

September 2018

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
trollgrr@gmail.com
Term ends June 2019

Vice President:

John Allen
taoistphoenix@live.com
Term ends June 2020

Secretary:

Jeff Gauger
jeff.gauger08@gmail.com
Term ends June 2020

Treasurer:

Nicki McLain
nicki.mclain@gmail.com
Term ends June 2019

Member at Large:

Cindy Mandarino
greenpixies@gmail.com
Term ends June 2019

Member at Large:

Rebekah Dickson
Reb-
kah.dickson@desotoppsb.com
Term ends June 2020

Member at Large:

Bob Jordan
rjordanenterpris-es@yahoo.com
Term ends June 2020

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 (9:15 a.m.) and till the service ends.*

September 2, 2018 “Come As You Are” by Rev. Barbara Jarrell
Board Persons of the Day: Bennett Upton and Nicki McLain

September 9, 2018 “Repent/Reboot: Unitarian Universalism, the Jewish New Year, and Preparation for What Lies Ahead” by Rev. Barbara Jarrell
Board Persons of the Day: Cindy Mandarino & Jeff Gauger

September 16, 2018 Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit this morning. A new-comer session will follow the service.
Board Persons of the Day: Bob Jordan and Jeff Gauger

September 23, 2018 All Souls member **Jeff Gauger** is in the pulpit this morning.
Board Persons of the Day: John Allen and Rebekah Dickson

September 30, 2018 Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit this morning.
Board Persons of the Day: Nicki McLain and Bennett Upton

Office Volunteer Needed

If you are retired and looking for some part-time volunteering, or if you have a flexible work schedule and would like to help out the church, consider volunteering in our office. We're very grateful to our current volunteers, Rovenia Windsor who works Tuesdays, and Kathy Osuch, who works Thursdays and does our Order of Service. Many thanks to Phil Boswell, who has recently been working Wednesdays and Fridays, but in the words of the great Maxine Waters, is “reclaiming his time.” Duties include answering the phone, taking and relaying messages, checking mail and email and routing as needed, helping to maintain our member database (training provided—it's not hard!), a little light housekeeping, and occasionally watering the plants. Daily hours are 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Interested? To learn more, call the office at 318-868-3313, or call Susan Caldwell at 318-465-3427.

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

OFFICE EMAIL office@allsousshreveport.org

OFFICE PHONE (318) 868-3313

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office

(318) 868-3313

office@allsoulsshreveport.org

Minister

Rev. Barbara Jarrell

(318) 393-5952

minister@allsoulsshreveport.org

Director of Religious Education

Susan Caldwell

(318) 465-3427

dre@allsoulsshreveport.org

Building & Grounds Committee

Jonathan Gibson

(940) 867-0985

airpower220@hotmail.com

Caring Connection Committee

Susan Bettinger

(318) 868-0863 – Home

Communications Committee

John Allen

(318) 525-7806

taoistphoenix@live.com

Food Folks and Fun Committee

Amanda Lawrence

(318) 402-3314

missdufour@hotmail.com

Fundraising Committee

Melissa Gibson

(318) 550-1296

(Text or email preferred)

melissainkdesigns@gmail.com

Membership Committee

Ron Thurston

(318) 300-9509

portlboi@yahoo.com

Social Justice Liaison

Susan Caldwell, DRE

(318) 465-3427

dre@allsoulsshreveport.org

Newsletter Editor

Rovena Windsor

(318) 532-2436 – Cell

rovenawindsor@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

is Tuesday, Sept 25

Early submissions are
always welcomed

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All Souls is a
Welcoming
Congregation.



FROM THE MINISTER

By Rev.

Barbara Jarrell



A New Opportunity to Do Who We Are

To dwell together in peace...to the end that All Souls shall grow into Harmony with the Sacred....

For a few years there were discussions in Unitarian Universalist circles about the difference between tolerance and acceptance. Origins for the word “tolerance” are rooted in the Latin word for “endure” (like enduring pain). Though tolerance was understood at other points as broadmindedness, over time and in the practice of tolerance it actually seemed to narrow toward enduring. This seemed particularly true as our inclusiveness expanded. People did not care to be part of a tradition in which they were merely tolerated. They sought acceptance. “Acceptance” has more welcoming associations. Learning acceptance for things previously only tolerated requires a willingness to set aside egoic investment to achieve genuine interest in or concern for that which is different or with which one does not agree. Certainly, there is a whole lot more to it than that. If we only tolerate one another there may not be active battle, but for me that does not quite equal real peace. I don’t want to go too far down that particular rabbit hole here. I bring all this up because there is something specific I want to suggest. Responses to what follows will no doubt be mixed, as in fact they already have been. Still, I believe one of the deepest purposes of our congregational home is to better equip us to embody and walk our values out into the world of our everyday lives.

