



All Souls News

A newsletter for the members and friends of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Shreveport, Louisiana

9449 Ellerbe Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71106 ♦ (318) 868-3313 ♦ www.allsoulsuushreveport.org

SEPTEMBER 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 and till the service ends.*

September 6—**Rev. Barbara Jarrell** returns to the pulpit as we turn our attention to The Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning. *Board Persons of the Day are Eric First and Ken Peterson.*

September 13—It's **Homecoming Sunday**, when all are invited back to All Souls to join us in celebration of this community created and sustained by its members. We honor our history, paying tribute to long-term members and ingathering new members. *Board Persons of the Day are Amanda Lawrence and Jocelyn Lanham.*

September 20—To be announced. *Board Persons of the Day are Diane Bundy and Melissa Gibson.*

September 27—**Rev. Barbara Jarrell** is in the pulpit. There is a Newcomer Information Meeting after the service. *Board Persons of the Day are Bob Jordan and Kathy Osuch.*

Candidate Accountability Meeting Scheduled for September 24 at All Souls

As we mark the 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, we also mark the 10-year anniversary of our congregation's involvement with Northern and Central Louisiana Interfaith.

In 2005, All Souls joined Interfaith in addressing conditions at some of our local evacuation shelters.

Since then, as a group, we have secured nighttime bus service, addressed crime in many of our neighborhoods, achieved a Minimal Living Standards Amendment to the Shreveport Property Standards Code, and worked together with our state organization, Together Louisiana, to help stop the Governor's plan to eliminate the income tax in favor of a higher sales tax.

Most recently, we were part of a successful effort to increase the cigarette tax, for which our own **Rev. Barbara Jarrell** testified before the Senate Finance Committee.

Today, we continue to work at the local and state-wide level on a variety of issues, including reform of the payday lending industry, the development of a labor force intermediary in Northwest Louisiana, stemming the tide of mass incarceration that is ruining the lives of so many young African American men, and stopping and preventing human trafficking.

Interfaith is non-partisan. We neither endorse candidates nor do we take money from nor give money to candidates or elected officials.

We do, however, hold officials and candidates accountable to work with us on our issues.

On Thursday, September 24 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Interfaith will host a Candidate Accountability Meeting at All Souls.

(Continued on Page 3: INTERFAITH)



OFFICE HOURS Tuesday through Friday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
OFFICE EMAIL office@allsoulsuushreveport.org
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Ron Thurston
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Pledge Drive Committee OPEN

Social Justice Committee OPEN

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**September's Newsletter
Deadline is Tuesday,
September 29 by 8 p.m.**

All Souls is a
Welcoming
Congregation.



FROM THE MINISTER

The Southern Unitarian Universalist Mantra

By Rev.

Barbara Jarrell



Something I have heard over and over again at Southern Region gathering, whether at General Assembly or events, retreats, trainings, and institutes of the former Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference, is: “Faith development is all we do. Unitarian Universalism is all we teach. And the congregation is the curriculum.”

This quote originated with Connie Goodbread who is UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) Staff serving the Southern Region on the Congregational Life Staff Team. It has been called the Southern Region’s mantra.

It’s a great deal to think about and certainly a lot to live into. (I apologize to you English buffs for the dangling prepositions.)

I must admit that some of it is a little “heady” for me. I recently spoke with one of my nephews. He is the young adult minister at a large Christian church in the Philadelphia area.

My nephew shared with me that their congregation organizes around three headings and everything they offer, plan, and do fits under one of them.

The headings are Missional, Relational, and

Transformational.

Somehow I think the Southern Region mantra and these organizational headings from my nephew’s church fit together and offer more that way.

Faith development is the Transformational piece. My job most often seems to be serving as a compass needle to return our gaze in the direction of faith.

We recognize that life is change. If our faith (both individually and as a movement) is not continuously growing, developing, and changing it will become stale, atrophy, and fade away.

Just as we know that science reveals new information and mysteries every day and that truth is ever unfolding, we also know that faith is a lifetime journey—one made from commitment, heart and courage. So we endeavor to be mindful of our practices and intentions.

We can get so swept up in the goings on of the world around us that the very essence of life within us can become eclipsed by the shadow of exterior living. Setting an intention to open that internal window each morning can keep the oxygen of Spirit moving through our waking hours.

Connie Goodbread has

also asked: “Can we reach out beyond the walls of the church and begin to share Unitarian Universalism to those who may not be interested in attending churches but yet identify with spirituality? It can’t be just us inside our walls of the church. How are we reaching out?”

