

NEWS FROM THE PEWS at All Souls

MAY 3, 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter

11 am

Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Sara Palmer, Rector

If you are visiting today, we welcome you!

All are welcome to receive

Holy Communion at the Lord's table.

Today's Readings

The First Lesson

Acts 7:55-60

Annie Plews

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

Chanted by the choir

The Epistle

1 Peter 2:12-10

Daniel Callis

The Gospel

John 14:1-14

Mother Sara Palmer

Prayers of the People

Calvin Zon

All are invited to

Coffee Hour after the service

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

We thank

**Owen Basil and Bill McKinley
for hosting this week.**

TODAY IS

WELCOME SUNDAY!

We will welcome our Newcomers and give them an All Souls "gift bag". Do stay for Coffee hour and say hello to our visitors and new members!

**FAITH FORUM, 10 AM
IN CONFERENCE ROOM**

Next Week, May 10

Come and be inspired by "Spiritual Journeys" with Mother Sara who will be interviewing Noelle Muha and Dylan Winters.

**NEXT WEEK COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP
BRING "MOM'S" FAVORITE FOODS**

In celebration of our mothers and all who lovingly serve in motherly roles, please bring Mum's faves to the kitchen before the worship service. These treats will be enjoyed during our Fellowship. Together, let us reflect on faith, honor loved ones, and celebrate community.



**Only 2 weeks away!
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH
& LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, MAY 17 at 12:15 pm**

(Absentee Voting information below)

All members are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting if possible on Sunday, May 17 following church. If you are unable to attend, however, you may request an **absentee ballot** from the parish office (office@allsoulsdc.org) during the two weeks before the meeting. Any completed absentee ballots should be returned no later than Saturday, May 16. We hope you all can be present. Panera sandwiches will be served and this is an important day in the life of our parish.

USHERS by Tara Mancini

My name is Tara Mancini, I am a member of the vestry, and also an usher here at All Souls. When I first met with Mother Sara in 2024, and mentioned some of my interests to her, she asked me to think about whether I felt called to be a part of the usher ministry. Well by now, if you're a regular at All Souls, you know that I did feel called and so I like to put a spotlight on the usher ministry.

Paul reminds the Romans in his letter to them: "Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7 RSV

For that reason, I like to think of ushers as All Souls ambassadors, but also ambassadors for Christ as we are often the first friendly smile that folks see when they enter All Souls. We welcome folks into the church, both the new faces and the familiar faces that have long been part of the family. This is in fact how I got to know many of you.

Ushers help foster a warm and safe environment by staying attentive to the needs of the congregation. That might mean helping someone who looks unsure of what to do at communion, finding them a bulletin, or showing them the way to the restroom. One day in the near future, we'll be

crowded enough that being an usher will mean helping a family find empty seats.

Ushers also help with the flow of mass, including during the offering and during communion. These were the things I was most anxious about getting wrong at the beginning. But there's plenty of training and support from our head usher Joe Neal, and our former head usher of many years, Al Muller.

Now, I want you all to visualize with me for a moment. Imagine you are entering a new church for the first time. Or maybe even going into a church for the first time. You might feel your palms getting sweaty or your muscles tensing as you approach the big doors. You might start to doubt whether this church, or any church is for you. You stop and take a deep breath and get it together enough to cross the threshold into God's house. And then you see a big smile, reaching out their hand to welcome you in—and your able to exhale.

In that short account, if you pictured yourself as the smiling person welcoming a nervous newcomer, then I am talking to you and I'd like you to consider whether you're being called to serve as a part of the All Souls Usher ministry.

ACOLYTES

Good morning. My name is Heidi Rasciner, and I'm the chair of the Tending Our Soil team. As Mother Sara explained in her article in the weekly news bulletin, we are leading a new Stewardship Campaign focused on contributions of time and talent. I'm here before you this morning because I have been at All Souls for over thirty years, and for almost all of that time it has been my great joy and privilege to be part of the acolyte guild, and I'm hoping some of you may be inspired to join us. According to the church dictionary on the Episcopal Church's website at episcopal-church.org, acolytes were referenced as one of the four minor orders (along with porters, lectors, and exorcists) as early as the year 252 of the common era in a letter from Pope Cornelius to Bishop Fabius of Antioch. They are also mentioned in the letters of Saint Cyprian of Carthage around the same time period. From the earliest days, acolyte duties included lighting and carrying candles in procession and assisting at the altar. Here at All Souls, acolytes also carry the processional cross and Gospel Book, and administer the chalice at communion. This makes us an integral part of the worship experience at All Souls, in which we seek to share the Good News of a risen Christ,

