



ALL SOULS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

9449 Ellerbe Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71115

www.allsoulsshreveport.org | (318) 868-3313

Reverend Barbara Jarrell, Minister
Susan Caldwell, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Bennett Upton, Board President

November 6, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church,

I'm IN. I am INcluded, INvested, and INvolved. Are you IN?

Since joining All Souls in 2010, my family and I have committed to every pledge drive. We've enjoyed Adult and Children's Religious Education Classes – we've even taught a few times. I've led and coordinated the Annual Gala & Silent Auction, Media Sale, Playground Committee, and Fundraising Committee. My husband, Jonathan, has blood and sweat in most corners of the church's building and grounds.

Are you IN?

Consider the role All Souls plays in your life. Your pledge of financial support permits the church to plan the annual budget and make the most efficient use of your contributions.

All Souls is the beneficiary of prudent pledges and some remarkably generous gifts. In our current location since 1987, we expect to pay off the mortgage in 2018. Of course, though, our church is much more than a building. If you have not been to All Souls in a while, you'll be surprised to see how much is going on.

Our congregation ingathered 24 new members at a September service – a record in recent history!

The Adult Religious Education class continues to be well-attended and spark ideas and conversation. Our Children's Religious Education Classes are enjoying new curricula, events, and opportunities. The Middle/High School Religious Education Class, in particular, sees new visitors regularly.

Our involvement with Interfaith continues to grow. In the last year, we advocated for (just to name a few) criminal justice reform, health care expansion, education, and are in the midst of working on economic development and tax fairness. Our work with Highland Center Ministries continues with the weekly Highland Blessing Dinner, the annual Halloween Carnival, Highland Center Financial Ministries to give alternatives to payday lenders, and more.

In 2017, All Souls monthly "Give Away the Plate" event benefited area non-profits to the tune of more than \$3,000. Recipients include YWCA Dialogue on Race, Volunteers of American Veterans Program, Fuller Center for Housing, North Louisiana Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Hope House, Laughing Dog Ranch, The Philadelphia Center, and more.

Between our members' hard work and two recent Eagle Scout projects, the All Souls Nature Trail is its best shape in many years. We have shored up several erosion spots, replaced an air conditioning unit, and updated appliances in the kitchen.

All Souls hosts a game night twice a month, has screened several films, including “Beyond Galilee,” which details the Civil Rights Movement in Shreveport, and still puts together popular services such as Artist Sunday, Animal Blessing Sunday, theatrical presentations, and much more.

Our church provides a meeting space for many community groups, including recovery groups, Louisiana Trans Advocates, weekly meditation and yoga classes, Ar nDraiocht Fein: A Druid Fellowship, Louisianans for Prison Alternatives, A Course in Miracles and more.

There is so much to say about All Souls – more than what I can include in this letter.

Please take time to look over all the enclosed paperwork and return the “2018 Pledge Form” to the church office no later than Sunday, December 3, 2018.

Please direct any questions to me, Melissa Gibson, via call/text at (318) 550-1296 or at melissainkdesigns@gmail.com.

I’m IN. Are you?

Many thanks,

Melissa Gibson
2018 Pledge Chair



(TOP) New members at September Ingathering; (LEFT) Middle/High School RE Class gathering dog and cat supplies for donation; (MIDDLE) Members try out the new scaffolding, repairing lighting and making improvements to the sanctuary; (RIGHT) Members Sylvania Mercer, Maryanne Cummings, and Jocelyn Lanham enjoy their Annual Gala win, a “Ziplining with the Minister” daytrip; (BOTTOM) Members work together after a storm to clear a tree in the All Souls parking lot