An important part of Unitarian Universalism is living our faith in the world—working for human dignity, peace, justice, fairness, and compassion with all of our interactions. This is the missional piece.

What things we do in service to others and the world with no expectation of remuneration, no idea that we are owed anything for those efforts, therein lives our mission.

Working together to find effective ways to do such service and then acting on them we learn more about what it means to be Unitarian Universalists.

Coexisting in a community with others who do not think or feel the way we do is the challenge that faces the entire world now that the planet is getting smaller—more so every day.

Our congregation (like other UU churches) is one of the only places that self-selected to conduct that test.

**(Continued on Page 4:
MINISTER)**

CORNER OFFICE WITH A VIEW

Enrich Your Relationship with Unitarian Universalism: Teach



By Susan Caldwell,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

At this writing, we've just heard Claudia Harris speak on the power and value of doubt as a part of our faith journey. Doubt, after all, and a certain peace with "ambivalence, ambiguity, and anxiety" may be the very things that have led us to this place.

Ever the brazen opportunist, I took that as the theme of my Story for All Souls and turned it into a recruiting pitch for religious education teachers.

To quote Robert Weston, "Cherish your doubts, for doubt is the attendant of truth," and the truth is that if you are considering signing up to teach religious education but you doubt your own potential as a Religious Education teacher, cherish that doubt as an opening to a new and deeper relationship with your Unitarian Universalist faith.

Richard Bach said, "We teach best what we most need to learn," and over the years I have been doing this work, I have often heard RE teachers say that the two things they appreciated most about teaching were getting to know our children and youth better (because they really are some of the best peo-

ple you will ever meet), and also learning more about Unitarian Universalism.

Here is the big secret you should know about teaching: You don't have to know everything right now.

You get a curriculum that you can use either "cookbook style," following lessons to the letter, or as a guide that provides larger themes for you to embroider with your own creativity.

You get support from me and from a partner teacher who has done this before. You get all the supplies you will need in your classroom for Sunday morning. And perhaps most importantly, you get a greater sense of ownership in your congregation.

The sign-up chart is in the social hall, or you can call, text, email, or Facebook me about openings.

If you have been a member or actively attending friend of the church for six months or longer, please consider teaching later in the year.

Meanwhile, be sure and say thanks to this pillar's teachers: **Melissa Gibson** and **Eric First** in Pre-K/K-1, **Jocelyn Lanham** and **Jax Schmidt** in 2nd through 5th and **Noah Wagstaff** and **Ron Hagar** in Middle School/High School.

Cherish your doubts, and use them as a springboard for a leap of faith. Teach.

"... I have often heard RE teachers say that the two things they appreciated most about teaching were getting to know our children and youth better and also learning more about Unitarian Universalism."

Building & Grounds Work Day



Saturday,
September 12

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All ages and abilities
encouraged to
participate!

Highland Blessing Dinner

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church co-hosts the Highland Blessing Dinner on the first Thursday of every month. On months with five Thursdays, all sponsoring churches are asked to send volunteers.

The intent of the meals is to serve individuals and families who may "fall through the cracks" of social services. Currently, more than 120 meals are being served each Thursday.

Volunteers are needed to host tables, serve, and help in several other capacities—but the cooking is already done.

Sign up with Susan Caldwell or just show up at the Highland Center, 520 Olive Street, at 5 p.m.

Upcoming Meal(s): September 3 & October 1



Update from the Committee on Ministry

At the December 2014 Congregational Meeting the bylaws of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Shreveport were amended to provide for an elected Committee on Ministry (COM). A copy of the bylaws is available at the church's website or in the church office.

At the June 2015 Congregational Meeting, five church members were elected to COM pursuant to the amended bylaws: **Susan Bettinger, Ron Hagar, Betty Parent, Bennett Upton, and John Ratcliff**. Unfortunately, Betty had to resign recently for health reasons. **Rev. Barbara Jarrell**, is an ex-officio member of the Committee.

The bylaws provide for six elected members serving staggered three year terms with two members rotating off each year. A year must pass before a member can serve on COM again. The minister is an advisory and non-voting member.

New COM members are to be nominated annually for election by the congregation from a list of active members created by COM and provided to the Nominating Committee. The list will include active members who have been members for at least two years and who can be expected to have a primary commitment to the congregation's mission and ministry and to have the ability to act effectively to further that commitment.

