

The All Souls Message

All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church • Volume 106, Issue 4 • September 2006

From the Interim Rector

I've Been Reading...and Thinking

For me, a major source of relaxation and enjoyment is reading. At any given time one might find on my night stand an eclectic mix of subjects. Currently I am reading a book on leadership (for my professional development), *The Gospel of Judas* (for my theological education), and a fiction classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (for leisure.) I had an interesting “a-ha” experience recently while engaging in my nighttime reading, but not while devouring the pages of the professional development or the theology books.

My “a-ha” occurred when I got to a scene in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Atticus Finch, who is a father and an attorney, is trying to teach his young daughter, Scout, a lesson about tolerance and acceptance. He says, “If you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you’ll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.” How true this is! How much easier we would get along with others if they felt that we were genuinely trying to see them for who they are, hear what they are trying to say, and identify in some measure with what they’re going through. In essence, if we approached our relationships and interactions with empathy.

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I think the church, local and global, would do well to take Atticus’ advice, which is exactly what our Lord was so good at doing: having empathy toward our neighbor. Jesus was able to get into the skin of the leper, the blind man, the Samaritan woman at the well, and so many others, and thus was able to have compassion for them. If we can “walk around in each other’s skin” a bit maybe there would be less discomfort, hatred, and judgment swirling around. Maybe liberals and conservatives would come together as the One Body of Christ and work together toward the common good. Maybe congrega-

tions that are different in terms of race, culture, and theological bent would come together in parish partnerships that work toward some common goals to benefit our city. Maybe individuals in the pews would see “the stranger in their midst” as an opportunity to make a new friend and learn something of value.

As we begin yet another new time in the life of the parish, and as the Interim process moves into its final stages, let us follow in the footsteps of our Lord who, because of his great empathy, was able to be a vehicle of love, forgiveness, and compassion in the lives of others. If we can do this, then surely we are well on our way of living out God’s call to us “to get along” as brothers and sisters in the faith. As Christ’s disciples we are called to do no less.

Faithfully,
Mother Joan †

See “In this issue” on page 3.

General Convention was an emotional and physical marathon in many ways. As bishops and deputies, our days started as early as 7:30 a.m. with committee meetings, and often our last legislative session ended at 6 p.m., with open forums beginning at 7:30 p.m. It was routine to leave my hotel room at 7 a.m. and not return until midnight or after. As a praying community, we gathered for Eucharist every morning, where our preachers and celebrants were from various provinces of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. We worshipped to the mass being said in different languages from around the globe. And we sang and swayed to liturgical music ranging from classical hymns to Christian rock, from jazz to Native American drums. At Convention, I once again witnessed the rich diversity of our church in terms of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, culture, ethnic background, and theological viewpoint. It is the church at its best in terms of seeing firsthand how God calls so many different people to be the One Body of Christ with a common mission.

In total, the Convention considered nearly 300 resolutions, so it is impossible for me to address all of them in this article. I will offer a few highlights.

- On Sunday, June 18, 2006, the House of Bishops elected and the House of Deputies confirmed the election of the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, bishop of Nevada, as the 26th presiding bishop. This is a historic election given that Bishop Jefferts Schori is the first woman presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church and the first woman primate elected in the Anglican Communion. She will

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be installed on Saturday, November 4, 2006 at the Washington National Cathedral.

- There were several resolutions considered relating to the Windsor Report. Some of those that passed affirmed a commitment to interdependence in the Anglican Communion and our desire to live into the highest degree of communion possible in the face of our differences; a willingness to engage in a listening process throughout the Communion in order to participate in a worldwide dialogue; a willingness to support the process of the development of an Anglican Covenant; a commitment to the centrality of effective and appropriate pastoral care for all members of this church; and a restating of the Episcopal Church's support of gay and lesbian people and its opposition to state or federal constitutional amendments that prohibit same-gender civil marriage or civil unions and calls on government at all levels to give same-gender couples the same rights as non-gay married couples. All resolutions that called for a moratorium on the election of gay/lesbian bishops or same-sex blessings were defeated solidly. The one controversial resolution

that did pass was presented by Presiding Bishop Griswold on the last day of convention and urges restraint in consenting to the election of persons whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church. The reason for this resolution was the belief that it may help Presiding Bishop-elect Jefferts Schori both practically and politically in her engagement with Anglican primates. It is important to note, however, that this resolution does not specifically target gay and lesbian people in language and is a recommendation only, not a law, and thus is not binding.

