

# All Souls News

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 9449 Ellerbe Road, Shreveport, LA 71106 | (318) 868-3313 | [www.allsoulsshreveport.org](http://www.allsoulsshreveport.org)

## Board of Directors

### **President:**

Bennett Upton  
trollgrr@gmail.com  
Term ends June 2019

### **Vice President:**

John Allen  
taoistphoenix@live.com  
Term ends June 2020

### **Secretary:**

Jeff Gauger  
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Term ends June 2020

### **Interim Treasurer:**

Melissa Gibson  
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Term ends June 2019

### **Member at Large:**

Cindy Mandarino  
greenpixies@gmail.com  
Term ends June 2019

### **Member at Large:**

Earlene Venable  
evintinni@gmail.com  
Term ends June 2020

### **Member at Large:**

Bob Jordan  
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Term ends June 2020

### **Member at Large:**

Ernie Cowger  
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Terms ends June 2019

## **December Services**

### ***Worship Service starts at 11 a.m.***

*Children and Youth are dismissed during the service for Religious Education.  
Nursery care is available during Adult RE (9:15 a.m.) and till the service ends.*

**December 2** "The Give and Take Born of Love" by Rev. Barbara Jarrell  
**Board Persons of the Day: Cindy Mandarino and John Allen**

**December 9**—"One World, Two Pockets, Three Traditions" Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit this morning, with a sermon grounded in the wisdom of Rabbi Simcha Bunim.  
**Board Persons of the Day: Earlene Venable and Jeff Gauger**

**December 16** "A House of Prophecy...Outrunning Times Past" **Rev Barbara Jarrell** is in the pulpit this morning. A Congregational Meeting will follow the service ~ Details on Page 5.

**Board Persons of the Day: Bennett Upton and Bob Jordan**

**December 23 ~ A Force of Light and Hope** A service in celebration of the winter holidays and their common message of light in a time of darkness.

**Board Persons of the Day: Ernie Cowger and Cindy Mandarino**

**December 24 ~ 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** One of our most beloved services of the year, our Christmas Eve service includes a reading of the Christmas story from Luke, candle lighting, and singing of the Christmas carols with all of the original words. Join us afterward for a brief reception of low-key snacks in the social hall.

**Board Persons of the Day: Bennett Upton and John Allen**

**December 30 Service To Be Announced**

**Board Persons of the Day: Bob Jordan and Earlene Venable**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**OFFICE EMAIL** [office@allsoulsshreveport.org](mailto:office@allsoulsshreveport.org)

**OFFICE PHONE** (318) 868-3313

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### Newsletter Editor

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## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

is Tuesday, Dec 18

Early submissions are  
always welcomed

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All Souls is a  
Welcoming  
Congregation.



# FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Souls of All Souls

I very much want to extend my appreciation for the many opportunities you've given me as well as the trust you have put in me for all these years. For any disappointments along the way I can only offer my assurance that I am always working to get better both at being a minister and at being a human being.

These days focusing on the failures of once trusted structures or divisions in our city, the nation's politics and on most key issues may be an almost natural thing to do—particularly given the way media and consequently conversations with friends encourage us that direction. Of course, we need to pay attention somehow to remain engaged and responsible—prepared to speak truth to power and stand up for what is just and compassionate. Given all of that, I would like to remind us to notice all the once hidden falsehoods, dirty-dealings, and such that are coming to light. The truth will out. As it does, there will be many changes. Status quo will no longer be an acceptable standard. This is true of all sorts of systems and institutions including churches. Things going along as they always have won't continue. In all walks of life people are actively re-visioning what societal structures might look like and how they ought better to function.

Our congregation has been swimming upstream for 30 years. In a heavily conservative region of the country, hours away from our nearest Unitarian Universalist neighbors, and given several major obstacles to clear and recover from I think we have done a truly amazing job! We should absolutely celebrate with honors the courage, the effort, heart, soul, and resources that have gone into sustaining our place in the Shreveport community for all these years! Our presence has made a marked difference! To remain something worthwhile in the city we need to take this season of change as a great opportunity to reevaluate what we want our church to be—why we have chosen to be a part of it in the first place, what that means, what new shapes and directions we imagine it taking from here.

