

All Souls Church Unitarian Universalist

WEST VILLAGE VOICE

A Welcoming Congregation and Green Sanctuary

Celebrating 40 years at our current location in West Brattleboro, 88 Years as All Souls Church, 179 years of Unitarian and more than 200 years of Universalist presence in Brattleboro.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship means to celebrate that which is of worth - our shared values.

Sunday, September 5 – Labor Day Weekend – No Service – No Religious Education

Sunday, September 12, 10:00 a.m. – “Faithful Stories: Getting to Know You – Really”

Join us this Sunday as we begin our 41st year in our present location. The more formal church year begins with a celebration of community and the yearning we all share for more intimate relationships that allow us to get to know each other more deeply. Our ingathering service combines the theme for this church year with the Small Group Ministry program’s fall kick-off.

Jerelyn Wilson serves as Worship Associate. Kathy Squires serves as Greeter and Usher. The All Souls Church Board of Trustees provides Hospitality refreshments this morning.

Sunday, September 19, 10:00 a.m. – “The Hope for Atonement”

This Sunday, we honor Judaism’s wisdom by exploring what atonement means and its connection with Universalism’s premise and promise. Our minister will reflect on the 240th anniversary of John Murray’s arrival in the American Colonies and the message of hope that he preached.

Gary Graff serves as Worship Associate. Carla Fogg serves as Greeter and Usher.

Sunday, September 26, 10:00 a.m. – “Rumi the Mystic”

Our guest speaker this morning is Amer Latif, Professor of Comparative Religions at Marlboro College. He will help us appreciate the relationship between contentment and spiritual alchemy in the teachings of 13th century Sufi poet Rumi.

Christina Gibbons serves as Worship Associate. Linda Hay serves as Greeter and Usher. The Building and Grounds Committee provides Hospitality refreshments this morning.

Sunday, October 3, 10:00 a.m. – “Association Sunday”

Join us this Sunday as we celebrate 50 years of the merger between the Universalist Church of America (founded in 1793) and the American Unitarian Association (founded in 1825), and the future of our faith. Read article on page _.

First Sunday Offering will benefit the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

First Sunday Potluck Hospitality immediately following the service. All are invited to bring something to share.

Hospitality: This fall we will be looking again for volunteers to help with hospitality/coffee hour. This first Sunday, September 12, hospitality will be provided by the Board of Trustees. Remember, Hospitality should be simple! The goal (the ministry) is to provide the opportunity to connect, to visit, and to extend the welcome we all hope to find in this community. The first Sunday of the month will be a potluck, “everyone” can bring something simple to share. The second Sunday of the month we will try to have committees sign up. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the church office for the other Sundays of the month. If you have any questions, ask Kathy Squires.

THE MINISTER'S MUUSINGS ON A THEME

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of moving to our present location in West Brattleboro and begin the more formal church year, we do so with a new theme: **Faithful Stories**. Sharing our stories is one way in which we get to know each other better, and both deepen and strengthen our relationships. But the theme is about more than sharing our individual stories. It is also about sharing the stories of All Souls Church, its history and heritage, and the stories about our faith tradition, Unitarian Universalism.

Faithful stories will be shared all year long in sermons, messages or reflections and brief “testimonials” on Sunday mornings, in our Lifespan Faith Formation program for young and old, in Small Group Ministry sessions and just about everywhere we gather together as a faith community. The “faithful stories” we hope to hear, connect with a deeper meaning of “faith”: Trust and loyalty. This is also connected to the deeper meaning of “belief”: To love; to hold dear; to prize.

Imagine hearing stories during this church year about times in peoples personal lives when a deep and enduring trust and felt passion gave them the courage to change or take a “leap” into something new and different. These stories abound in our individual lives as well as in the life of All Souls Church and in Unitarian Universalism. All we need to do is remember and have the courage to share. If you feel called to explore sharing your faithful story, a faithful story about All Souls Church or Unitarian Universalism, please let us know. You can contact Sue Graff, ASC President, Christina Gibbons, Worship Coordinator, Jesse deVries, Director of Religious Education and Office Administrator, or me.

Before we begin the more formal Sunday worship services on September 12, I plan to take a Reading Week with a few interesting books about Unitarian Universalist stories. I will be out of the office from Tuesday, August 31, through Monday, September 6. I hope you enjoy this year's Labor Day Weekend and plan to be with us here at All Souls to celebrate together.