- Passed: Resolution D022 commits the Episcopal Church to the Millennium Development Goals. These goals are as follows:
 1. eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
 2. achieve universal primary education;
 3. promote gender equality and empower women;
 4. reduce child mortality;
 5. improve maternal health;
 6. combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
 7. ensure environmental sustainability; and
 8. create a global partnership for development, with targets for aid, trade, and debt relief.
- Passed: Resolution D020 reiterates the Episcopal Church's opposition to the war in Iraq, calling on Congress and the President immediately to develop a plan to stabilize Iraq that will allow U.S. troops to come home.
- Passed: Resolution D019 calls for the church to pray for members of the armed services stationed around the world and their families.

Convention Impressions—continued

- **Passed:** Resolution A123 acknowledges the past involvement of the Episcopal Church in supporting and justifying slavery and endorses a study of monetary and non-monetary reparations to descendents of the victims of slavery.
- **Passed: Resolution C011** urges Congress to begin dialogue on the history of slavery and entertain proposals for possible reparations.

These highlights are only a snippet of Convention resolutions. If you wish to learn more or ask questions about these or other resolutions, please note that I will be speaking in more detail about General Convention at the Adult Forum on Sunday, September 24 at 10:00 a.m.

*Mother Joan †
Clerical Deputy
General Conventions 2003, 2006* ■

Preparations for 2007 Budget

The treasurer and parish administrator have been busily preparing the documents necessary to begin the 2007 budget process. We are anticipating extra expenses as the search committee begins to interview candidates and eventually when the vestry calls a new rector. We hope to give our staff appropriate salary increases and to continue the various ministries that are ongoing at All Souls.

Our stewardship pilgrimage begins in September. As we begin to plan for next year, we ask all of you to plan to join us on our stewardship pilgrimage and to be thinking about your gifts to All Souls in 2007—time, talent, and treasure.

If you have any questions or comments about the church budget, please do not hesitate to contact the senior warden, treasurer or any vestry member. Thank you!

*Nancye Suggs
Parish Treasurer* ■

All Souls Is on Tape

If you particularly enjoyed a homily or a performance by the choir and want to hear it again or if you were unable to attend Mass and want, nevertheless, to participate in our corporate worship, or you want to do something nice for a parishioner who is unable to attend: you can get a copy of the entire 11 a.m. Mass—homily, music, and liturgy—on tape. A charge of \$1 is made to cover the cost of the cassette tape. Make your request to Sam Baker, director of music. ■

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Housekeeping Summer

Summer 2006 passed by very rapidly, but it was a productive one and a time for accomplishing many housekeeping tasks around the church. Most of our buildings' exterior surfaces were repainted and the drains in front of the church inspected and cleaned. The nursery spruce-up was completed and new lighting was installed. New doors in the Sunday School rooms were put in place with windows to allow for more light and greater safety and security. Carpets in the administration wing were cleaned, and in the kitchen, the stove was cleaned, the exterminator came for a visit, and the cabinets were washed.

Accessibility on the Move

This summer was also a time for dusting off our accessibility plans and bringing them up to date. As a first step in our plans for accessibility, new railings were installed in the garden area. You will note that only one railing has been installed on the concrete steps. This is because those steps have separated from the building and only one side is sufficiently stable for a railing. It is my hope that we might remedy this in another budget year by replacing these steps altogether.

The church also began working with a church architect and engineer, both with much experience in modernizing and restoring church buildings in the Washington Diocese and elsewhere. They have also worked extensively with

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accessibility issues. They are currently working with us *pro bono* and are providing us with sound advice and new directions on projects that had us stumped in the past. This should enable us to move ahead with plans to make our front entrances accessible. All Souls came a little “late to the party” as far as obtaining the services of contractors for the summer period. We hope to do better for this autumn.

Finally, our work with professionals has brought to light the fact that an elevator may be far less expensive than previously thought, and may be well within our reach. This would be the fulfillment of a great dream for All Souls, so stay tuned for further developments.

People Are Also the Issue

As I close my report for this issue of *The Message*, I am reminded that at All Souls, people are the real issue, and I have many people to thank for a very productive summer. Barry Huber, our organized and efficient parish administrator, made the accomplishment of our summer projects a breeze, albeit with much hard work and dedication. We are

all in his debt for his efforts on our parish's behalf. Our kitchen clean-up, as one example, would not have happened as successfully were it not for his initiative. Heidi Fritschel took the job of renovating the nursery very seriously and was invaluable in making this happen. Stop by and see for yourself. She also worked with Mother Joan to hire new caregivers for our youngest parishioners. Tom Mabon and the Garden Guild kept our grounds bright and beautiful the whole summer long. Perhaps best of all, if you look up at the front entrance, you will see that things really are “looking up.” Arlin Winefordner and Steve Jacobs cleaned and remounted the light fixture there, at their own initiative, and to my pleasant surprise!