Our congregation has enjoyed what seems to me a significant stretch of relatively peaceful coexistence. For this reason I want to invite us to purposefully engage in what may create some growing pains. In any group of people there will always be those with whom we get along better and more easily and others who we find more challenging to one degree or another. Sometimes personalities clash or individual wounds and pathologies line up to create perpetual triggers between people. We sometimes do or say things without realizing how they may affect others. No matter how much we grow in our intellectual, psychological or Spiritual lives there always seem to be other individuals with whom our perspectives, habits and experiences do not comfortably fit. We often find this difficult to accept in one way or another—even if we do tolerate it. In our attempts to be mature and patient and respectful, we may choose to ignore these characteristics and instances or perhaps even actively avoid these people. Perhaps something along the way has offended our sense of justice or what is right and good. Perhaps we simply have a hard time understanding them or feeling understood and respected by them. The circumstance does not leave us with a sense of peace.

I have come to believe that our Unitarian Universalist values and tradition call us to step into these challenging relationships—intentionally and mindfully bringing with us both the Love that we call the doctrine of our church and our quest for Truth that is larger than our own opinion, experience, comfort zones and conclusions. Are you willing to do something about these tensions between yourself and _____? By practicing improving these challenging relationships with one another in this community that exists for the primary purpose of encouraging, enabling and supporting us toward living our shared values, we actually can become the ‘change we want to see in the world’.

Continued on page 4

REsources for the REsistance

When the Student is Ready, the Teacher Appears

It is that time of year once again, when the chart to sign up to teach Children and Youth Religious Education has gone up in the social hall and online here: <https://tinyurl.com/yab2sjzj> . (You may also access the link online through the All Souls Shreveport Caring Connection Facebook page, or through the All Souls Shreveport Religious Education Facebook page.) I am grateful to have all the slots filled in for this pillar, and I encourage you to thank Ash McLain and Jennifer Russell (PreK), Eric First and James Peck (2nd-5th) and Noah Wagstaff and Bridget Lyman (Middle School/High School) when you see them.

We still have numerous slots available during the rest of the year. If you're interested in teaching but you're not quite sure it's for you, please talk to me! You can email me at dre@allsoulsshreveport.org, or call or text at 318-465-3427. If you haven't taught an RE class before, I will pair you with an experienced teacher and give you all the support you need. You get a teacher-friendly curriculum that you can either follow like a "cookbook" or embellish with your own ideas, as long as you convey the main points of the lesson. I put the supplies in the room, and do whatever else I can to make the experience as fun and successful as possible for you.

You may have had a chance to read some of our RE testimonials in the social hall, but in case you missed them, here are some quotes:

From Jennifer Russell: "Teaching RE has 1.) given me an opportunity to get to better know and interact more with the children and families that make up our religious community, 2) helped me better understand our UU faith, 3) helped me when talking about our tradition with others, and

4) provided me with language and activities through which I can help my own children as they begin to understand our principles and values. Also, the curriculum and materials are adaptable and user friendly, so the time commitment is manageable! "

From Nicki McLain: "Teaching Religious Education has been a wonderful way for me to give back to the church that gives me so much. I also find a lot of joy in getting to know the youngest church congregants and knowing that I'm playing a part in shaping their future selves. Plus it's easy, fun, and you learn a lot, too!"

And from Sarah Boswell, "Watching kids grow up in the church and spending a pillar or two teaching them along the way helps me feel connected to our UU community. This is

the important stuff of life. Seeing our UU kids home from college, participating in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas,' or bringing their own kids to church, is awesome. Forming those connections when the kids are in Sunday School is such an easy way to build community.

"As a Sunday School teacher you might expect to be helping the kids, but then you find they help you too. One little girl, who didn't live with her mom, found her way down the church aisle into my lap on the very day I was missing my 'baby girl' who had just left for college. We needed each other that day and she trusted me."

There is a saying in Buddhism that "when the student is ready, the teacher appears." Even as you are doing the teaching, you may be surprised to learn that your own teacher is three feet tall and down the hall.