Rev. Barbro Hansson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Things can fall apart, or threaten to, for many reasons, and then there's got to be a leap of faith. Ultimately, when you're at the edge, you have to go forward or backward; if you go forward, you have to jump together. ~ Yo-Yo Ma

I'm envisioning our closing circle at the end of a Sunday service. We're all holding hands and I can feel the warmth, strength, compassion, and love on either side of me. Rather than break apart after the inspiring closing words, instead we all close our eyes, take a deep breath, and jump ... where would we land?

What would we be willing to do, individually and collectively, to ensure a robust future for All Souls Church? What radical notions would we consider for our faith community if we were free to truly explore every option? What would happen if we allowed ourselves to be freed from our burdens (real or imagined) and preconceptions of our church?

This year, I hope we can take a leap of faith together. We will not blindly move forward, however. This will be a journey guided by our past (we first held services in our current building 40 years ago this month; we will be providing many ways for our community to mark this milestone throughout the year), as well as our present.

On August 14, seventeen church leaders engaged in a mindful, spirited retreat, co-facilitated by two of our own members, Jerelyn Wilson and David Shallenberger, and contemplated issues of worship, finances, and membership. The collective foresight and intentions of our engaged volunteer leaders, our minister, and our dedicated staff will provide the safety net as we jump. Let's all enjoy the ride!

Sue Graff

A Look Back - All Souls Church Marks 40th Year in West Brattleboro

This month marks the 40th anniversary of All Souls Church's move from Main Street to West Brattleboro. Throughout the year, we will be providing a look back at our history in the newsletter, at special events and exhibits, and through an invitation to all of us to share stories about our connection with All Souls Church with each other and the larger community. The information below was part of a Historical Perspective, written by Shirley Ridgway and Orion Barber,

that appeared in the Facility Task Force Report 2006-2007. It seems particularly fitting to remind all of us of what promise the "new building" held for the congregation:

The wish list for the new building included flexible spaces that could provide community events, many classrooms and meeting rooms, and spaces that could accommodate art activities, a workshop, films and plays, offices adequate for staff, and a library and music room. In April 1966, the congregation approved building a new church, and hired a Boston architectural firm (Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott) to design it. That month it also received the resignation of Rev. Fred Miller, its minister of almost 19 years tenure. In February 1967, ASC called a new minister, Robert Edward Green, the last to serve at the downtown church. By mid-1969, a building fund of \$455,000 was approved; land was purchased in West Brattleboro and construction begun in 1970-71, though the final blueprint was obviously scaled down from the initial wish list. In June 1970, just two weeks after the dedication of the new building, Reverend Green resigned. In September 1970 Bob MacLean was named Activities Coordinator, and services began, mostly lay-led (under the guidance of a Program Committee) but occasionally with a supplied minister. In 1972, the building acquired the name West Village Meeting House.

LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION

The start of a new year elicits feelings of hope, expectation and anxiety. My assumption is that it stems from nervousness, and fear of the unknown. New is scary because new things do not tend to turn out how you expect them to. That is intimidating, but it's also exciting.

Our new year of religious education kicks off on September 12, and it isn't necessarily going to look like it has for years and years. We are hoping to shift our youth program from one of curricula focused religious education, to a spiritually deepening experience focused on faith formation. Walking through Staples last Friday, it was impossible to miss the sales floor filled with back-to-school gear. Pencils, folders, Trapper Keepers, markers, everything that you need to start the year off right. Like smells are apt to do, the scent of new school stuff brought familiar fall-time feelings. We will begin our time with an extension of the worship service—singing together, and checking in with each other about what's going on in each of our lives. We will use a story to open up discussion about a specific topic and deepen our experience through an activity including cooking, art, and active games.

I have no idea how this is going to be received by our children and youth, by our parents or by our congregation. Ideally, it will engage our children and youth. It will deepen their spirit, and their connection to each other, our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. Ideally, our congregation will be inspired to help grow our young souls program by getting involved—be it on Sunday mornings, Friday nights or during committee meetings. Ideally the program will strengthen, not by spreading our volunteers and parents thin, but by filling their spirits through these connections. The world doesn't necessarily work in ideals, and the shape of this year and our program remains to be seen—but isn't that exciting?