Ray Myrtle, Junior Warden ■

Because our young people are a priority at All Souls, it is important to update you on some developments regarding our ministries with children and youth.

First, the nursery has been renovated to make the atmosphere more cheerful for our children with a new paint job, cleaned carpets, new lighting, and new doors with windows. To come will be some new furniture and enhanced educational materials. We have also employed a new nursery caregiver who has successfully undergone the training and background checks required by the diocese and the national church. I encourage all parents with young children to visit the nursery and meet our new caregiver.

Second, because of the success of our Children's Chapel last year, we will be offering this ministry again starting on Ingathering Sunday at 10:45 a.m. where children participate in a worship service. This worship service is age appropriate and changes seasonally and includes songs, prayers, a message, and an offertory where children can begin to learn about stewardship.

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This is in addition to their joining their families in the sanctuary during the 11:00 a.m. service for Communion.

Third, Ric Haines, our Church School director, and his team of energetic and committed teachers will be offering a Sunday School program following the Children's Chapel, which ensures that our children receive sound and informative education regarding our Christian faith. And finally, in the fall, our seminarian Dewayne Messenger, will be exploring with youth and their parents their interest in starting a youth group for those who are of junior high and

high school age. Preliminary thoughts would be to have a monthly event which combines both the "fun" and the "social" with a discussion of spiritual and religious themes. For example, maybe go to see a current and popular movie and discuss it over pizza.

Our children are a precious gift from God. Let us not neglect their spiritual needs or their faith development. Rather, let us nurture their faith with steadfast devotion and help them to draw closer to God in ways that bring them hope, comfort, and joy. Our Lord calls us to offer them such love and care when he says to us, "Let the little children come unto me."

Mother Joan † ■

Please note:
this is a close deadline

*Copy deadline for articles for the October/November issue
of The Message is August 27, 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 comments at (W) 202/512-1801, extension 32067, or (H) 202/986-2998. ■

The spring and summer months brought much activity for the Garden Guild. Mundane garden chores of weeding, mowing, trimming, and deadheading were enlivened with the planting of many new perennial plants and shrubs in both the front and back gardens. Our goal was to fill in the open spaces with plants, done for two reasons: to provide more color and texture and to prevent weeds from germinating and growing. With the abundant rainfall, all of the new plants took hold well, thus achieving our goal. The guild also placed terracotta pots flanking each of the Cathedral Avenue doors planted with a combination of annuals, perennials, herbs, and flowering plants.

In April we were invited to participate in the Spring Fling, sponsored by the Episcopal Men's Fellowship. Our program included a slide presentation titled "The Basics of Garden Design" and concluded with a demonstration on how to plant a container garden.

June brought the launch of our garden outreach program, also known as *GO!* The *GO!* program is available to any church member, for any reason. Almost everyone has encountered a time when their garden has gotten a little ahead of them. Weeds, shrubs, even intended plants can grow out of control.

Garden Guild members participating in the *GO!* program will arrive at your home and help you get your existing gardens back in order. You provide the materials, *GO!* provides the help.

“Spring and summer brought much activity for the Garden Guild.”

Early in July, guild members traveled to St. Mary's, Foggy Bottom to complete our pledge of time and service, begun last fall. We planted new azaleas, removed dead trees, transplanted box wood shrubs and assorted perennials and leveled an area that had been used for holding plants while construction was occurring. I have been receiving notes of thanks, telephone calls, and reports from St. Mary's members expressing their gratitude for our efforts. In working for this struggling parish, I cannot help but think of the status of All Souls back in the early 1990s when we were in trouble. Perhaps our efforts may infuse new life and help this historic parish thrive once again.

And finally, the Garden Guild continues to grow. If you have fun gardening and have the desire for a great time of fellowship, please consider joining us on any Saturday morning. Please contact Tom Mabon at 202/291-6308 or online at Kambn@Starpower.net. You will receive a weekly update about our activities and meeting schedule.

