

Traditional Worship. Progressive Thinking.



News From the Pews

This Sunday

September 7, 2025
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11 am Holy Eucharist

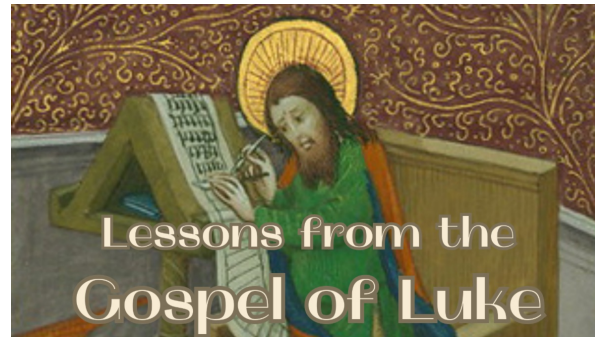
The Rev. Sara Palmer, Rector

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

*Please join us in the undercroft
after the service
for fellowship and refreshments.*

*We thank Leybi for helping facilitate
our Sunday coffee hour this week
and every Sunday.*

*The altar & Mary chapel flowers
this Sunday
are given to the glory of God
by the Drell family,
in loving memory of Christopher Drell,
beloved son and brother
of Larry, Vicky and Michael,
in commemoration of his 46th earthly birthday.*



Sunday's Readings

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Judy Andrew

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

Judy Andrew

The Epistle

Philemon 1-21

Embry Howell

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

Mother Sara Palmer

Prayers of the People

Cynthia Evans

[Book of Common Prayer online](#) | [The Lectionary Page](#)
[Announcements](#) | [Leaflet for Sunday 9.7.25](#)

A Message from The Rector

GOD IS AT WORK AT ALL SOULS.

GROWTH AND DEPTH

by Mother Sara Palmer

I am excited as we begin another church year at All



Souls on September 14th! I will have been here a year and eight months!

It is amazing to see all the answers to our persevering prayers! Last week (August 24th), 10 new people joined us for worship, totaling 71! Four from Bolivia, two from France, and two other 20's and 30's. Two people from the previous week returned and introduced themselves to me. Most of our new people stayed to enjoy our wonderful and energizing coffee hour after the service! Such joy!

Newer people are now connecting more deeply with All Souls, volunteering to serve in various capacities, such as Acolytes, Altar Guild, the Stewardship and Finance Committees. I have the largest number yet of participants in my Episcopal 101 class which begins meeting on September 10th at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room. Our Bishop Mariann Budde will join us on December 21st to baptize, confirm, reaffirm and renew our commitment to God in Christ. Please mark your calendars!

More and more people are coming to the 10 am Forums on Sundays, before the weekly services held in the Conference Room. We will kick off the new year in style with Samuel Littauer and Helen Schmedtje (both relative newcomers) being interviewed by me about their Spiritual Journeys on September 14th . Fascinating to get to know each other better and to be encouraged in our own Faith Journeys as we listen to others share their lives. Interesting future topics also!

Growth and Depth are two words that came to me as I prayed about this coming year 2026. At All Souls, we are a Christ-centered sanctuary where it is safe to ask questions and grow in our relationship with God and with one another. We long to become closer to God, the Fountain of Life, and to be intentional about developing deeper roots in the One who loves us so dearly. God longs to give us the strength, comfort and courage we need as we turn back to God in these challenging times. We will continue to reach out to our local neighbors this fall with free concerts, Hallowe'en fun and the offer of authentic community in Christ in times of isolation and fear. We are committed to making a difference with the poor and vulnerable in our city (Christ House, Woodley House, Samaritan Ministry, Capital Area Food Bank, immigrants) and around the world (Palestine, Cuba and Haiti) showing God's love in practical donations of time, talent and treasure. God has blessed us and we long to be a blessing to others.

Our 20's and 30's group and the Men's group continue to grow in numbers and in commitment to each other. Coffee hour in the Undercroft after the Sunday services is an important (and delicious!) opportunity where we can each reach out to someone we don't know yet, across differences of age and background. It is such a joy for me to work with you! Thank you for your kindness and support.

Warmly,

Mother Sara

Upcoming Events

September



CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY | September 13, 9 AM – NOON

It's never too late to sign up! Come be a part of a special morning cleaning up All Souls - inside and out. Jeff Wells, Junior Warden (junior.warden@allsoulsdc.org) is heading up this effort. Pizza is provided! [SIGN UP HERE](#) or on the Welcome Table.

INGATHERING SUNDAY | September 14

Our annual “back to church” Sunday is September 14. The **Choir** will be back and so will the **10 am Faith Forums**. We will be honoring Leybi Romero during the coffee hour that the Lectors Ministry team will be hosting. We hope to see everyone back from their summer adventures and eager to begin the new season in unity and love.



FAITH FORUM SERIES FOR AUTUMN 2025

The Fall Forum Series begins on Sept. 14th at 10 am in the conference room and runs through December 21st. All are encouraged to experience faith as a journey more than a destination, through conversation with fellow parishioners. *See complete list of topics on website at allsoulsdc.org/formation.*

Sept. 14 | Spiritual Journey Interview with Helen Schmedtje and Samuel Littauer who will share their faith journeys. Presenter is Mother Sara.

Sept. 21 | African Bible Study: Lectio Divina with presenter Mother Sara.

Sept. 28 | Stories Jesus Still Tells, by John Claypool with presenter Peter Laugesen. Why Parables? Why Stories?

Join the Choir!