Youth Overnight: On August 13, nine youth spent the night at All Souls Church. Our time together included a thought exercise about social action, and ways we can stop pollution. We also watched Karate Kid and thought about different types of spiritual practice. We ended the night with circle worship in the main hall, followed by a star gazing walk down the driveway. The average amount of sleep was probably about three hours. We enjoyed each other's company and getting to know each other better. Unfortunately during our time at All Souls Church there was a window broken. The youth have apologized to the Board, and are in the process of planning a fundraiser to cover the cost of replacing the window. In spite of the accident, I am still looking forward to our next youth event!

Parent Orientation: We will hold a parent orientation before worship on Sunday, September 12 starting at 9:00 a.m. There will be breakfast for all, followed by an introduction to the programming this year, and a tour of our RE Wing. This is an important opportunity to connect with fellow families, and start the year off right. Registration will also take place on this morning. We look forward to having you there!

Kickoff of Family Games Night: The school year is starting—and you know what that means? September 10 at 5:30 p.m. our Family Games Night will start up again! Bring your favorite board game to share with the group! Pizza will be served; you are welcome to bring a salad and drink to share. We ask that you RSVP by 3:00 p.m. Thursday, September 9. Contact Jesse with any questions and to RSVP—802.275.4911 or asc-dre@allsoulsuuchurch.org.

Jesse deVries, Director of Religious Education

Films for the Spirit: An Ongoing Film Series with Discussion Afterwards

Each month on the First Tuesday, we will feature a different film that explores issues of faith, spirituality and deeper meanings. The First Tuesday Films for the Spirit will always end with a time for discussion. All films will be shown with the proper license for public viewing. If you are interested in being on the Film Selections Team, please contact our Minister at 257-5186 or asc-minister@allsoulsuuchurch.org.

Tuesday, September 7, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. – *As In Heaven*, a Swedish film from 2004

We kick off our **Films for the Spirit** with *As In Heaven* (*Så som i himmelen*), a film about a renowned international conductor whose life aspiration is to create music that will open people's hearts. His own heart, however, is in bad shape. After suffering a heart attack on stage at the end of a performance, he retires indefinitely to the village of his childhood. It doesn't take long before he is asked to come and listen to the fragment of a church choir, which practices every Thursday in the parish hall. He can't say no, and from that moment, nothing in the village is the same again. A suggested donation of \$5.00 will be gratefully accepted.

Exploring the Radical Reformation and Our UU Story

Thursday, September 16, 23 and 30, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Radical changes in the 16th century affected all aspects of life for the people of Europe. If you would like to know more about the individuals who believed in religious freedom and the changes they brought, then you should join the Adult Explorers on Thursday, September 16.

We will use David Bumbaugh's book, *Unitarian Universalism: A Narrative History*. "His kaleidoscopic coverage of religious developments in Europe in the period of the Protestant Reformation clarifies for the reader the forces that led Michael Servetus, Francis David, among many others, to insist that the purification of the Christian church would not complete until it rid itself of doctrines, such as that of the Trinity, which had no biblical basis. For this audacity, several paid with their lives." Our reading assignments for September are:

Week 1 - September 16: Forward, Introduction and Unitarian Universalism in Europe; pages 2 - 42

Week 2 - September 23: Transylvanian Unitarianism and Holland and England; pages 42 - 95

Week 3 - September 30: Unitarianism in the United States; pages 95 - 141

We pick up on the second half of Bumbaugh's book and the Universalist stories in November. The book, which is required reading, is available at church for \$13.00, or through our lending library. A suggested donation of \$5.00 for each session is gratefully accepted, but not required.

Stories of Faith: Coming on Thursday evenings in October

You are invited to explore your own personal beliefs and spiritual practices through writing in three meetings in October. In these sessions, on October 14, 21 and 28, we will start with writing using prompts to get our thinking going, and then share with each other. Some participants may arrive at a **Story of Faith** to read at the Sunday morning service on October 31. No previous experience with writing is necessary. For more information, please contact Christina Gibbons at 257-0115 or gbbn@mac.com.

Small Group Ministry Returning to All Souls Church

A Few Frequently Asked Questions

A new series of Small Group Ministry (SGM) sessions is about to begin and we invite you to join us. In anticipation of your thoughts, we offer these "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQs) and their answers.

Just what is Small Group Ministry? Small Group Ministry is a program for people to get together and explore personally significant issues and questions, and to get to know each other better while doing so.

How often do the groups meet and for how long? What would my commitment be? We meet once every other week for a total of six meetings. Each meeting lasts between 90 minutes and 2 hours. We know that people have complicated lives and that you might not be able to make it for all six sessions, but we ask you to commit to come to as many as possible.