Tom Mabon, Garden Guild ■

The All Souls gardens feature a number of pieces of statuary, linking our historic faith with the beauty of nature. One of the statues, however, of St. Fiacre, has graced a corner of the undercroft for two years after being found half way down the alley, obviously dragged there. After several years of being ignored, St. Fiacre has been returned (and cemented in place) to a prominent location in the meditation garden just outside of the kitchen door.

Just who is St. Fiacre? Fiacre was a 7th century monk who fled Ireland for France where he set up a hermitage and small garden. He was a well-known gardener who grew vegetables to sustain life and medicinal herbs to heal the sick. Many infirm came to him for healing. In France, he petitioned the local Bishop for more land to expand his garden to keep up with demand. The Bishop told him that he could take as much land as could be cleared in one day's time. Fiacre dragged his spade around a large plot and miraculously, trees toppled and bushes were unearthed and the ground was made fertile. A woman who witnessed the event thought him a sorcerer. For his work with medicinal herbs, healing the sick, and his land-clearing miracle, he was made a saint instead of being burned at the stake. Thus, St. Fiacre is the patron saint of gardening. The Irish and French still commemorate him on 30 August with celebrations and parades.

Tom Mabon, Garden Guild ■

I had the opportunity to spend a long weekend in New Orleans in June this year. It was my first visit in nearly a decade. I spent my time on previous trips wandering into antique stores, book stalls, the French Market, and trying to dine in all the finest restaurants in the city. This trip was decidedly different. While my partner, Mark, and his fellow lawyers conducted business, the other spouses and I performed a service project for the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court. Twenty-four women and two men painted three rooms of the courthouse. With so much devastation and need in New Orleans and the surrounding parishes, it took the chief judge just a few moments to connect our work in a municipal building with the needs of the young people served by his team of six judges. In a short time, we understood how our isolated effort on a steamy Friday morning would help improve the lives of neglected, abused, and underserved children, many left homeless by hurricane Katrina.

After our painting project was completed, we took a driving tour through St. Bernard Parish and the Lower 9th Ward to view first-hand the images we had only seen on television. We drove past mile after mile of ruined buildings marked with signs of National Guard inspections, thousands of flooded automobiles deposited under highway overpasses, and derelict

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big box stores showing no signs of return. The thought that continued to run through my mind was, “there but for the grace of God... .” I cannot imagine trying to build a new life under such conditions. But every now and then, we saw signs of rejuvenation. A lone pharmacy cleaned out and restocked by the owner and his friends has become a safe haven for comfort and basic supplies. The people we encountered conveyed determination to rebuild and were genuinely glad that visitors are returning to the Crescent City. The neighborhoods most affected by the hurricane are not the ones typically seen when in New Orleans. The French Quarter and Garden District (the oldest portions of the city) drive the economy of the region. I managed to make time to visit some of my favorite shops and discovered new restaurants. The common feeling across the city is one of hope.

By now, you’re probably wondering if there is a connection between my visit to New Orleans and our All Souls community. Except for our prayers and presence for families, friends, and even strangers affected by the storm and its aftermath, any connection would be strained. I do believe nevertheless that as we examine ourselves and our role in the city and the world through the leadership of our next rector, we can share the hope and love proclaimed in the Gospels.

David Hollis, Senior Warden ■

An update:

The Sanctuary candle dedicated on August 27 is by The Rev. Ron Barham. In a message to the parish, he said the dedication is:

In appreciation to All Souls congregation for your support last year in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. You touched many with grace in their desperation, and sent them home in hope.

(Rachel Barham’s parents direct this United Methodist mission).

This is the anniversary weekend of hurricane Katrina.

In today's complicated world the refrain "Back to the Basics" sounds continuously. Oftentimes we see it in the context of commercialism. A retailer will suggest that in order to make life more manageable one needs to buy certain products. As a teacher, I am annually amused at the retailers' basic requirements for academic preparedness: new clothes, cool folders and notebooks, stylish backpack, the newest computer, not to mention various organizational gadgets. Do parents ask their children on the way to school, "Do you have your lunch, and by the way, is your mind prepared to receive knowledge and your heart ready to discern Truth"?

The inspiration for this year's Adult Forum theme at All Souls comes from the world of pop music. Christina Aguilera has entitled her new album *Back to Basics*. Among the old-fashioned Sunday School-sounding titles on her album are "Save Me from Myself," "Hurt," "Makes Me Wanna Pray," "Ain't No Other Man," "Still Dirty," and "Thank You." Whether we feel disconnected from God and humanity, a loss of faith, or an urge to express gratitude, as Christians we can and should each day reconnect with the "basics." In morning devotions we may pray, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (from Psalm 51).

