



ALL SOULS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP • PROGRESSIVE THINKING

All Souls Weekly

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The Message: All Souls Refugee Assistance

The crisis in Afghanistan has shown us heartbreaking images of Afghans who are struggling to leave their country as the Taliban takes over. Four years ago, Steve Merrill and I began collaborating to lead an effort at All Souls to assist two refugee families from Afghanistan. The first family, the Haydaris, arrived first. Dad is from Afghanistan, Mom is from Iran, and they have two young girls, at that time ages 2 and 5. They had escaped to Turkey where they lived for 5 years awaiting visas under the UN refugee program. We helped them find housing, furnish the apartment, get the girls in kindergarten and nursery school, get English lessons for Mom teach Mom to drive and get a car (donated by an All Souls parishioner), and get appropriate medical care at the Wilmer Eye Clinic to restore Dad's vision in one eye. The Haydaris thrived and eventually moved to Ohio where Dad is a long-haul truck driver (made possible by his restored vision). They are expecting their third child, a little boy. The Habibs arrived a few months later directly from Afghanistan, after receiving Special Immigrant Visas because Dad was an engineer for the American Corps of Engineers. They also have two young girls about the age of the Haydari girls. To support the Habibs, All Souls collaborated with two other Episcopal parishes, Christ Church Georgetown and St. John's Georgetown. This combined support allowed us to provide the same type of support we had to the Haydaris, but in addition pay for rent for a full year while Dad studied for his engineering exams (required in the U.S. to be a professional engineer). He passed the exams, and is now an engineer working on the Purple Line. They now are a family of six, with two new additions to the family since they arrived, both boys. They have just purchased their first home in the Virginia suburbs. Both families were resettled by Lutheran Social Services, the refugee resettlement agency designated for the Washington metropolitan area.

It is incredibly rewarding to have helped these wonderful people and seen them get settled in the U.S. and begin contributing to our society. I hope that All Souls can perhaps step up to support another family when the flood of refugees from Afghanistan begins to arrive. If you are interested in participating in such an effort, please email me at ehowell@gwu.edu. You may also donate directly to Lutheran Social Services (<https://lssnca.org/>).

-Embry Howell

Updates

Reception to honor Mother Elizabeth We will honor Mother Elizabeth on September 26th at the 11 am Mass, at which she will preach, followed by a festive reception.

Livestream and recorded Masses available The Mass will be broadcast live to Facebook on Sunday morning and will remain available on that platform. You may find it on our page, facebook.com/allsoulsdc.

Large print service leaflets now available We now have large print service leaflets available. Ask an usher if you need help locating them.

Join Us Live Each Wednesday, All Souls offers a chance to gather virtually for Noonday Prayer. See the Weekly email for the link to join via Zoom or dial 301-715-8592 and enter Meeting ID 863 807 045.



Getting Active at All Souls



September 11th, 9 A.M.
Something for everyone as we prepare for the Fall

COME my All Souls faithful,
Follow well in order, get your weapons ready,
Have you your dusting cloths? have you your sharp-edged clippers?
Parishioners! O parishioners!

Join us at 9:00 am on September 11 for a parish work day. There will be gardening and odd jobs to be done around the building. A light lunch will be provided. Please contact vEnessa Acham (achamv@hotmail.com) or Daniel Callis (junior.warden@allsoulsdc.org) for questions or to let them know that you're coming.

AS Volunteer Opportunities As we contemplate expanding offerings at All Souls as the summer begins to draw to a close, you are all encouraged to think of ways you can donate more of your time and talent to your parish. We are in need of acolytes, altar guild members, ushers, bell ringers, and most ministries. If there is something you've been curious about trying or think you are well suited to, email the office (office@allsoulsdc.org) or the Interim Rector (rector@allsoulsdc.org) and we can talk more about these important ministries and help connect you with their coordinators.

Volunteer Opportunity Anne Frank House DC (AFH) — an All Souls grant recipient — is a neighborhood non-profit that provides long-term, supportive housing to persons with chronic mental illness who would otherwise be homeless. AFH (website) is seeking a volunteer correspondent to send out individual giving acknowledgements to donors on a regular basis. You must have your own computer and printer; supplies will be reimbursed. If interested, please contact Daniel Callis for more information.