What will I get out of coming to these sessions? People in the Spring series made such comments as:

– *These were the most spiritual times I've ever had.*

– *I got to know people more deeply than I could by just coming to*

church on Sundays or through working on committees. I heard

about their hopes and struggles, and I shared some of mine in a very safe atmosphere.

– As old as I am, I found myself making new discoveries about myself.

– I found connections with others I didn't know well and who had very different views on spirituality, God, and church.

What are the topics this fall? We will explore the following topics this fall as they relate to us as individuals:

Covenant-making - The third chapter - Humor - Listening - Adversity - Ending and leave-taking

What is the format of the Small Group Ministry sessions? Typically, each session begins with some brief readings or quotes to which each of us responds personally. We move around the circle one by one, giving each individual about five minutes of uninterrupted time and space, often followed by a second, briefer round of response and thoughts. As in many of our meetings here at church, we begin and end with welcoming and “sending-forth” moments.

OK, you've intrigued me. How do I sign up and when do these begin? There are forms on the Greeters' Table or you can send or bring in the information at the end of this article. Please let us know as soon as you can; we hope to start these sessions the week of September 20 and we want to get the groups formed as early as possible so that we can identify the times (we try to accommodate people's schedules, but we can't do that until we know when folks are free).

If I have any more questions, whom do I ask? Kathy Squires or David Shallenberger.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND CHURCH COUNCILS

Leadership Retreat

On Saturday, August 14, 17 members of the Board, church staff, leaders and active members gathered for a day-long retreat at St. Michael's Episcopal Church to consider our “road map” for the coming church year and beyond. Facilitators David Shallenberger and Jerelyn Wilson skillfully led us through an inspirational process of considering what this faith community means to each of us and why, and what we see as our strengths, our challenges, and our hopes for our collective future. The discussion was wide-ranging and by no means finished at the end of the day, but will instead guide the Board in prioritizing our actions and involving all of us in continuing the conversations in the months ahead. We expressed our diversity of opinions in varied areas large and small, but concluded with mutual gratitude for the energy, commitment, and shared hopes that have now brought this congregation through forty years in this church home on the hill, and will help to sustain us through the next forty and more.

Shirley Ridgway, Clerk

Money Matters

Your Treasurer emerged from the leadership retreat in August with a renewed appreciation of how far All Souls Church has come in the decade that he has been a member. The church building is quite a lot more energy efficient and hence much less costly to heat. The giant leap was of course the new state-of-the-art heating system installed last winter, but our practice of installing better-than-new every time we need to replace a window, door, or anything else also has shown big results. Our religious education program is more fully staffed and quite a lot larger than a decade ago. Our minister is not only the longest-serving in the 40 years since All Souls moved to its current location, but is now among the longest serving religious leaders in the entire Brattleboro area. It is comforting to see such stability and improvement over the long haul, despite the occasional lean times. Bills are paid on time, we have zero debt, and our endowment is notably larger than a decade ago. *We must be doing something right.*

July started our new fiscal year with style, logging a net income of \$3,368, despite the unusual expense of paying some \$3,700 for the successful removal of our old underground oil tank. Pledges for this year stand at \$86,840; still short of our \$100,000 budgeted goal, but new pledges keep coming in, and are more than welcome. Pledge forms are always available in the brochure rack outside the parlor.

Steve Squires, Treasurer

Additional 2010 - 2011 Annual Fund Pledges and Special Gifts

We are grateful to **Leslie Kinney and Michael Landes** who submitted their financial pledge in support of operating budget for Fiscal Year 2011. We gratefully acknowledge the special financial gift received from former longtime member **Priscilla Sherwood**. There are, of course, different ways in which our members and friends support All Souls

Church. We recognize that on a regular basis many people participate in the Sunday morning offering. All gifts, large and small, identifiable and anonymous, are gratefully received. Thank you.

Acknowledging Members who Rotated off Committees and Board

Charles Butterfield – For serving on the Committee on Ministry and providing piano accompaniment on Sunday mornings and for memorial services.

Bob Everingham – For serving on the Building and Grounds Committee.

Gini Milkey – For serving on the ASC Personnel Committee.

Eileen Parks – For serving on the ASC Personnel Committee.

David Shallenberger – For serving as President of All Souls Church.

John Spicer – For serving on the Nominating Committee.