It is the ambitious mission of the Adult Forum this year to capture the joy and strength that comes with faith. We must keep in mind that we are beloved children of God. Scripture should sustain as well as challenge us. The discipline of prayer can lend stability. The church must be a spiritual home, replete with all the blessings and drama of family.

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"Back to Basics" also rings true in our search process. Under the encouraging leadership of Mother Joan, we have begun to earnestly look at the Adult Education ministry and to determine our strengths and weaknesses. We have many very learned people in our parish who have been willing to share their expertise or even acquire it for the sake of educating others; in the future, however, we hope from time to time to bring in sages from around the community to share their wisdom with us. The customary lecture format lends itself to the dissemination of much information in a relatively short amount of time; this year there will be several all discussion-based forums that will promote community building. Traditionally the rector has not been involved in the planning and execution of the forum program other than in an advisory role; we hope to be actively guided by the new leadership while retaining strong parishioner participation. We hope to maintain a balance of topics, build attendance, inspire saints, and institute a Bible study that is distinct from the Forum hour.

Here is what some Forum regulars have to say about the ministry:

I have found the Adult Forum at All Souls to be one of the most rewarding and satisfying church experiences for me. Presentations by our fellow parishioners are almost always excellent; and if you take on a presentation yourself, it is a great opportunity to really get into some depth on a topic. Like the famous breakfasts and receptions following the 11 o'clock service, the Adult Forums are the "soul of All Souls."
—Joe Howell

We find the All Souls Adult Forum an opportunity to look in depth into the many facets of our faith, to learn more about other faiths, and to examine spirituality as practiced worldwide and throughout history. —Marko Zlatich and Nancy Aherne

The Adult Forum has been for me an ongoing catalyst for learning the history of the Bible and its major personalities, as well as the history of our church. This has helped give me a greater understanding of contemporary conflicts and their origins. I look forward to the upcoming year for a chance to learn even more, for the more I learn the more I see how little I knew. —Al Muller

I think the Adult Forum is one of the most rewarding programs at All Souls. It provides us with the opportunity to explore topics relevant to our faith in greater detail, and to discuss important issues with fellow members of our church. Also, it's a great chance to meet members who attend the "other" service! —Stu Edwards

If the three orienting points of Anglicanism are scripture, tradition, and reason, I've found that participating in Adult Forum—as a teacher and as a student—has significantly enriched these dimensions of my spiritual life. I've learned to read the Old and the New Testament differently, to better appreciate the history and evolution of Christian thought and practice, and to ponder the meanings of all this for how I live my life as a result of this ministry of All Souls. —Dan Davis

What I've learned about myself and my faith through the Adult Forum is invaluable. I've also made connections at the Forum to people I otherwise might not have known, because we attend different services. I am thankful that we have such a rich adult education program at All Souls, and I would encourage everyone to attend. —Darla Brown

Please peruse the tentative schedule that accompanies this article and consider leading a session. Almost all the topics and dates are negotiable until September. If you have questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me or Barry Huber. Remember your heart and your mind on September 10 (the first day of "school.") Notebook and pen optional!

With an open mind,
Elizabeth Olson
beatrix01@gmail.com ■

Back to the Basics

2006

- Sept. 10 Languages of the Old Testament
Leader: Jim Child
- Sept. 17 Languages of the New Testament
Leader: Elizabeth Olson
- Sept. 24 General Convention Report
Leader: Mother Joan
- Oct. 1 The Bible in English Part I
Leader: _____
- Oct. 8 The Bible in English Part II
Leader: _____
- Oct. 15 Approaches to Scripture
Leader: Shawn Strout
- Oct. 22 Approaches to Scripture
Leader: Shawn Strout
- Oct. 29 Lectio Divina
Leader: _____
- Nov. 5 Lectio Divina
Leader: _____
- Nov. 12 Annie Dillard "The Deer at Providencia"
Leader: _____
- Nov. 19 Doris Betts "The Ugliest Pilgrim"
Leader: _____
- Nov. 26 Michael Malone "Handling Sin"
Leader: _____
- Dec. 3 Flannery O'Connor "Revelation"
Leader: _____
- Dec. 10 Pat Hamp Virgin Time (Chapter 6)
Leader: _____
- Dec. 17 Christmas Traditions in the Episcopal Church
Leader/s: _____

