

October 2019

All Souls News

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 9449 Ellerbe Road, Shreveport, LA 71106 | (318) 868-3313 | www.allsousshreveport.org

Board of Directors

President:

Bennett Upton
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Term ends June 2019

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John Allen
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Term ends June 2020

Secretary:

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Term ends June 2020

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Member at Large:

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Member at Large:

Bob Jordan
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Member at Large:

Ernie Cowger
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Terms ends June 2019

October 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.*

Oct 6 – Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit this morning with “Finding Balance Before the Download.” As Unitarian Universalists, what can we learn from the themes of the Jewish High Holy Days

Board Persons of the Day: Rebecca Tuggle and Cindy Mandarin

Oct 13 - Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit this morning with our burning ceremony, at which time we release what no longer serves.

Board Persons of the Day: Bennett Upton and John Allen

Oct 20 - “That All Souls May Grow Into Harmony with the Sacred” Every week, we say the Unison Affirmation. Our children learn it quickly from the mere ritual of repetition, but today, we stop to consider the meaning behind these words we know so well, and gain an opportunity to live more fully into their meaning. A service presented by the children, youth, and adults of All Souls.

Board Persons of the Day: Earlene Venable and Ernie Cowger

Oct 27 - We are delighted to welcome back **Lee Spruell**, who will lead us in celebration of Dia de los Muertos, the Mexican Day of the Dead. Lee divides his time throughout the year between his teaching job here and his family in Mexico, and when he is here, he endeavors to share the best of this beautiful family holiday with his Shreveport friends and “family.”

Board Persons of the Day: Bob Jordan and John Allen

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

is Tuesday, Oct 22th

Early submissions are
always welcomed

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All Souls is a
Welcoming
Congregation.



From the Other Office

September 25, 2019

While the weather has not felt much like fall yet, the church year very much has. We endeavor to pull folks back together, discern what the congregation needs to set up a healthy and full year ahead, then jump right in--trusting that the membership will step forward to fill the numerous volunteer spots in all areas not designated to staff and elected officers and thus propel this ship on. As in the song the choir has sung many times, we acknowledge that in all sorts of ways we are "working on a ship we may never sail on, but we're going to build it anyway."

Over the last few decades and perhaps a generation, the Unitarian Universalists spent a great deal of energy and focus trying to affirm and empower the individual--make sure that each person understood that they are valuable just as they are--"unique and unrepeatable"-- that their voice matters, that their gifts will always be something no one else can contribute, that each has the power to act and make a difference, that Divine Love is not contingent on certain behaviors, relationship types, rituals, or adherence to a particular creed. We have spent a good deal of time developing "self-actualization" and boundaries. Of course, that work will never be perfectly completed and there will always be people at different stages in their own character development. The point is that now in Unitarian Universalist programs, workshops, lectures, seminars, literature, etc. we are being called upon to set aside preoccupations with getting things the way we want them in exchange for making our efforts more inclusive, effective, purposeful and transformative. This will necessarily mean being able to accept and sit with discomfort and work intentionally on maturing spiritually, both as individuals and as a congregation. We are being asked to think in terms of being missional and reaching out rather than striving for community and drawing in. We are being assured that by doing this sort of shift in focus and purpose the transformative changes that enliven congregations will be a byproduct.

In October, your Board President, Bennet Upton, and I will be spending the better part of a week in a leadership intensive directed by the Southern Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We have had something in the neighborhood of 30-some-odd hours of homework to do in preparation for the course. A great deal of that homework has centered around interrelationality, transformation and mission. I so very much wish that I could pump the knowledge the programs are sharing into the water supply at All Souls. Everyone having all of the information as a foundation for what we build together would be priceless. We will certainly encourage folks over time to participate in the pieces we try to offer. That said, I am positive that we will return from the course excited about working with all of you to engage in the processes necessary to collectively set a unified clear direction, which can apparently take multiple years to complete. No quick fixes will accomplish what our congregation most needs at this point to reestablish itself as the beacon of inclusion, hope, light, justice, and change that it has been and will be again.