Justine Trowbridge – For serving on the ASC Personnel Committee.

Recognizing Contributions of Considerable Time

All Committee, Teams, Task Force and Group Members – For making sure that All Souls Church is vibrant and full of life.

All Holiday Bazaar Elves – For creating holiday magic and beautiful decorations.

All Shelter Helpers – For serving meals at the Overflow Shelter once a month.

All Souls Choir Members – For attending rehearsals and blessing us with their beautiful voices every Sunday morning.

All Young Souls Choir Members – For their commitment to attend rehearsals and sharing their beautiful singing on Sunday mornings on a regular basis.

All Water-Bearers – For keeping our flower gardens and indoor plants alive and well.

The Occasional Pickup Band – For providing special songs for worship from time to time.

Tom Baehr – For playing instrumentals on Sunday mornings and his support of the Small Group Ministry program.

Hollie Bowen – Cost of W. Brattleboro Post Office Box and sundry other related costs.

Ed Burke - For contributions to the Religious Education program and for painting window frames.

Charles Butterfield – For faithfully bringing our ASC contributions to the offices of the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, for his efforts to reestablish Small Group Ministry and for coordinating the Team serving meals at the Overflow Shelter.

Nancy Butterfield – For her proofreading assistance for the West Village Voice.

Haley Di Marino – For helping us develop a new website and providing professional input.

Bob Everingham - For his work on the playground and playing in the Occasional Pickup Band some Sunday mornings.

Tom Finnell – For his efforts in making sure All Souls uses energy efficient light fixtures.

Carla Fogg – For serving as a Rental Ambassador.

Christina Gibbons – For her contributions to the worship life of All Souls Church and to the Adult Religious Exploration program.

Peter Gibbons – For moving the lawn and occasionally providing music on Sunday mornings.

Gary Graff - For serving as a Small Group Ministry program facilitator.

Chris Greene – For moving the lawn.

Linda Hay – For her many efforts to raise funds for All Souls Church, especially the Harvest Buffet and for her magical efforts in creating the Hogwarts UU Summer Camp.

Charles Henderson – For his faithful service as counting volunteer on Monday mornings, as church recycler, and being on the newsletter assembly team.

Mary Henderson – For being on the newsletter assembly team and as advisor to the Annual Fund Campaign.

Luke Houke – For donating computer services.

Judy Ingison - For serving as a Small Group Ministry program facilitator and for being on the team that prepared the meals for the Overflow Shelter.

Daniel Kasnitz – Setting up and maintaining the new sound system.

Leslie Kinney – For working with our youth and encouraging involvement in the Interfaith Youth Group.

Ruth Lane – For an incredible amount of time spent on maintenance of the building.

John MacArthur – For giving us access to his beautiful balsam trees.

Sharry Manning – For serving as a Rental Ambassador.

Jim Maxwell – Legal Counsel for a variety of questions.

Andrea McAuslan – For her beautiful Sunday morning flower arrangements.

Marguerite Monet – For working with our youth and encouraging involvement in the Interfaith Youth Group.

Harvey Nystrom – Donation of his projector, speakers, numerous books and films and his contributions to the Adult RE program.

David Olle – For his contributions as Editor of the West Village Voice

Bob Parks – For his contributions toward the building being Greener and his expertise with thermostats.

Rod Payne-Meyer – Maintenance of courtyard garden and garden at bottom of driveway.

Benjamin Price – For an incredible amount of time spent on maintenance of the building.

Tom Robinson – For being on the newsletter assembly team.

Walter and Janet Schwarz – For their participation on the team that prepared the meals for the Overflow Shelter and to Walter for his contributions to the building being Greener.

Sandy Shriver – Legal Counsel, contract for The Garland School.

Barb Smith – For painting woodwork.

Esta Smith – For serving as All Souls liaison to the Brattleboro Area Pastoral Counseling Center's Board of Directors.

John and Targ Spicer – For an incredible amount of time spent on maintenance of the building.

Kathy Squires – For co-chairing the Holiday Bazaar, organizing Bed & Breakfast accommodations for Western

Wind and Fall Foliage, for making coffee on Sunday mornings and getting the Small Group Ministry program re-started.

Ede Thomas – For her work with the Young Souls Choir.

Peggy Tiffany – For providing professional advise in creating a new website for All Souls Church.

This list is by no means exhaustive, but it represents a huge number of hours contributed toward the health and vitality of All Souls Church.