Dec. 24 No Forum

Dec. 31 No Forum

2007

- Jan. 7 The Religious Climate in Early 20th Century America
Leader: Dale Lewis

- Jan. 14 The Church and Social Justice: Race
Leader: Mother Joan
- Jan. 21 The Church and Social Justice: Gender
Leader: Mother Joan
- Jan. 28 The Church and Social Justice: Human Sexuality
Leader: Mother Joan
- Feb. 4 Approaches to Prayer Part I
Leader: _____
- Feb. 11 Approaches to Prayer Part II
Leader: _____
- Feb. 18 The Psalms: Christian Prayers in a Jewish Context
Leader: _____
- Feb. 25 Praying the Psalms
Leader: _____
- Mar. 4 Who was Judas?
Leader: _____
- Mar. 11 Perpetua and Companions, Martyrs at Carthage
Leader: _____
- Mar. 18 Ministration to the Sick (BCP)
Leader: _____
- Mar. 25 Ministration at the Time of Death (BCP)
Leader: _____
- Apr. 1 Living with Chronic Illness
Leader: TBA
- Apr. 8 No Forum**
- Apr. 15 The State of the Communion
Leader: TBA
- Apr. 22 How We Worship: Incense
Leader: _____
- Apr. 29 How We Worship: The Hymnal
Leader: _____
- May 6 Hildegard of Bingen
Leader: _____
- May 13 Topic to be announced
- May 20 Ecumenism and the Episcopal Church
Leader: TBA

One of the most frequent questions that search committees get asked is “Why does it take so long for us to get a new rector?” There are some very specific reasons why a church just doesn’t go out and hire a new priest immediately.

When a priest leaves a parish there is an experience of grief because it is the ending of a significant relationship. The relationship between a priest and his/her congregation is often likened to a marriage. And as we all know, grieving takes time when a relationship of such significance ends. Enough time needs to elapse for the grieving process to have been completed so a congregation is ready emotionally to be open in heart to receive a new spiritual leader.

With a rector of long tenure, he/she and his/her congregation tend to become comfortable with one another and fit like a pair of treasured bedroom slippers. When this occurs, there is the possibility of becoming complaisant. When people love each other a great deal it is easy to overlook needed changes, growing edges, and places for improvement. An interim priest can come in with a fresh pair of eyes and help the congregation to see who they are in a new light and prod them to work on areas of ministry and parish life that can help them move toward the future.

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It takes time for an Interim to get to know the people, the congregation, and get a sense of their strengths, gifts, and limitations.

Finally, we are the church, the people of God. We are not a company in the secular world. Priests are *called* not *hired*. While education and qualifications are important to consider, as the people of God, much more goes into our decision-making about a new priest than their skill set. With prayerfulness and deliberateness, we strive to discern who God is calling to be our spiritual leaders based on not only how well they can perform, but on who they are as persons and pastors. The candidate who looks good on paper or presents well in an interview may not be the best person in the long haul and may not have the depth of integrity, spirituality, and pastoral sensitivity that the parish needs and is seeking. It takes time once again for search committees and vestries to get to know candidates at such a depth. In addition, there are the practical tasks: the formation of a search

committee, the parish survey and discussion forums, the writing of the parish profile, the receiving of 100+ resumes and the narrowing down of final candidates, the telephone interviews, the site visits, and the face-to-face interviews. The person called then must disconnect from his/her current place of service, have some time off to get rested and refreshed, and possibly move households. If you add all of this up together, eighteen months to two years (the average length of the interim process) is really not that long for the kind of intentional care and thoughtfulness that a parish is called to demonstrate in calling their new rector. I hope that this is helpful to those who are concerned about the length of the process.

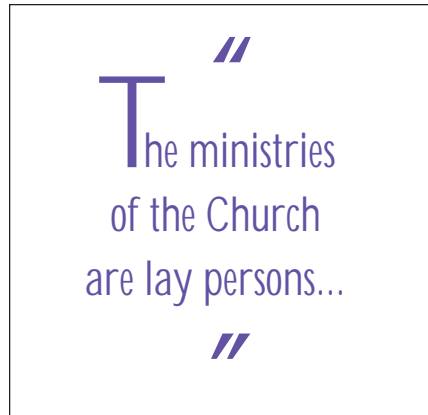
Mother Joan † ■

“WHO ARE THE MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH? The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons. What is the ministry of the laity? The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.” (From the Catechism in *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 855.)

All Souls Parish, in the heart of the nation’s capital, has much potential for doing (what I call) “in-reach” to members, visitors, and newcomers, as well as outreach, our mission and ministry in our world, particularly serving those who are in need beyond our parish, locally and globally. A healthy parish has a healthy balance of both of these.

