anyone an outcast and turn away the gifts that are offered out of our rich diversity? I don't think so. It's time for the church to be the ONE body of Christ and recommit ourselves to a mission and ministry that reflects the wide embrace of our loving and compassionate God, putting aside issues that pale in comparison to the urgent issues facing humankind. ■

Announcing

Women's Sistership Meeting July 19

You are invited to a potluck supper and gathering of All Souls Women on Wednesday, July 19th, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

Our guest speaker for this evening will be *Marie Johns*, talking with us about *The Role of Women in Public Policy*.

Please bring family and friends who may be interested in this topic as well as a beverage and a food item to share.

Mark Your Calendar

All Souls Chamber Music Series

The second recital in the All Souls Chamber Music Series will take place on Saturday, June 10, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

The program, "Souvenir de Florence" will include works by Bach, Handel, and the sextet "Souvenir de Florence" by Tchaikovsky, played by the Washington Opera Quartet, Susan Midkiff (violin), Martha Kaufman (violin), Shelley Coss (viola), and Igor Zubkovsky (cello), joined by Michael Stepniak of Columbia College, Maryland (viola), and Vasily Popov of the Levine School of Music, Washington (cello).

Tickets are \$15.00.

For information or to purchase tickets, call 202-445-0302.

The recital is produced by Vasily Popov with the support of All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church.

We thank thee, Father, for the water of Baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.
By it we share in his Resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

| <i>June</i> | <i>July</i> | <i>August</i> |
|--|---|---|
| 1 James Bailey Roi Bernard Heidi Clark William Fowlkes Robert Hilton Bryan Powell Henry Shea Joseph Threadgill B.J. Warren | 1 Scout Bowman Jil Eynon Cynthia Powell Rachel Shinbur Senta Speight Lisa Watson 6 Dennis Kivlighan 8 Roy Woodall 8 Fred Hadeed 10 Christina Murray 12 Landis Vance 15 Ron Carsell 16 Jerry Fath Embry Howell 17 Larry Amon Maxwell Lawton 18 Sandra Welch 22 Jack Linehan 23 Monica Barreto 25 Lee Kadrich 31 Tim Dill | 1 Ike Brannon Jamie Finch Julia Gutierrez Greg Shinbur Wayne Thompson 4 Robin Jones 6 Clark Ball 8 Gene Sexton 9 Harriet Curry 10 Jan Clayberg David Tubman 15 Julian Saenz 16 Tommy Mottur 17 Randy Beardsworth Phil Marti Oscar Prado 18 Chuck Shirkey 19 Bob Kulawiec 20 Terry Clark Charles Graham 21 Gregg Buckley Marian Chin 22 Jim Solomon 23 Tom Koch 24 Carl Uhlig 25 Steve Grough Stephen Preston 29 Jim Gasser |
| 2 John Hall | | |
| 3 Michael Heinl Chris Lethbridge Rosemary Marquis | | |
| 4 David Howell-Jones Sharon Nuskey | | |
| 5 Travis Reuther Peggy Valentino | | |
| 8 Betty Ann Beardsworth Sarah Chatfield Mark Hoffman James Rogers | | |
| 9 Sue Eyman | | |
| 10 Anton Haines Jane Ireland | | |
| 11 Tony Domenico Matt Wigglesworth | | |
| 12 Alli Bowmen Paul Carter Todd Crawford | | |
| 14 John Maxwell | | |
| 15 Isabel Cole Elizabeth McKee | | |
| 16 Erik Melchers | | |
| 17 Michael Menne | | |
| 19 Jim Barnett | | |
| 20 Shawn Strout Nolie Thornell | | |
| 21 Alison Prevost | | |
| 22 Chris Crittsinger | | |
| 23 Miguel Prado | | |
| 26 Mary Kivlighan | | |
| 29 Terry Horan | | |
| 30 James Brady Victoria Drell Jeffrey Kahle | | |

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 Mickey Norris. ■

Baptisms

None

Burials

Anne Roane Clary, March 21, 2006

Confirmations

None

Marriages

April 22, 2006

Philip Alexander Gennarelli &
Terri James Osborn Fuller

April 27, 2006

Daniel Riddle Shive &
Rachel Elizabeth Parrott

Transfers In

None

Transfers Out

None

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The Voice of Rejoicing...

Our Bells Are Named

The bells in All Souls' tower sang forth for the first time at the Easter Vigil, and were dedicated at the 11:00 service on Easter Day. Bells and bell ringing are surrounded by tradition and convention. There is a traditional order for beginning and ending the ringing of the peal. Bells are referred to with a feminine pronoun. Bells often have names. The honor of naming our three fell to the donors, Elizabeth McKee and Camille and Jim Barnett, along with Don Harrell, who did many many weeks of research and correspondence to guide the Vestry and Buildings and Grounds Committee in this project.

The Tenor bell (the lowest in pitch, D above middle C) is called JOHN (as in The Baptist, the "voice in the wilderness.") This honors the original donor to our bell project, Mrs. John Hansen, who made a bequest in 1998, and in the 1960s had given the electronic carillon that these bells replace, in memory of her husband John. The bell is 26 7/8" in diameter and weighs 480 lbs.

The Second, at E above middle C, is EVE, after the second of our ancestors. She is 24 1/4" in diameter and weighs 370 lbs.

The Treble (highest pitch in this peal) at F# above middle C, is REBEKAH, "the mother of thousands and millions." She is 22" in diameter and 290 lbs.

The bells are of bronze, and were cast by the Meeks, Watson Co., of Georgetown, Ohio.

Ringing the bells is a very satisfying way to be involved with the day's service. We need a total of six people, three at each service, to ring the entire half peal each week. The Bell Guild needs YOU! It's not at all difficult or strenuous. Contact George Barnum if you'd like to join.

All Souls Church Staff

The Rev. Mthr. Joan E. Beilstein,
interim rector
Samuel Baker, *director of music and organist*
Barry Huber, *parish administrator*
Ric Haines, *director of Sunday School*
Mickey Norris, *membership secretary*
Oscar Prado, *sexton*
Moises Flores, *assistant sexton*
Carlos Guerra, *sexton emeritus*

The Vestry

Darla Brown
Tony Domenico
David Michael Hollis, *senior warden*
Joe Howell
Josie Martin
Susan Morrison
Ray Myrtle, *junior warden*
Alison Prevost
Heidi Rasciner, *registrar*
Stephen Rhody
Gene Sexton
Nancye Suggs, *treasurer*
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

June/July/August 2006

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



Have a joyful summer!

Join us for the annual parish picnic on June 4 from 4:00 p.m. until dark.

*From Sunday, June 11 through Sunday, September 3 only,
our worship service schedule on Sundays will be:*

8:30 a.m.—Rite I Said Mass & 10 a.m.—Rite I Mass with Music

Ingathering Sunday is September 10—the first Sunday after Labor Day.