COM has no authority to enact anything. Only the congregation or its Board of Directors can do that. However, COM is authorized to assess any and every aspect of the ministry of the congregation in the light of All Souls' mission-covenant statement as well as its bylaws, covenant of right relations and other formative documents. Based on that ongoing assessment, COM is to report to the congregation and Board of Directors, to promote the congregation's awareness of and commitment to the church's formative documents, to consult with the Minister and other agents of the congregation's ministry, and to make non-binding recommendations to the congregation and its Board of Directors.

COM is also authorized to respond with immediacy to manage, but not decide, any conflicts, expressed atti-

tudes, or real activities that might threaten or have an adverse effect on the ministry. COM is authorized to develop policies for its own members to follow as it operates within the limits of its authority.

COM is to meet monthly and as needed, and its meetings will be held away from the church building in order to assure confidentiality of its proceedings. The date of monthly meetings will be made public as will the name of a person or persons to contact if a member of the congregation has a concern or suggestion for COM to consider. This month the meeting is September 23 with a fallback date of September 30; John Ratcliff will serve as the contact. Of course, input through any COM members will be welcomed at any time.

COM has met monthly since it was established, primarily to organize itself, but assessment has already begun. Although the details are still being firmed up, COM has identified ten or twelve areas it will assess and report on to the Board of Directors on, roughly, a monthly basis. As an example, COM is interested in improving the efficiency and reducing the time of board meetings and in improving the church's committee structure. To that end, and in addition to discussion and observation, a thorough review of Robert's Rules of Order has begun.

The Committee has only four of the six members anticipated by the bylaws, but it is authorized by the bylaws to replace any member who has resigned. If you are interested in participating as a COM member, please contact any of its current members.

Submitted by John Ratcliff, Committee on Ministry

Committee on Ministry Members & Contact Information

Susan Bettinger, (318) 868-0863

Ron Hagar, (318) 525-2324

Bennett Upton, (318) 553-7321

John Ratcliff, (318) 573-2733

MINISTER: Though here we have the luxury of choosing with whom we will interact, the relationships that will best prepare us to transform society are sometimes the ones forged through the hottest fires.

We can decide to walk away and disengage or we can stay committed to the ideals we hold so dear. Yes. I am aware that we best teach what we

most need to learn.

Bearing that in mind, I'd like to suggest that the uneasy alliances that must be carefully and perhaps cautiously sculpted one stroke at a time hold the most potential to benefit the world around us. So the Relational piece is how the congregation is the curriculum.

Our congregation is an amazing

testament to the beauty and tenacity of the human spirit as well as to the power of love to regenerate. As we walk into another church year I am excited to see where we will next journey together. There is so much we can and no doubt will accomplish.

Yours in ever evolving faith,

Barbara

Membership Matters

Visitors Welcomed to September 27 Info Session

By Ron Thurston,
Membership Committee



This month's Newcomer Information Session is scheduled for September 27, following the worship service. Grab a cup of coffee after the service and join us in the middle/high school classroom—the one with the couches.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in exploring more about Unitarian Universalism and membership at All Souls.

We will share ongoing activities at All Souls, ways to get involved, and our membership process. Staff and members will be present to answer questions, and we will share spiritual journeys, as you are comfortable.

At the August 20 Newcomer Information Session, the following people

signed the Stepping Stones Book: **Cassie Hendricks, Elaine Bradley, Jesse Blackbourne, and Sarah Lord.**

Please take the time to get know these fine folks and welcome them to All Souls. Signers are eligible for membership 30 days after signing the Stepping Stones Book.

If you have questions regarding membership, please see me before or after church or contact me at (318) 300-9509.

UUA Accepting Congregational Study/Action Issues Proposals

The Congregational Study/Action Issue is an invitation for congregations and districts to take a topic of concern and engage it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it take action—each in their own way. A CSAI is NOT a statement—it is a question.

A Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) proposal consists of the text of the proposed CSAI and a completed certification form.

Proposals must come from a congregation or board. Proposals cannot come from individuals. If you have suggestions about a Congregational Study/Action Issue, please contact a board member. For more information, visit <http://www.uua.org/statements/process/guide/csai/submitting>.



Patrick Early Named September's VOM

As you will all well know from past installments, our beloved **Patrick Early** is, in reality, a manifestation of the god Thor.

His ongoing struggle with the forces that continually oppose him have dealt him a setback, greatly reducing his mobility as of late. You try being spry while battling hordes of unearthly minions of Zeus why don't you?

Yet Patrick somehow still manages to coordinate our church's ongoing erosion mitigation efforts while ensuring that the Building and Grounds Committee Work Day efforts don't miss any vital maintenance activities.