A parish that does mostly in-reach tends to become self-absorbed and insular and does not utilize the resources it has. A parish focused mostly on outreach tends to neglect the pastoral and spiritual needs of members. To empower this parish for a healthy balance of both in-reach and outreach, I am seeking committed lay persons to serve on ministry teams whose specific mission and ministry will be in one of the following areas:

- Pastoral care
- Outreach
- Fellowship
- Christian education
- Newcomer ministry
- Parish partnerships/diocesan involvement



Ministry teams will initiate and plan programs which include the participation and gifts of other members of the parish, develop future goals, serve as counselors to parish leaders, and enhance our ministry in these areas. Each ministry team will have two co-chairs who will facilitate team meetings and serve as a liaison to the vestry and me. Training will be provided for chairs so that ministry teams receive effective leadership that truly empowers people to discern and exercise their gifts. If you have an interest, skills, or gifts in one of these areas and might be interested in serving on one of these ministry teams, please contact me at 202-232-4244 or by email revjeb@comcast.net, no later than September 30, 2006

I will be facilitating our first ministry team plenary session on October 18, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. and will need to have ministry team assignments completed by this time.

Mother Joan † ■

Once the trees grew green and the succulent vines of the earth showered the landscape with beauty and peace. But that was long ago.

Now the earth blessed by God is once again soaked in blood.

The sacred footsteps of our ancestors no longer walk upright but weep in bent despair.

Instead of mystic stars which inspire the soul—the heavens are dominated by falling bombs—which strike at the very heart of God.

O Holy Land!
Why oh why must divided hearts alienate and disperse the offspring of the Most High into foreign lands where neither hope nor resolution resides?

There is not one of us who is left untouched by the new blood which this holy earth emits. While buildings crumble so do our spirits crush beneath what is—the fear of revelation Unveiled before our astounded and helpless eyes.

Pray for Peace in the Middle East

The Rev. Joan E. Beilstein

The Search: Where Are We Now?
What's the search committee up to? We are presently writing the All Souls Parish Profile. This is our parish "resume" that prospective priests consult when searching for their future parish.

Our goal is to have a draft to the vestry by September 19. With the vestry's endorsement, the profile then goes to the bishop's office for approval then on to the Church Deployment Office at Episcopal Church headquarters in New York City. This will close out the "congregational assessment" part of our search process and begin the official "search" phase.

Focus Groups

With our successful History Day, and the completion of the parish survey, the next step in our search process was a series of focus groups in late July and early August. As John Michael Sophos stated at the Annual Meeting, the survey could not, nor was it designed to, provide comprehensive information about every topic. From the survey we identified themes in the parish that we wanted to understand more fully. At each meeting participants were asked to form small groups and discuss three themes identified in the Survey:

- Outreach
- Stewardship
- Christian Education

After these forum discussions, we hope the Search Committee better understands the current state, opportunities, and challenges of each of these themes and will be able to fully represent each area in our Parish Profile.

All Souls Demographics

Ever wonder who is the "typical" All Souls parishioner? According to

Remember
to watch for the
In Search Of... newsletter
in the bulletin,
and check the
Transition Times section
of www.allsoulsdc.org
for updates and news
on the search.



our recent parish survey, he is a white man aged 40–59 who is married/partnered with no kids, lives 1–5 miles from the church, has a post-graduate degree and a household income of more than \$150,000.

If this isn't you, don't worry. A closer look at the data tells a different story on the makeup of our congregation.

Age, Race and Gender

The majority (54%) of our parish falls between ages 40–59. This age group is sandwiched fairly evenly by 20–39 year-olds (18%) and 60–79 year olds (25%). The 80 and over category makes up the remainder at 3%.

The racial make-up of All Souls is 91% white, 4% African American, 3% Hispanic, 2% Asian, and 1% Native American. 2% listed themselves as "other." Men make up 59% of our congregation.

54% of our parish are married or partnered, 46% are single. Most people have no children (63%). 37% of our parish do have children—13% of whom have children at home and 24% have children that do not live at home.

58% of us have post-graduate degrees; 29% hold college degrees, and 7% attended some college. We truly are a neighborhood church to the 29% of parishioners that live within one mile of All Souls. 33% live only 1–5 miles away while 8% lives 10–20 miles away and, 9% lives more than 20 miles away.