As this particular year draws to a close, I invite you to look back at the causes we have supported, the organizations we have worked with and whose work we have facilitated. Look at the number of public human rights events that have worn our faces. Look at how many of us completed courses that forged new relationships across demographics and fostered greater understanding. Look at all of the ways we have grown and had an impact. Be proud of yourselves and then let's get busy dreaming.

I wish every single one of you and your families ample blessings with peace, joy, and ease throughout this holiday season.

I love you all!!!

Yours in ever-evolving faith,  
*Barbara*

*By Rev. Barbara Jarrell*



# REsources for the REsistance

## What is Christmas if We Don't Welcome the Stranger?



You're looking at one of my favorite images of Christmas, created by Haven Kimmel and shared widely online for several years now. At first glance, it is just a young couple, a young man and his pregnant wife, down on their luck, trying to catch a break. And yet, looking even a little closer reveals so many details to let you in on the story, if you weren't there already. You might notice the Star, and then the "No Vacancy" sign on the "Dave's City Motel," Looking a little more closely, you might notice they have a "New Man ger." Keep looking and you will find multiple such discoveries, small and large, but as I'm sure you already realize, this is more than just a clever modern re-framing of an ancient story. On the contrary, the story itself is timeless, as current as it is ancient, and speaking a Capital T Truth that touches us on so many levels. This year, in particular, with desperate families being tear-gassed in our names at the border, and so many children still not reunited with their parents, we cannot help but see the irony of celebrating a story of a traveling couple who had no place to go to await the birth of their child, and then had to flee a genocide immediately after that child's birth in a stable.. More painful still is the

knowledge that that same child would grow up to speak up, always, for "the least of these," and that many who claim to live in his name see nothing wrong with our treatment of families at the border. If we honor and celebrate that story as a birth of Light and Hope in the world, how are we not called to respond as the forces of Light and Hope when the story plays out in our own time?

These times remind me of the poem by Adrienne Rich:

"My heart is moved by all I cannot save:  
so much has been destroyed  
I have to cast my lot with those  
who age after age, perversely,  
with no extraordinary power,  
reconstitute the world."

The Christmas story calls down to us through the ages, reminding us that for the sake of this child, and all children, we must indeed cast our lot with those ordinary souls who will reconstitute the world. But the story calls to our spirits, too, We can read it as a story of the spirit of Love waiting to be born in all of us. That spirit, by whatever name we know it, sustains us for the very work in the world that is ours to do. I have always been mystified by the false choice some would impose onto churches: social justice or spiritual growth? Either one without the other is a path to depletion and burnout or pointless navel-gazing. A full life needs a balance of both.

Wishing you peace ,blessings, and  
*balance* for the holidays and through-  
out the New Year.



*By Susan Caldwell*  
*Director of Lifespan Religious Education*

# MONSTER COOKIE SWAP

Sunday, December 2 - After the service!



**Everyone:**  
Gather up an assortment of your favorite cookies and baked goods. Great gifts for neighbors and friends or bring them to holiday parties to share! Take as many as you like and just toss your worthy donation in the basket on the table.

**Bakers:** Bring a batch of your favorite cookies and drop them off at the Cookie Swap table in the hallway.

*Direct questions to Food Folks & Fun Chair Amanda Lawrence.*

## Three Chances to Give—Part I

### *Give a Child Some Holiday Cheer Through Community Support*

This year, All Souls has received the names of 23 children from the Community Support Angel Tree. These are children who have been in the system of the Department of Children's and Family Services, but are living in their homes, either because they've been returned there or because DCFS is working with the family to keep them together. The list of names is up in the social hall, as well as online at <https://tinyurl.com/yb8smlxy>. Email Susan Caldwell at [dre@allsoulsshreveport.org](mailto:dre@allsoulsshreveport.org), or text or call her at 318-465-3427 to let her know which children's names you are claiming, and have the presents back by Sunday, December 16 if at all possible. You can bring them wrapped or unwrapped, just be sure the child's name is affixed securely to the package. If wrapping the gift, put the child's name on the "To" portion of the gift tag, but please leave the "From" line blank so that the parents may fill it out as they choose.