While we cannot assist Patrick in his continual struggles with his divine adversaries we can at least name him September's Volunteer of the Month and grant him a parking space slightly less convenient than the one he uses already.

Submitted by
John Allen,
Communications
Committee



Below is a special reprinting (with some edits) of DRLE Susan Caldwell's May 2015 column. Reminding readers of real religious persecution seemed fitting in light of the situation in Rowan County, Kentucky, where County Clerk Kim Davis sits in jail on civil contempt charges after defying judge's orders to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Ms. Davis is not being religiously persecuted, Ms. Davis is in jail for failure to do the job she is paid and elected to do.

CORNER OFFICE WITH A VIEW

Let's Define Actual Religious Persecution



By Susan Caldwell,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

For those of you remember the May 2015 news cycle, you may recall that Rev. **Barbara Jarrell** and I spoke up for you and against HB 707, the so-called "Marriage and Conscience Act."

I say "so-called," because it only covers some people's marriages and some people's conscience. Mike Johnson, the Bossier City representative sponsoring the bill, says, "The right of conscience must be protected," and yet the right of conscience has been denied for decades to clergy in the Unitarian Universalist tradition who

have been performing weddings for people who do not enjoy the same legal rights as others, and that doesn't seem to bother him at all.

Although HB707 died in committee, Governor Bobby Jindal essentially resurrected it with an executive order, and though marriage equality is now the law of the land, we have yet to see what other effects that order may have on LGBT rights in our state.

Although I wrote this piece before the recent Supreme Court ruling legalizing gay marriage, I am still hearing the words "religious persecution" thrown around so much lately that I have felt called as a religious educator to do my part to help clear up any misconceptions of what that means. In that spirit ...

How to Tell if You Are Religiously Persecuted

- If someone is holding you captive and threatening to cut off your head unless you convert to that person's religion, you are probably religiously persecuted.
- If someone else wants the same legal rights you have had for years, and you object on the grounds of your religious beliefs, you are probably NOT religiously persecuted.
- If you cannot freely and safely gather in your place of worship without incurring threats of violence or actual violence, you are probably religiously persecuted.
- If you try to pass legislation denying others rights that you enjoy, and a higher court tells you that is unconstitutional, you are still probably NOT religiously persecuted.
- If you are rounded up and shot in your religious school or place of worship, you are probably religiously persecuted. However, if the killer explicitly says, "I have to shoot black people," you are more likely racially targeted. Either way, this is a horrendous and unspeakable hate crime.
- If the entire nation has a day off on your religious holidays and no one else's, you are probably NOT religiously persecuted.
- If two women who live down the street from you get legally married and you don't like it, you are still probably NOT religiously persecuted.

(Continued on the next page: RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION)

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION:

- If people regularly pray exclusively in your tradition at public events, and do so with impunity even when that prayer may be at best quasi-legal and possibly even against the law, you are probably not religiously persecuted.
- If you are a member of the clergy, and clergy members in your tradition can perform legal same-sex weddings in other states, but not in your home state, you are probably religiously persecuted.
- If you do not live in a Christian theocracy and yet teachers, principals and students pray in public schools at required assemblies invoking the God of your tradition, and a family of another faith or no faith objects, you are probably NOT religiously persecuted.
- If you are a member of that same family and you receive obscene phone calls and death threats in the name of Jesus until your family is essentially hounded out of your school district, chances are that you are religiously persecuted. See the difference? (Note: This happened locally several years ago, and Mike Johnson defended the school.)
- If you publicly announce that your religious beliefs give you the right to discriminate against others who are different, and there is a public outcry against that sentiment, you are still probably NOT religiously persecuted.
- If all the glass windows in your place of business are broken by storm troopers because of your faith, and then you are made to place your business into the hands of someone not of your faith, there's a really good chance you are religiously persecuted.
- If your business is boycotted because you expressed discriminatory statements, you are probably NOT religiously persecuted.
- If, as a result of said actions you are vandalized or receive death threats, you are the victim of jerks and criminals who have acted despicably and deserve to be prosecuted, and there are already laws in place for that, but ... and this distinction is really important ... you are STILL NOT religiously persecuted.
- If even many religious leaders disagree with your assertion that your faith-based discriminatory arguments make justifiable public policy, you are STILL probably NOT religiously persecuted.

I hope this helps. I live to serve.

Peace, love, and understanding,

Susan



River of Giving

Want to support All Souls' Erosion Control Efforts?

Here's how it works: We have 200 envelopes labeled 1 to 200. The envelopes are posted in the sanctuary beneath our River of Giving display until September 20.