Adult Religious Education Begins Sunday, September 9 with *Faith Forward* : Roots

This fall, Barbara and I are excited to be implementing a program we've acquired from First Unitarian Church of Dallas, *Faith Forward: From Visitor to Leader*. As the name asserts, the program is designed to introduce newcomers to our congregation and our faith tradition, and then to carry them forward as they become members and continue to broaden and deepen their Unitarian Universalist Journey. We look forward to teaching the first series, *Inquirers*, and training others to facilitate that series on an ongoing basis as we continue to offer the subsequent series in the program,, *Beyond Inquirers*, *UU History*, *UU Theology*, *Spiritual Practice*, and finally, *Coming of Age for Adults*. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the coming weeks as we embark upon this exciting journey, beginning September 9 with a single session entitled, "Roots," an overview and a sort of "Frequently Asked Questions" session about our faith tradition and our congregation. So BYOQ (Bring Your Own Questions, of course) and we'll see you on the 9th! Child care provided, of course!



*By Susan Caldwell
Director of
Lifespan Religious Education*

Continued from page 2

Coming to better understand one another, to create peace in places that remain unsteady requires of us courage, compassion, and curiosity we are rarely called to employ. They may show up in times of crisis (more likely if they are learned and practices behavior) or by sheer grace, but mostly they are skills that need to be cultivated over time with care and commitment.

To this end I want to create a space in my part of the office on Sunday mornings for pairs of people to sit and talk—not just visit, but to address things that are less than settled/peaceful/respectful between them as perceived by one or both of them. There is not too terribly much traffic in that part of the building on Sunday before or after church. Individuals who have mutually determined they are willing to have a respectful, non-accusatory conversation of talking calmly, owning their own feelings, taking responsibility for their own reactions and parts in whatever uneasiness suggested the need for this meeting may gather there to make their earnest effort to reconcile the tension. There will be a sign that reads “Because It Matters” which can be put at the intersection of 3 doors (my office, Susan’s office and the restroom). Inviting someone to sit with you in this context for a few minutes “Because It Matters” must always be done privately and respectfully. Polite refusal is always an option. There is a white noise machine that can be turned on and placed outside the door (which will remain doors open). The two can then sit down to begin. There will be a Chalice there ready to light with a reading to be read together as a reminder that this is important Sacred Work. The reading is: “I come in the Spirit of Peace and Beloved Community. I open myself now to the work of the Love that heals and holds—the Love that is our Covenant, the Love that is ultimately the hope of the World.” Other guidelines will be there to review before beginning. Either party may withdraw at any time with no dishonor (even after just reading the guidelines) so no one is trapped.

This kind of work requires the “great personal knowledge and heart” that I speak of when New Members sign our Membership Book. Anyone choosing to participate will necessarily need to be ready to be uncomfortable. We can come from asking this kind of “more” from ourselves is immeasurable and has far-reaching impact. Most of the things that others find difficult about us are hard to hear and even harder to claim. Still they are our growing edges. We are also much better at seeing someone else’s part in a problem than our own part. These are absolutely intended to be 2-way conversations. We may well be presented with things we had not considered; so, are we big enough to do this work? I think maybe we are at least ready to try. This is not yet a well-oiled machine. I am afraid there will be kinks that might need to be worked out as we go along. I invite feedback and suggestion and will take them into consideration as this process develops and goes forward.

I love this Church and I love every one of you.
Yours in ever-evolving faith,
Barbara



Volunteer of the Month— Ken Peterson

For the month of September, the Board has chosen Ken Peterson as our Volunteer of the Month. With Ron Thurston soon to retire and move to Portland, Oregon to be closer to his children, several people have taken up the duties of the Membership Committee, including serving as greeters for the Sunday worship services, and facilitating the monthly newcomer sessions. Ken Peterson has been attending regularly and doing his part to make people feel welcome, and to help the staff and membership committee answer the questions of our visitors and teach them about the membership process.

Ken also serves as one of our Zip Code Captains, making calls to members once a quarter just to check in and stay connected.

From time to time, he has stepped in as a sub in the nursery and in Religious Education classes when needed. For all of these reasons and more, we are happy to offer the Parking Spot of Honor for September to Ken Peterson.

Candidate Accountability Night

NORTHERN
and CENTRAL

LOUISIANA Interfaith

Thursday, October 11, 2018

7:00—8:30 p.m.

Mt. Canaan Baptist Church

1666 Alston St., Shreveport

Join us at Mt. Canaan as Interfaith leaders engage with candidates for the Shreveport City Council and the Caddo Parish School Board in advance of the November 6 elections.

An Accountability Meeting is not like a forum. Interfaith leaders will ask the candidates specific questions concerning our agenda. These are Yes and No questions by design, asking if the candidates will work with us on our various agenda items: For the Council: Criminal Justice, Neighborhood Safety, Property Standards issues that have been addressed, and those that still need addressing, and funding for Project ACTS, our employer-driven labor force intermediary. For the School Board: Universal PreK and refusing ITEP exemptions from school board taxes.