Kathryn Turnas II – For participation on the team that prepared the meals for the Overflow Shelter.

Joy Wallens-Penford – For helping us develop a new website and providing professional advise.

Jerelyn Wilson – Liaison to The Garland School (now handed over to staff) and for serving as a Rental Ambassador.

Alex Wilson – Consultant giving advise toward energy efficiency.

Janet Young – For being on the newsletter assembly team.

Lowell Young – For moving the lawn and painting woodwork.

New Council Structure Comes to All Souls Church

With the renaming of the Parish Council to the Program Council and formation of a Worship Council, the Board is now working on establishing a Resource Council. These three councils will each meet four times a year, alternately on the third Tuesday each month. The Worship Council's first meeting was on August 17. The Program Council meets this month on September 21 and the first Resource Council meeting is planned for October 19. Specific lay leaders and staff members will be expected to attend the different council meetings, all relative to roles and responsibilities. All meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend and learn more about the workings of church life or to bring new ideas forward. If you are interested in more information about the Worship Council, contact Jerelyn Wilson at 257-0019 or jerelyn@buildinggreen.com, about the Program Council, contact Kathryn Turnas at 579-1219 or kturnas@hotmail.com, or about the Resource Council, contact Steve Squires at 365-7388 or solanasq@together.net.

Program Council (formerly Parish Council) Meeting, Tuesday, September 21

The first meeting of the Program Council for this church year is on Tuesday, September 21, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., with Kathryn Turnas, Board Vice-President, and Rev. Barbro Hansson co-facilitating. The agenda includes updates from Committees, a report from the August Leadership Retreat and news about fall programs and services. All committees and initiative involved with providing church programs are expected to be represented at the Program Council. Meetings are open to all.

New Worship Council Held First Meeting

The newly forming Worship Council met on August 17 under the leadership of Jerelyn Wilson and Barbro Hansson. Others attending were Jesse deVries, Ede Thomas, Kathy Squires, Megan Hawthorne, and Christina Gibbons. We reminded ourselves of our charge to form from the Committee on Ministry, and then worked on our vision and mission statements. Our longest discussion was about the meaning of the word "worship." We listened to plans for the fall and suggested ways in which this advisory council, meeting four times a year, can be helpful in promoting worship that is meaningful and relevant. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 9. All who have questions and ideas about our worship together are welcome to attend. Please contact Jerelyn or Rev. Barbro if you are interested.

Resource Council Under Formation by Leadership

The Resource Council will bring together all the lay leaders and staff members who puzzle together financial resources for All Souls Church and manage the budget. It will include the chair of the Committee on Financial Stewardship; the Treasurer of All Souls Church; representatives from the Investments Committee; from the Remembrance Committee, and from the Annual Fund Canvass Team; individuals involved with fundraising events; the Collector and the Bookkeeper. The idea is that All Souls will be strengthened by these players meeting together four times a year on a regular basis, to research, manage and implement healthy financial plans. The meetings will be open to all.

CHURCH LIFE NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Rebuilding

Last month when our spiritual leaders were planning our future course, volunteer church and school members were gathering to restructure, replace and repaint our building and its grounds. Once excavator and other machinery removed our underground oil tank and reshaped the open land west of the garden and the RE wing, members of the Garland School

family worked to create a crescent-shaped stone pathway of steps down the steep bank to their redesigned play yard and day-time sleeping tent. Together we plan to replant the present hayfield above with a durable ground cover in the fall. Donations gratefully accepted.

Catching several good drying days in August, the Ruth Lane painting crew managed to scrape, sandpaper, prime paint and over coat ten of our first floor window outside casings. This project will continue into the fall, so if you are not already a member of this crew, please contact Ruth to find out what their schedule will be for September. The work proceeds on shady sides of the building on hot days. We provide paint; you the brush.

Meanwhile the Spicer family, restorers-of-tired-buildings, have begun a process of rebuilding the deteriorating bottom of our service doors, before weather stripping their edges before winter. And, in what has been described as an appendectomy, they have opened up a small section of rotting wall between two windows outside the Main Hall. Both restructures should be completed by September. No stitches to remove.

Buildings & Grounds has requested bids for another roof-extending project which would clear our walkway entrance of snow and ice. If successful, this extender roof will eliminate the need to board in our Promenade with ugly plywood panels. We are all excited about this prospective project since it could prove to be a working model for other portions of our exterior walls and windows now subject to further rot. The anticipated design is one which John Ridgway built successfully above the Kitchen and Parlor walls.