ALL SOULS CHOIR BEGINS SEPT. 14, 10 am

If you have thought of joining the choir and can read music, this is your year! Talk to Tom Andrew, Music Minister after the service or email him at tom@allsoulsdc.org. The choir rehearses on Sunday mornings before services so no extra evening is required.

Come make a joyful song unto the Lord!

ROCK CREEK CLEAN UP | SAT MORNING., SEPT. 20, 9:30 am – Noon

Sebastian Wellford is leading this environmentally friendly volunteer event.

Sign up on the parish website, [fill out the waiver form](#)
and/or contact Sebastian at swell11@vt.edu.

Time: 10 am - Noon (Meet at the church at 9:30 am in the parking lot to travel together.)

Location: Picnic Grove #24 - Carter Barron, across from the Tennis Center

Transportation: Ample parking available on-site. Some members will be carpooling from the All Soul's parking lot at 9:30 am.

Materials: Gloves, bags, grabbers, first aid, etc will be provided! Feel free to bring a reusable water bottle, snacks, sunscreen, hats, or other tools.

Registration: Please register at [this link](#) through the Rock Creek Conservancy to complete all necessary waivers or contact Sebastian Wellford (seabasswellford@gmail.com)

Learn more: If you're interested in the Rock Creek Conservancy and how they keep our local National Park clean, or if you'd like to donate, please visit [their website](#).

Attendees need to visit the above link to complete waivers however, paper waivers will be available.



COFFEE WITH MOTHER SARA | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

If you are new to All Souls in the last six months, please do grab a coffee and snack downstairs and **come up in the Conference room at 12:15 pm** to meet Mother Sara. This is a great way to make new friends and also have your questions answered about the Episcopal Church and about All Souls.

FRIENDS OF ST. BENEDICT ANNUAL SEMINAR

St Albans DC, Sat. Sept. 20, 10 am – 1 pm

“St. Benedict’s Rule for our Restless Age” will be presented by The Rev. Patricia Lyons, Sr. Advisor for Evangelism Initiatives, VTS. Find out more at www.benedictfriends.com.



October

20'S AND 30'S GET TOGETHER, SAVE THE DATE! | FRIDAY, OCT. 3, 6:30 pm

Mark your calendars for “BYOH” (Bring Your Own Hot sauce) mixer as it will involve food! It will be happening from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm in the undercroft. Contact [Joe Neal](#) for more information. [SIGN UP online](#) or in person at the Welcome table.

VOLUNTEER AT THE CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK |

SAT. OCT. 4, 9 am – Noon

Kurt Jacobs is leading this effort. He is finalizing the details with the Food Bank. Come be a part of a special afternoon and know that your kindness makes a difference in the lives of others. [Sign up online](#) or at the Welcome table.

ST. FRANCIS BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE | SUN. OCT. 5 at 3 pm

Join Mother Sara and parishioners in the front garden of the church for a blessing of animals. All leashed or caged animals are welcome. Open to the community.

Announcing our Youngest Soul



Former parishioners Sarah Spencer and Ryan Burwinkel are delighted to announce the arrival of their firstborn son, James Spencer Burwinkel, born over Labor Day weekend. It was a long labor with many twists and turns, and they were grateful to be buoyed by All Souls' prayers and support at each step of the way. After a three day NICU stay, baby James is home, Mom is recovering well, and they are nesting.

Resources

STAY IN TUNE WITH OUR LOCAL DIOCESE and the Church at Large via Email
Sign up for the Episcopal Diocese of Washington (EDOW) bulletin that comes out weekly via email to stay in touch with the larger diocese and note interesting offerings around town at edow.org/connect/newsletter-sign-up.

Also, the National Episcopal Church offers an informative website (episcopalchurch.org) and to read about national and world news in the episcopal church, subscribe to the Episcopal News Service bulletin at episcopalnewsservice.org/email-signup.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION AT THE WELCOME TABLE for our next Parish Directory.

THIS CONSTANT CONTACT DESIGNED E-BLAST was designed to be read on computer. We are working on better mobile viewing.

Parish Prayer Intentions for Sunday, August 31

The Washington Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for:

The Church of the Holy Communion, DC, Diocesan Youth Ministry, Diocesan Young Adult Ministry, All whose passion and work is formation;

In the Wider Anglican Communion, we pray for:

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa;

For Those Who are Sick or in Need, we pray especially for:

Robert, Christopher, Laura, Nancy, Warren, Shinn, Charles, Jane, Kim, Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan;

We Give Thanks for: the birth of James Spencer Burwinkel and all those who have given financially to the Sterrett family garden and to those physically completing the work.

A Prayer

Turning and Turning

God, set me on the path of healing again.
Turn me to the rising sun when I need to be inspired.
Turn me to the wilderness when I need to be lost.
Turn me toward the world when I need to work.
Turn me toward the mountain when I need to retreat.
So that in turning I find Your loving grace all around.

from Love Heals
by Becca Stevens,
founder of Thistle Farms

A Note About Flowers

We have had several glitches on our part and on the part of the flower shop that recently changed hands. We deeply apologize for these mishaps. Having reviewed and refined our procedures, please know that we are confident and committed to doing everything in our power to ensure dedications are honored.

Thank you for your understanding and
thank you for contributing flowers
to the glory of God for worship at All Souls.

ASC Photo



*above, The Seersucker Crew.
photo by Tara Mancini, on Sunday 8.31.25.*

Submit your All Souls photos to office@allsoulsdc.org to be featured
as the All Souls picture(s) of the week

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