

NEWS FROM THE PEWS AT ALL SOULS

JANUARY 11, 2026



The mission of All Souls Church is to be a Christ-centered sanctuary where a diverse and inclusive community worships and serves. We live this mission through faithful celebration of the Eucharist, Christian education, and loving nurture of both members and neighbors.

Today

The First Sunday after the Epiphany and The Baptism of Our Lord

11 am

Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Sara Palmer, Rector

All are welcome to receive
Holy Communion at the Lord's table.

Please join us downstairs in the
Undercroft after the service
for coffee hour.

Today's Readings

The First Lesson,

Isaiah 42:1-9

Lisa Watson

The Psalm

Psalm 29

Chanted by the choir

The Epistle

Acts 10:34-43

vEnessa Acham

The Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

Mother Sara

Prayers of the People

Kevin LaGrand

WOODLEY HOUSE INC., TO OFFICE AT ALL SOULS APRIL 1.

Mother Sara and the Vestry are delighted to announce that Woodley House Inc., a local non-profit, will become a tenant in the first floor of the administration building starting April 1st. For nearly 70 years, Woodley House has offered a full continuum of residential care to support Washingtonians who face mental health disorders. All Souls has long supported the work of Woodley House through financial and food pantry donations. But Mother Sara saw an opportunity to deepen the relationship between our two mission-aligned organizations with the idea that All Souls could provide space for Woodley House administrative offices and Woodley House could pay All Souls a modest rent. Reacting to the newly signed lease agreement, Ann Chauvin, the CEO and Executive Director of Woodley House, said "Our Woodley Park neighbors are the best -- so warm, welcoming and generous. This neighborhood has been a huge part of our success in providing dignified housing and support services to tens of thousands of vulnerable Washingtonians over the years. To be able to expand our office in All Souls' beautiful space, while strengthening our connections with the All Souls community, we're just incredibly excited and grateful."



**WOODLEY
HOUSE DC**
Homes for dignity and
community since 1958

**All Souls Outreach Committee
Clothing Drive runs
Jan. 18 – 25.
Drop Off Clothes in the
Undercroft.**

The Outreach Committee is planning a clothing drive to benefit “So Others Might Eat,” a local charity serving homeless individuals in Washington D.C. (<https://some.org/>). We are hoping you might donate winter garments that are in good shape that you no longer need. Please have them laundered or cleaned.

Wish list: new underwear and socks for men and women, new or gently used bras, casual shoes, belts, men’s jeans and casual pants, men’s shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets (cold season only).

Contact Embry Howell if needed to answer questions. or for more information.

GOD IS AT WORK AT ALL SOULS, DC!

Sunday, December 21st, 2025, was a banner day at All Souls Episcopal Church in Washington D.C.! It was time for Bishop Mariann Budde's visit which occurs every 3 years. She led the 10 a.m. Forum in the Undercroft, asking us questions about what we find special at All Souls; she also facilitated a discussion on our Advent study book *The Spiritual Life* by Evelyn Underhill. It was wonderful for our newer parishioners to meet Bishop Mariann; she was last with us for my Installation in May 2024 as All Souls first ever female Rector, which was a joyous celebration!

Bishop Budde presided and preached at our service Holy



Eucharist, exploring the Isaiah 7 passage where God challenges King Ahaz to ask for a sign that God would faithfully accomplish God's promise; too often in our anxiety, we take matters into our own hands rather than trusting God for the outcome. Bishop Mariann confirmed Jody Koepp-Norris and Aurora Sherman, newcomers to All Souls; she also received Tara Mancini into the church.

Sadly, Julia O'Hanlon and Trevor Merrifield were sick and could not be received and confirmed that day; they will be

received and confirmed by the Bishop this May at the Cathedral. We celebrated this momentous occasion with a cake and a hearty coffee hour provided by the Vestry. Our Bishop met with the Vestry after coffee hour and was most interested in hearing about our progress and challenges. Our congregation continues to grow in numbers and spiritual commitment to God; our fastest growing demographic is the 20s and 30s group, which is stunning! God is answering our prayers for new people to keep coming and staying at All Souls.