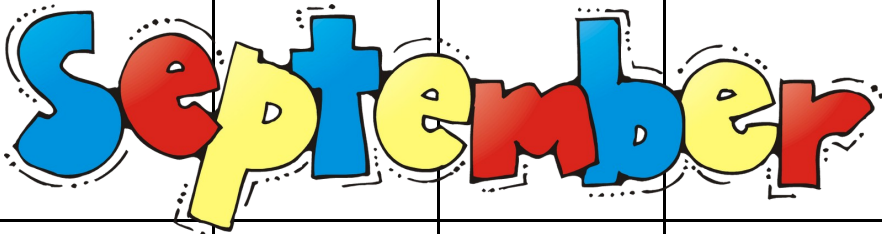








Simply grab an envelope and give that amount. So, if you grab envelope #43, give \$43.

Envelope #156, give \$156.

Envelope #1, that's \$1 more towards our goal. This is a tax deductible contribution, if you would like the church to keep a record of it, please include your name with your donation if using cash. When placing the envelope back on the wall, seal it, and flip it over to display the children's artwork.

If all 200 envelopes are filled, we will raise more than \$20,000 for Erosion Control

Please see the posters hanging on the doors or contact Board President Eric First, Board Vice President Amanda Lawrence, or Board Treasurer Melissa Gibson for more information.

Sun	Mon	Tue 1	Wed 2	Thu 3	Fri 4	Sat 5
				5 PM Highland Blessing Dinner  5 PM Support Group	7 PM Family Game Night	10:30 AM Meditation 3 PM ADF
6 11 AM Worship / RE 1:30 PM LTA	7 LABOR DAY 5:45 PM Yoga 	8 OFFICE CLOSED 7 PM Great Questions Group	9 5:30 PM Choir	10 5 PM Support Group	11 	12 9 AM to 1 PM Building & Grounds Work Day  10:30 AM Meditation 2PM David Burkat Memorial Service 3 PM ADF
13 11 AM Worship / RE Rosh Hashanah (begins at sundown)	14 5:45 PM Yoga Rosh Hashanah	15 7 PM Great Questions Group Rosh Hashanah	16 5:30 PM Choir	17 5 PM Support Group	18 7 PM Family Game Night	19 10:30 AM Meditation 4 to 6 PM ADF Ritual
20 11 AM Worship / RE	21 5:45 PM Yoga 	22 6 PM Board & Council Meeting  7 PM Great Questions Group	23 5:30 PM Choir 	24 5 PM Support Group 7PM Interfaith Candidate Accountability Meeting at All Souls	25	26 10:30 AM Meditation 3 PM ADF
27 11 AM Worship / RE	28	29 7 PM Great Questions Group 8 PM Newsletter Deadline	30 5:30 PM Choir 7 PM Family Game Night	OCTOBER 1 5 PM Highland Blessing Dinner  5 PM Support Group	2	3 10:30 AM Meditation 3 PM ADF

DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS

9-11 October 2015 UBarU Women's Retreat (UBarU Ranch – near Austin TX). For more information, contact Sheri Phillabaum (dlre@uusat.org).

14-18 October 2015 UU Womenspirit Retreat (The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center – Highlands NC). For more information, please go online here: <http://www.uuwomenspirit.org/>

6-8 November 2015 Heart of Texas YRUU Youth Rally (First UU Church, San Antonio TX). For high school youth ages 14 to 19. For more information, contact the church office.

13-15 November 2015 SWUUC Fall Harvest Conference (Glen Lakes Camp and Conference Center, Glen Rose TX – near DFW). The conference theme is “Fall Conference 2015: Into the FUUTURE!” and this conference will provide tools and resources for charging ahead into the next year, ten years, or ten decades. Each conference track is de-

signed to help leaders effect real cultural change toward growing a vital, healthy, effective UU community that helps its members achieve our vision of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. The Fall Conference tracks include the following: Are We There Yet? Planning As Spiritual Practice with Rev. Susan M. Smith; Compassionate Communication: An Introduction with Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith and Carrie Stewart; Facilitating Cultural Change with Kathy McGowan and Lewis Morris; Youth Ministry for the 21st Century Covenant, Conflict, Community with Connie Goodbread For more information: <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/fc2015.html>

15-17 January 2016 Gulf Coast YRUU Youth Rally Bay Area UU Church (Houston TX area). For high school youth ages 14 to 19. For more information, contact the church office.

Submitted by Steve Caldwell – All Souls Denominational Affairs Committee