Give to the Gwen Gow Music Fund

For Bob Jordan's late wife Gwen Gow, music was a vital part of the worship service. Thus, in her memory, Bob established a fund to provide a stipend for anyone who directs the choir at All Souls. Though music is a part of Barbara's ministry, it is not a part of her job description. . Whether directing the choir, playing and leading singing, or sharing her thoughtful and inspiring original songs, her only financial compensation for these rich contributions to the life of the church are the funds that come to her through the Gwen Gow Music Fund. If you would like to contribute, just make your check to All Souls and write "Gwen Gow Music Fund" on the memo line, or put your cash in a pledge envelope and designate the fund on the "Other" line.

Membership Matters

Newcomers Welcomed to Information Session

The Membership Committee will be facilitating an Information Session following the church service on September 16. These sessions are held monthly to provide visitors and guests with a better understanding of our Unitarian Universalist faith. We 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 see me in the church foyer or give me a call.

Thanks,

Ron Thurston
Membership Chair
318-300-9509



Upcoming Denominational Events for October 2018 and Beyond ...

10-14 October 2018 UU WomenSpirit Fall Retreat (The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, Highlands NC). For more information, go online here:

<https://www.uua.org/southern/calendar/region/uu-womenspirit-fall-retreat-0>

12-14 October 2018 Ships Ahoy! Youth Leadership Experience (U-Bar-U Camp, near Kerrville TX). Youth (ages 15 to 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. For more information, go online here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ships-ahoy-registration-36888626876>

26-28 October 2018 Heart of Texas YRUU Rally (U-Bar-U Camp, near Kerrville TX). For high school youth ages 14 to 19. Cost will be \$75.00 per youth with no charge for adult chaperones. For more information, contact the church office.

Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs



In the coming year, we will be introducing a new series of Adult Religious Education designed to broaden and deepen the path of Unitarian Universalism for each of us here, whether newcomers or longer term members. To learn more, see Susan's column on Page 3, and join us on Sunday, September 9 at 9:15 a.m. for "Roots."

Try Yoga at All Souls

All are invited to join Valarie Loridans for yoga on Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. at All Souls. There will be no class on Thanksgiving Day.

Bring a mat, if you have one, otherwise Valarie has a few loaners. Class fee is "by donation."

Valarie began her yoga journey in 2007 and is eager to share its

benefits with others.

She has attended numerous workshops on yoga and completed a 200-hour Yoga Alliance teacher training with Ally Ford. She considers yoga a remarkable tool for building a sense of sharing and support among friends and family, and loves to watch others grow, finding strength and balance through yoga.

Give Away the Plate for Interfaith

As many of you know, we now give away half of our non-pledge contributions for the entire month to a selected non-profit. For September, we have chosen Northern and Central Louisiana Interfaith, an organization of local institutions, including our own, who work together to create real political change in our local area and in our state. Interfaith takes no money from government, political officeholders or parties. Our work is supported by the contributions of member institutions such as All Souls.

All Souls Saturday at Red River Radio!

Saturday, October 6

7 a.m. — 12 Noon

Pledge Drive time is coming up at Red River Radio, and All Souls members and friends staff the phone bank to earn day sponsorships for the church. The job is easy and fun.. You work from a script, callers already want to give money, and there are snacks. Email Susan at dre@allsoulsshreveport.org to join the crew or learn more.

Building & Grounds Work Day



Second Saturday of Every Month

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): Sep 6 and Oct 4



KDAQ Shreveport
KLSA Alexandria
KBSA El Dorado
KLDN Lufkin

RED RIVER RADIO

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>September</h1>						1 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF
2 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship/RE 1:30PM LTA 5PM Course in Miracles	3 Labor Day	4 6PM Together Tuesday Under the Texas St. Bridge 7PM TED Talks 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 Artist Sunday 5PM Course in Miracles	10	11 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	12 5:30PM Choir 5:45 PM NOW meeting	13 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	14	15 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF Ritual
16 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE 12 PM Newcomer Info Session 5PM Course in	17 6:00 PM—Board Meeting	18 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	19 5:30PM Choir	20 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	21 7PM Game Night 	22 10:30 AM Meditation 3PM ADF
23 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE 5PM Course in Miracles	24	25 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group Newsletter articles submission deadline	26 5:30PM Choir	27 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	28	29 10:30 AM Meditation 3PM ADF
30 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE 5PM Course in Miracles	31					



2018 Pledge Drive

Are You IN?

INcluded, INvested, INVolved

IN THIS HOUSE, WE BELIEVE:
 BLACK LIVES MATTER
 WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS
 NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL
 SCIENCE IS REAL
 LOVE IS LOVE
 KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING

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