We are thankful to have a caring and calm Bishop who listens well to her flock throughout the Diocese.

Warmly, Mother Sara

PARISH PRAYER LIST

The Washington Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: St. Peter's Church, Poolesville

In the Wider Anglican Communion, we pray for: Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

For those who are sick or in need, we pray especially for: Elizabeth Orens, past Priest Associate at All Souls, Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan;

We Give Thanks for: All of our many blessings, all those who helped with greening and de-greening the church for Christmas; our new lease agreement with Woodley House Inc., and for the ordination of Michael Drell at All Souls yesterday, son of Larry and Vicky Drell.

Submit prayer requests to Andrea in the church office (andrea@allsoulsdc.org) to stay on for a month at a time. We are prepared to pray indefinitely for your requests.

INVITATION TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT AT CLAGGETT CENTER!

You are invited to attend our wonderful parish Lenten retreat on Friday evening, March 13 and all day Saturday, March 14th at the Claggett Center in Maryland!

Come and make new friends and deepen your relationship with God in community in a beautiful setting—just an hour and a half from the city.

The theme for our retreat is:
"Being Real", focusing on the Psalms.

There will be a social time on Friday after supper and a learning session on Saturday morning with free time in the afternoon to rest and enjoy the pretty countryside.

Breakfast and lunch are provided on Saturday. We will leave at 4 pm.

You can have a single room or share a double room.

Please sign up on the Sign Up Genius online (QR code will take you there) or on the sheet at the Welcome Table in the Undercroft.




Direct Us, Lord, through Darkness

Direct us, Lord, through darkness
to gain that keener sight
which draws the heart to ponder
the farthest, faintest light -
the stars beyond our reaching
that share the dust you formed
to make us earthen creatures
you breathed upon and warmed.

From your configuration of
elemental dust
arise our need and yearning
to reach toward you in trust -
to live by faith that widens
the wonder in the mind
that breath and flesh and planets
and stars are intertwined!

The bonds of primal matter
that link the earth and sky
are deepened and extended
by faith's alerted eye
which scans the stars recalling
the one through whom we pray
was born as dust in darkness
and is our light and way.

- Thomas H. Troeger

 IN THIS FEAST OF OUR LORD'S BAPTISM, we remember the voice from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son and the Spirit descending upon him in power. We pray that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made and boldly confess Christ as Lord and Savior. Strengthened by the Spirit who anoints and leads us, we walk in the way of the One who brings justice, peace, and new life to the world. #Episcopal

SPRING 2026
SUNDAY ADULT FAITH FORUM SERIES
MEETING IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 10 AM

Bring your coffee! Bring your questions! Bring yourself!

January

- 11 - Understanding the Synoptic Gospels: Matthew (Mother Sara)
- 18 - Understanding the Synoptic Gospels: Mark (Joe Howell)
- 25 - Understanding the Synoptic Gospels: Luke (Joe Howell)

February

- 1 - Collects of the Church Liturgy (Venessa Acham)
- 8 - African Bible Study: Lectio Divina (Rev. Sara Palmer)
(Based on a reading for the feast of Martin Luther King Jr., Pastor and Martyr)
- 15 - Spiritual Journey Interview (Rev. Sara Palmer)
- 22 - Lenten Book Study (Rev. Sara Palmer)

March

- 1 - Lenten Book Study (Forum Committee Member)
- 8 - Lenten Book Study Forum Committee Member)
- 15 - Lenten Book Study (Forum Committee Member)
- 22 - Lenten Book Study (Forum Committee Member)
- 29 - Passion (Palm) Sunday (NO FORUM)

April

- 5 - Easter Sunday (NO FORUM)
- 12 - Spiritual Journey Interview (Rev. Sara Palmer)
- 19 - What is Life? What is Death? (Sebastian Wellford)
- 26 - What is Life? What is Death? (Sebastian Wellford)

May

- 3 - White Christian Nationalism (David Palmer)
- 10 - Spiritual Journey Interview (Rev. Sara Palmer)
- 17 - Parish Reflections on Growth and Depth (Rev. Sara Palmer)