## **Festivus Marketplace** **Festivus for ALL of US!**

All Souls is delighted to host its second Festivus Marketplace! We are excited to offer our members the opportunity to shop with several local craftspeople and artists.

Join us in the social hall on Sunday, December 2 before and after the service!

*Direct questions to our Fundraising Chair, Melissa Gibson.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**From:** Jeff Gauger , Board Secretary

**To:** All Members, Inactive Members, and Friends

In accordance with the Bylaws of our church, and as Secretary of the Board, I hereby announce that All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church will hold a Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary.

**DATE & TIME:** Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018  
12:15 p.m.

#### **ON THE AGENDA**

Vote on 2019 Budget.

Elect three members to Nominating Committee. **Please make every effort to attend.** All active members should attend this meeting or give their proxies to those who can.

Inactive members and friends of the church are invited and encouraged to participate, but bylaws stipulate that only those members who have been active 30 days or longer may vote. **We must have a quorum.**

Childcare provided.

### **Three Chances to Give ~ Part II**

#### ***Mitten Tree for Maggie Lee***

Once again, the Mitten Tree is up in the sanctuary, ready to be decorated with mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and other warm outerwear for children and youth. We'll donate them all to Maggie Lee's Closet at Highland Center Ministries, and this year, they are asking for **children's coats** as well. Don't leave that poor little tree shivering in the sanctuary — give it some clothes!



# Membership Matters

## Newcomers Welcomed to Information Session

The Membership Committee will be facilitating an Information Session following the church service on December 9. These sessions are held monthly to provide visitors and guests with a better understanding of our Unitarian Univer-

salist faith. Attendees will watch a short video from our Boston Headquarters providing some history of our movement with a focus on our Principles and Purposes that we Covenant as a Denomination. Questions are encouraged and a

sharing of spiritual growth journeys is welcomed as we get to know each other in a safe and supportive environment. **Should you have any questions regarding Membership please direct them to Holly Brasher at 205-504-7341. Thanks.**

## Upcoming Denominational Events for December 2018 and Beyond

**28-31 December 2018 Winter Family Camp (U-Bar-U Camp, near Kerrville TX).** This weekend includes winter holiday activities and break-out sessions for adults and kids as well as multi-generational times. Fun, campfires, games, food, rest and a chance to celebrate some winter holidays together with folks at camp. For more information, go online here: <http://ubaru.org/home/WinterFamilyCamp>

**8-10 March 2019 Ships Ahoy! Youth Leadership Experience (U-Bar-U Camp, near Kerrville TX).** Youth, ages 15-18, are invited to cruise on this amazing journey into Unitarian Universalism which will prepare them for membership and leadership in congregations and the Association at large. Learn more and register on EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ships-ahoy-registration-368-886-26876>

**22-24 February 2019 Southwest UU Women's Conference (Hot Springs AR):** For more information, go online to: <https://www.swuuw.org>

*(Submitted by Steve Caldwell – All Souls Denominational Affairs Committee)*

**Highland**  
**Christmas Shoppe**  
A Christmas Outreach ministry in the highland neighborhood

### Three Chances to Give—Part III

**WHO:** Anyone willing to donate new gift items for children and adults, such as toys, children's clothing, household items, teen and adult items (all new). Items should not cost more than \$20.

Donations of Christmas wrapping supplies are also needed—bows, paper and ribbons.

**WHAT:** This market style Christmas shoppe allows parents in the Highland area to provide their kids and loved ones with gifts. These gifts will be donated, sold at a discounted price of \$5 or less, and wrapped.