I genuinely hope that you will join us as often as possible in that journey of exploration, deep relation and creation. We live in a world that needs strong, active, focused Unitarian Universalist congregations. "It is time now that we thrive." Together!

Yours in ever-evolving faith,
Barbara

By Rev. Barbara Jarrell



REsources for the REsistance

When he spoke at Barbara's ordination, the former minister of our church, Rev. Burton Carley, said that a minister essentially has only one sermon, and just keeps preaching it over and over until maybe somebody listens. I have often paraphrased that idea to say that a religious educator essentially has only one newsletter column, and writes it over and over until people sign up to teach. I hope that from month to month I manage to include a bit more variety than that, and.....this is not one of those months.

Children and Youth RE is looking for a few good teachers! If you've been attending regularly for 6 months or longer, perhaps we are looking for you! Read on!

We are fortunate to have a full and excellent complement of teachers for this pillar, Unitarian Universalist Identity. Ash McLain and Bridget Lyman are working with the PreK/K1 class, Kevin Henry and Andis Raley are in 2nd-5th, and Eric First and Kathy Osuch have taken on Middle and High School (and thanks to Steve Caldwell and Noah Wagstaff for subbing for those first two weeks.) However, we can still use teachers for the rest of the year.

"But I'm not a teacher!"

Maybe you only think you're not. If you're starting with a willing spirit, an honest caring for the children and youth of our faith community, a desire to get to know them as people, and a curiosity and willingness to learn more about our faith, then I can help you with the curriculum materials, supplies, and classroom management strategies. I'll also pair you with

someone who has taught in the program before, so you don't have to do this alone! (For that matter, it's policy that you *not* do it alone!)

"But I don't know enough about Unitarian Universalism to teach!"

One of the great, beautiful things about teaching religious education is that you and the children learn together. Just about everyone who has ever taught RE has said something like, "I learn more than I teach." I try either to write or compile curricula written by colleagues that is clear and easy for teachers to follow and use, in the hope that everyone learns in the process. I ask for your help in letting me know if I've been successful at that, and I try to tweak lessons as needed before I use them again.

"But if I teach, I'd like to bring my own ideas and perspectives into the classroom."

Great! The curriculum is there to give you the basic themes and ideas we want the children to learn. You can follow it like a "cookbook" if you like, but if you have a more creative idea for conveying those themes and ideas, I am happy for you to employ it! That's particularly true if you are great at crafts --- I freely admit I am craft-impaired and Pinterest-dependent!

"But I like to be in the service on Sunday. I need that time."

When you need that time, you need that time, and I appreciate that. Just don't discount the idea of teaching at some other time down the road. A pillar is 6 to 8 weeks in the course of a year. You may be surprised to learn that this time, too, will recharge you in ways you hadn't expected. *(Continued next page)*

REsources for the REsistance (continued)

And don't forget that our sermons are podcasted on our website, so you can always catch up later. I know it's not the same as being present in the service, but at least you don't have to miss everything in order to serve our multi-generational community. And here's a thought: You may discover that everyone else is missing out on something pretty wonderful, too!

"But I don't have children."

Here at All Souls, we all have children, or as a colleague is fond of saying, "There is no such thing as other people's children." And yes, I know that not everyone is cut out to work with children, and if the whole idea is downright repulsive to you, then we probably agree that teaching is not your best way to serve. If, however, you are under the mistaken assumption that only parents teach, I do want to disabuse you of that notion! Children and youth benefit from interaction with adults of all ages and many varieties of life experience, and the fact that you may not have tried it is no indicator of whether or not you'll be good at it!

"My kids are grown. I did my time when they were growing up."

And I am SO grateful for that. And I also remember that when I first came to All Souls, a number of older people with grown children were regular RE volunteers. My first teaching partner at All Souls was the late, much beloved John Rosser. Though I was happy to take my own turn teaching, and enjoyed it (it's how I got here, after all!), I also appreciated the breaks I got as a parent of young children when other people took up the charge. If you had a chance to appreciate that time given to you by someone else, consider paying it forward. And if no one took your place during that time when you needed a break, don't you want the experience to be different for young parents now?