by Heidi Rasciner

to provide spiritual nourishment to everyone who comes through our doors (or watches us online) and to collectively draw closer to God, particularly in these deeply troubling times. So for anyone who would like to participate in this ancient calling and experience the liturgy of the church in a new and deeper way, please let us know by filling out a pledge card. And if what we do looks complicated, don't worry, our fearless leader Mike McGee provides training, so no prior experience is necessary. We also have flexible scheduling, so we can work with you however much time you have to give.

And finally, if you have any questions, you can ask me or Mike. Thank you.

A Tending Our Soil Congregation

 In the Episcopal Diocese of Washington



ALTAR GUILD by Mike McGee

In Luke's Gospel we read of Jesus' visit to the home of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Notice I've listed the names in alphabetical order. Mary emerges as the heroine of the story due to her focus on Jesus' teachings while Martha is troubled by many things related to the preparation and service of the meal. Jesus gently chides Martha. She has gotten the reputation as something of a drudge. A collection of German folk poetry refers to her in a child's vision of the heavenly hosts eating a meal of earthly foods. "Saint Martha has to be the cook." The church needs its Marthas, whether a Martha or a Marvin. They set the table and the stage for worship. As Bishop James Montgomery wrote in his preface to "The Priest's Handbook" the setting should be appropriate to the worship of the "God before whom the angels veil their faces." When you enter the church on Sunday mornings, you will see the altar set with the veiled chalice and the credence set with the items needed for serving the altar at the Eucharist. An altar guild member arrived early to complete the set-up. Afterwards, a member will wash and dry the communion vessels and store them in the Sacristy. The members will check the inventory of supplies to ensure the parish has communion bread,

wine, candles and all the other items required for the service. Members take the soiled linens home with them for hand-washing and ironing. Our communion silver needs periodic polishing as well. The frontals and other hangings are changed as the liturgical seasons evolve. Kudos to Mother Sara who volunteered to repair fraying stoles and frontals. Most of our vestments and altar hangings are over 30 years old and are showing their age. I have been involved as an acolyte for most of my 30 plus years at All Souls but my formal association with the Altar Guild is much more recent. During this time, I have prepared materials giving step by step instructions for set-up for new member orientation and later reference. To go back to the Saint Martha reference, our collective goal is to prepare for service so we all can indulge in Mary's "better part" in our worship. Many thanks to our current members and to acolytes on duty who step up to help with the after-service clean-up.

If you are interested in sharing this ministry or just curious about what goes on to prepare, please contact Mother Sara or me.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

The Washington Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for:

St. George's Church, Glenn Dale,
St. George's Church, Valley Lee
St. George's, DC
National Day of Prayer (May 7)
Diocesan Confirmation Service (May 9)

For those who are sick or in need, we pray especially for: Will Dawson's grandmother, Sally Cliff, Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan; all children everywhere; all victims of gun violence;

For those who have died: for Patti Mooney, the sister of Bill Stevens, that her soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed may rest in peace;

We give thanks for: All who are considering what gifts of talents, skills and time you are able to offer in service to All Souls during our Tending the Soil pledge drive that runs through May 10.

Email Andrea@allsoulsdc.org to submit a prayer request.

We will keep names on for a month unless notified and are prepared to pray indefinitely.

**ALL SOULS ENDOWMENT
GRANT APPLICATION
DEADLINE
Fri., May 15**



**ALL SOULS FOYER DINNER
GROUP SURVEY, 2026-2027**

Please take time to fill out the survey on Foyer Dinner Groups by filling out and returning the form found on the Welcome table or online.



MORE EPISCOPAL NEWS HERE



**Episcopal Diocese of
Washington DC**
<https://edow.org/>



Episcopal News Service
[https://
episcopalnewsservice.org/](https://episcopalnewsservice.org/)



The Episcopal Church
<https://episcopalchurch.org/>



WOODLEY HOUSE now offices on the first floor of the Admin. wing. We are thrilled to partner with them in providing an upgraded office space for the important work they do. **SUBSCRIBE** to their emails to learn more about their history, mission and needs by scanning the QR code.

** Next week is our Second Sunday Food Pantry Collection for them.*



**May
17th**