Household incomes vary, but the highest income category (\$150,000 or above) had the largest number of respondents (32%), followed closely by 27% earning in the \$50,000–\$100,000 category. 25% of parish households earn \$100,000–\$150,000, and 16% earn less than \$50,000.

Check out the results of the entire survey in the "Transition Times" section of www.allsoulsdc.org.

I have a great candidate to be our new rector. What should I do?

If you know a priest you would like the search committee to consider, you should encourage him or her to send a letter and resume to The Rev. Mary Sulerud <msulerud@edow.org>, Canon for Deployment and Vocational Ministry in the Washington Diocese. Canon Sulerud will pull the priest's official profile from the Church Deployment Office (CDO), conduct a preliminary background check, and, if appropriate, forward the profile to the search committee. Although we haven't yet begun to review applications, potential candidates may send their materials to Canon Sulerud at any time. For more information see <http://www.edow.org/diocese/staff/revmary.html>. ■

Holy Cross Day, also known as The Triumph of the Cross or Exaltation of the Cross, is a feast dating from AD 335 when a church built on the site of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was dedicated by the Emperor Constantine. Legend has it that remnants of Christ's true cross were found at this site. Prefigured by Moses' lifting up his staff bearing a serpent, the cross became the means of Christ's victory over death, and is celebrated in the Eastern and the Western Church alike as a revered symbol of faith and Christian discipleship.

//
A major Feast Day
in the Church's
Liturgical Calendar.
//

Come and celebrate this significant Feast Day on September 14 at our Thursday 7:15 a.m. Matins/Holy Eucharist service. If you have crosses, rosaries, or Anglican prayer beads that you would like blessed, this is an appropriate day to bring them to the service to be blessed by the priest. ■

A Gathering of the Wise and Mature

Senior Lunch Bunch

All "wise and mature" All Souls members and their friends (Age 55+) are invited to attend a special luncheon on Wednesday, September 27, 2006, at 12:30 p.m., following the noon mass. This luncheon will be hosted by Mother Joan and will include a gourmet meal and beverages. Don't miss out on this time of fellowship and good conversation. RSVP to the parish office by Monday, September 25, 2006 if you plan to attend. ■

St. Francis Day

The Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals, in honor of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4), will take place on Sunday, October 1, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.. Please come and bring your animal companions (both live and stuffed) and gather on the front lawn of the church. This is a special service where we name and bless with holy water our animal companions, who truly are a gift from God and who bring our lives such joy and comfort. Spread the word among family and friends! All welcome! This is also an appropriate day, if you have had a beloved animal companion who has died, to bring a picture or a token remembering him/her, so that we can say a prayer of thanksgiving and remembrance in his/her honor. ■

Calling All Women

Women's Sistership Meeting

You are invited to a potluck dinner and gathering of All Souls women on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome!

*The program
for the evening
will be
"Spiritual Tools and Disciplines
for One's Daily Life."*

RSVP to Mother Joan

at 202-232-4244

or by email

revjeb@comcast.net

if you are planning to attend
or if you have questions.

Baptisms

None

Burials

None

Confirmations

None

Marriages

July 15, 2006

Edward Ireneè Richards &
Michelle Margaret Cotter

August 12, 2006

Dean Michael Scholl &
Marian Susan Chin

August 26, 2006

Joseph Frederick Leopold &
Suzanne Patricia Hewlett

Douglas Cowne McAllister &
Christinis Amy Ling

Transfers In

June 23, 2006

James Robert (Jamie) Finch
from St. Thomas' (Dupont Circle)
Chris Cobb
from St. Thomas' (Dupont Circle)
Janet Gretchen Jones
from St. Thomas' (Dupont Circle)

Transfers Out

July 18, 2006

Lila Wolff
*to Chapel of the Cross Episcopal
Church, Chapel Hill, NC*

September

1 Libbie Griffin
4 Steve Jacobs
5 Samantha Brady
8 Kirstin Gulling
10 Ric Haines
Lamar Smith
11 Chris Peterson
12 Nancye Suggs
15 Susan Morrison
Mark Porter
16 Martha Domenico
21 Elizabeth Dresser
28 Campbell Buchanan
29 Tamara Floyd
30 Carolyn Farmer
Thomas Gardner
Carletta Skinner

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.

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Moises Flores, *assistant sexton*
Carlos Guerra, *sexton emeritus*

The Vestry

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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

September 2006

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



Ingathering Service

Renew and refresh your All Souls spirit.

**Please join us on September 10th
for the start of the Fall church year.**

**Adult Forum begins, Children's Chapel & Sunday School begin,
and the choir returns**