As the elders of the church, you have much to offer from your own life experience as well as your experience of this faith and this congregation. Talk to me. I have a place and some wonderful people just waiting for you and your gifts.

At Monday morning worship at this past summer's General Assembly, UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick Gray gave a beautiful sermon that is available online, and I recommend you listen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61U_DJ50Kjo, or simply Google Monday morning sermon, UUGA 2019. Now, though, I call your attention to this quote:

I am here...literally here...because Unitarian Universalism saved my life. When I was 5 years old, the ministry, the congregation, and two very special religious education teachers...shout out to ALL of our religious education teachers...they saved my life. Because when I was a kid my family was falling apart. A more accurate word might be erupting. And when my home was not a place of safety or joy, the UU congregation was. And those two RE teachers created a space of music and song and unconditional love that healed ...that helped me see the light coming through the cracks...and sowed seeds that led me into the journey of ministry with you here today.

Could you be called to teach, to learn, and possibly to save a life? There is a saying in the Buddhist tradition that "when the student is ready, the teacher appears." As I've said many times before, don't be surprised if your teacher turns out to be 3 feet tall and down the hall.



*By Susan Caldwell
Director of Lifespan Religious
Education*

Membership Matters

If you are a newcomer to All Souls and you are interested in membership, come to our next newcomer session, immediately after church on **October 27**.

There you'll have a chance to talk with staff and lay leaders

about the benefits and responsibilities of membership. If you are so inclined, you can sign the Steppingstones Book, which is an indication of your intent to explore membership.

Then for the next 30 days,

you can attend services, talk to members and staff, read, and discern if you have found a home here. Still not sure after 30 days? Take all the time you need.

Your Participation Matters



Red River Radio Phone Bank Day is Saturday, Oct 12th. This is a great way to do something good for both your church community and the greater community at large.

Never done anything like this before? No problem. It is easy. You have a script to use and the people are calling you. They want to donate. You won't be alone. You get to spend time with your fellow UUs. There is coffee, there are snacks, and there IS such a thing as a free lunch, provided by Red River Radio in gratitude for the gift of your time. If it's busy, the time goes by fast. If it's slow, you spend time visiting and the time goes by fast. There's an EARLY shift from 7-9 a.m., but the shift where we most need you is from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. Text Susan at 318-465-3427 if interested.

Volunteer of the Month— Kevin Henry

The Board is happy to announce their choice for October's Volunteer of the Month: **Kevin Henry**. Kevin's energy is boundless and you will see him bouncing off the walls in countless capacities. A regular RE teacher during the church year, Kevin also took the initiative this year to coordinate the Summer RE session, booking and supporting a variety of activities that included some longtime favorites as well as some popular new ones. In conjunction with Children's RE and the Druid group, he coordinated a salad potluck is celebration of Lughnasa in August. Kevin is a regular on Buildings and Grounds Days, and his latest project—nay, quest—has been power -washing the patio.

From Earlene Venable on behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee:

Many, many thanks for a good September turnout and all the hard work from the following:

Deborah Warren

Earlene Venable

Bennett Upton

Kevin Smithey

Mike Roberts

Betty Parent

Rev Barbara Jarrell

Kevin Henry

Eric First

Susan Caldwell



Shreveport Pagan Festival

Saturday, October 12 ~ 4–9 p.m.

at All Souls

All Souls is proud to be the host site for the first Pagan Festival in Shreveport in 10 years. Multiple pagan groups of varying paths from throughout our area will begin to gather around 4 p.m. and will enjoy a potluck dinner beginning at 5 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and your beverage of choice (no alcohol, please). After dinner, weather permitting, the group will gather around a bonfire in the grove. Various individuals will give brief talks about their different paths. Get in touch via the Facebook Event Page (Shreveport Pagan Festival 2019) if you are a group leader who has not been contacted:

What to bring: Your family, kids and all; a dish and non-alcoholic beverage for the potluck; chairs for you and your party; bug spray; and an open and accepting attitude.