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 15, 2018, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

**WHERE:** Highland Center Gym, 520 Olive Street, Shreveport

**WHY:** This market helps to keep prices low, but dignity and respect high by allowing people of the Highland community to spend their own money on brand new toys and gifts for their families and friends. **Contact Diane Tabler at [bdhopper18@gmail.com](mailto:bdhopper18@gmail.com) or call 221-5207 for more information.**

## *Volunteer of the Month— Eric First*

For the month of December, the Board has unanimously chosen our immediate past Board President, Eric First, as Volunteer of the Month. Eric has done just about everything a volunteer can do at All Souls. In addition to serving two terms as President of the Board, he now serves as Building and Grounds Chair, coordinating our second Saturday work days.

Eric has taught Religious Education at least one pillar every year since he joined the church, and often more than one. He started the Game Nights on the first and third Fridays, and he lends his baking and/or cooking talents to just about every event at the church. He is especially renowned for his baklava, as well as his spiced pecans and the world's best chocolate chip cookies.

For all of this time and talent that he gives so freely, and for the great humor and generous spirit with which he gives it, we are happy to award the Parking Spot of Honor to Eric First.



## *Commitment 2019: Give from the Heart*

You know what All Souls means to you. Whether it is inspiring worship, religious education, or the opportunity to work with our partners for justice in the wider community, support the work of your heart with a pledge of support for 2019.

## *OWL for the Community Comprehensive Sex Education Coming to Our Community This Winter*

After two parent orientation sessions, we are delighted to announce that the Our Whole Lives Class for Grades 10-12, or approximately ages 15-18, has made and will begin in January. We still have room for more youth in the class, so if you are a parent of a high school- youth in this age group and you are interested in enrolling them in the class, please talk to Susan or Steve Caldwell. (318-465-3427 or 318-465-3398, respectively).

*Our Whole Lives (OWL)* is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that is more thorough and more accurate than anything offered in our public schools.

### OWL Offers:

- Accurate information presented in developmentally appropriate ways. OWL promotes abstinence as the wisest choice for young adolescents, and also acknowledges that they *do* make choices and that those choices should be fully and safely informed.
- Guiding values and principles
- Activities to help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills
- A safe and supportive peer group
- Acceptance of diversity
- A social justice approach to inclusive sexuality education

OWL was created as a joint effort of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ, but is designed to be taught in secular settings as well. Our OWL classes will be open to youth of all faiths and none.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December 2018</h1>						1 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF
2 9:15AM Adult RE 10 AM Festivus Marketplace 11AM Worship 1:30 PM LTA	3	4 6PM Together Tuesday Under the Texas St. Bridge 7PM Tuesday Discussion Group	5 5:30PM Choir	6 5PM Highland Blessing Dinner 5PM Support Group  5:45PM Yoga	7 7PM Game Night  	8 9AM to 1PM Building & Grounds Work Day  10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF
9 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship <b>12PM Newcomer Session</b>  5PM Course in Miracles	10	11 7PM Tuesday Discussion Group	12 5:30PM Choir 5:45 PM NOW meeting	13 5PM Support Group  5:45PM Yoga	14 6 PM Wedding Rehearsal	15 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF 5 PM Wedding
16 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship <b>12:30 PM Congregational Meeting</b> 5PM Course in	17 6:00 PM—Board Meeting	18 7PM Tuesday Discussion Group  Newsletter articles submission deadline	19 5:30PM Choir	20 5PM Support Group  5:45PM Yoga	21 7PM Game Night  	22 10:30 AM Meditation 3PM ADF ritual
23 <b>9:15AM Adult RE</b> <b>11AM Worship</b>  5PM Course in Miracles	24 Christmas Eve 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 7PM Tuesday Discussion Group	26 5:30PM Choir	27 5PM Support Group  5:45PM Yoga	28	29 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF
30 <b>9:15AM Adult RE</b> <b>11AM Worship</b>  5PM Course in Miracles	31					

***Joy is Resistance: From the Holiday Message by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick Gray***

“Joy is not always easy to find, especially amid the daily onslaught of injustice and loss, so thank you, Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities, for fighting back against despair with hope, courage, and joyful, loving, resilient community.” *(See the full video message online at [uua.org](http://uua.org) or on the All Souls Facebook page.)*