Out of respect for those still in the Broom Closet, no cameras, please.

OPEN TO ALL WHO ARE RESPECTFUL. Hope to see you there!

First Tuesday Book Club meets at 6:30 in home of Kathy Osuch, 318-658-1107. Books to include philosophy, theology, ethics, history, other non-fiction topics as chosen by members. Y'all come!

Louisiana Trans Advocates Monthly Support Meeting

Every 1st Sunday at 1:30 p.m.



Upcoming Denominational Events for April 2019 & Beyond ...

8 April 2024 Total Solar Eclipse (Multiple locations including U-Bar-U Camp near Kerrville TX). No details yet but we expect that U-Bar-U Camp will be hosting an eclipse watching event at their camp. Mark this on your calendars and plan ahead. For more locations, check out the interactive Google Map showing other eclipse viewing locations (courtesy of NASA):

<https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEgoogle/SEgoogle2001/SE2024Apr08Tgoogle.html>

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

NORTH LOUISIANA INTERFAITH

*A Taste of
Interfaith*

Great Food, Inspiring & Fun Entertainment, & Silent Auction

Sunday, November 17, 2019 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church

5340 Jewella Ave., Shreveport

For tickets or information call 318.465.3427

entitles you to

\$25.00 Admission *includes*

Food—A buffet-style dining experience featuring foods representing the rich diversity of our multi-faith community.

Entertainment—An afternoon of uplifting, varied, and *fun* performances from some of the choirs, soloists and ensembles of our congregations, as well as a few surprises!

Shopping— A Silent Auction featuring a variety of items, gift certificates, and services, just in time for your holiday needs!

Fellowship— An opportunity to build and renew relationships across all the lines that might otherwise divide us.

North Louisiana Interfaith is a multi-faith, multi-racial, non-partisan organization united to bring about real change within our community around these issues, among others:

- Reducing Mass Incarceration
- Promoting Community Policing and Public Safety
- Tax Fairness
- Universal PreK

Proceeds support Interfaith's work in Northwest Louisiana.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6PM Together Tuesday 6:30 PM 1st Tuesday Book Club	2 5:30PM Choir	3 5PM Highland Blessing Dinner	4 7PM Game Night NO Game Night tonight! - enjoy Film Prize and the Revel!	5 9AM to 1PM Building & Grounds Work Day 10:30AM Meditation  WORK DAY at the CHURCH 3PM SPF cleanup
6 GREEN BAG SUN.DAY 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship 1:30 PM LTA 5PM Course in Miracles	7 5:30PM yoga	8 6PM Dinner & Discussion Group	9 5:30PM Choir 5:45 PM NOW	10	11	12 7 AM—12 Noon Red River Radio All Souls Phone Bank 10:30AM Meditation 4PM Shreveport Pagan Festival
13 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship 5PM Course in Miracles	14 5:30PM yoga	15	16 5:30PM Choir 7:00 PM—Board Meeting	17 7:00 PM Interfaith Leaders' Meeting	18 7PM Game Night 	19 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF
20 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship 5PM Course in Miracles	21 5:30PM yoga	22 6PM Dinner & Discussion Group 6 PM Interfaith Meeting at Morning Star Baptist Church Newsletter articles submission deadline	23 5:30PM Choir	24	25	26 10:30 AM Meditation 3PM ADF Ritual
27 Pick Up Green Bags 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship—Dia de Los Muertos 12 PM Newcomers Info Session 5PM Course in Miracles 	28 5:30PM yoga	29	30 5:30PM Choir	31 Halloween and Samhain 5:PM Highland Center Ministries Carnival 		
						

Highland Center Ministries Halloween Carnival

Thursday, October 31, 5-8 p.m. at The Highland Center

Plan to host a table at the carnival...just bring a simple game and/or craft and some candy to give away, and join us to create Halloween in Highland for a great crowd of Trick-or-Treaters!