Ruth Lane and John Spicer, co-chairs for Building & Grounds

Birthday Calendar Showing All Souls Birthdays

The Membership Committee and the office are going to put together a birthday calendar with your help of course with the intention of sending greetings to all our souls. We will have card making parties at coffee hour about once a month for everyone to have fun creating the cards. In the next month or so we will be collecting birthday dates and anniversary dates as well if you wish, in a copy of the directory at the Greeters Table. So join in the fun ... fill in the dates in the directory and help make the cards in the coming months.

Membership Committee, Kathy Squires

Exhibits by Susan Bull Riley and Stuart Copans Open on September 3

During September and October, All Souls Church will be hosting an exhibit of paintings in oil and watercolor by Susan Bull Riley and "18 Shaloms," a series of paper cuts by Stuart Copans. A reception for the artists is scheduled for Friday, September 3, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., a sort of appetizer course for Brattleboro's monthly Gallery Walk that evening.

A few days after the reception, **Susan Bull Riley** will be moving to Warm Springs, Virginia, where her husband, Richard Riley, has accepted a position as director of the Garth Newel Music Center. As is typical of Susan's work, the exhibit features birds, southern Vermont landscapes, and botanical watercolors. An excerpt from Susan's artist statement also reveals her creative influences:

I grew up singing lots of songs that had to do with the beauty of the earth, and those early words no doubt contributed to the way I feel about the natural world. A broad love of song and melody led to ten years working as a concert flutist and flute teacher. A similar impulse to paint, however, also generated by strong feelings for the outdoors, grew up alongside music-making and now dominates my life.

Stuart Copans first became interested in paper cutting through watching his two-year-old son Benjamin put himself to sleep by playing with paper and scissors. He subsequently joined the Guild of American Paper cutters, where he studied and taught. Stuart's artist statement explains that these eighteen paper cuts all incorporate the Hebrew word "Shalom," which means peace. They are part of a series of 1,296 works (36x36) he plans to produce as a contribution to the peace process among the three religions in Jerusalem that trace their origins back to Abraham and locate much of their holy histories in that city. The Shalom project was inspired by the tradition in Eastern Europe for Jewish families to have on their Eastern wall a piece of folk art with the word "Mizrach" or "Shiviti" incorporated into the design to remind them where the physical city of Jerusalem was located. Begun about ten years ago, when peace-making efforts were enjoying some progress toward reconciliation and equity, the paper cut series slowed along with that progress, but, writes Copans, "it feels like an auspicious time to begin working again." He was an active member of the Windham Art Gallery and participated in many of their shows.

The Arts Committee of All Souls Church invites the public to Friday's reception to meet the artists and learn more about their creative processes. Otherwise the building is open during worship services and other public events as well as 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week for gallery visitors. For further information, call the Church office at (802) 254-9377.

Join the All Souls Church Team at the Community Day of Caring: September 4, 9:00-12:00 noon

This event, sponsored by the United Way of Windham County, begins with a kick-off breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at the River Garden. We'll put our beliefs and values into action and service by participating in this national event, which affirms the power of the American spirit to make a difference! There are dozens of local projects being coordinated by the United Way that will directly benefit our community, and children are welcome to volunteer with their parents. If you haven't already contacted Sue Graff to join the All Souls team, simply meet us at the River Garden by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 4. More information about the day can be found at www.unitedwaywindham.org or by calling Deb Bunker at 257-4011, extension 113.

Christmas Crafting Begins Monday, September 27

Our first gathering to create simple cone candle rings or perhaps artemesia wreaths will take place Monday, September 27, from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Smith home, 298 Pleasant Valley Road., Brattleboro. Call 257-7496 for directions. Newcomers are invited to come, meet new friends, enjoy tea and conversation, and create saleable items for the annual Christmas bazaar which will be held on Saturday, December 4. Future gatherings will be held upstairs in the church balcony. No experience is needed ... we "old-timers" will share our skills. The dates are on Mondays, from 9:00 a.m. until noon on October 4, 18 and 25; November 1, 8, 15, and 22. During the week of November 29 crafting will take place every day. Other important dates include: gathering greens on Saturday, November 20, and the all-congregation wreath making on Sunday, November 27. Details will be forthcoming in future newsletters. Please come! Your help is needed!

Barb Smith

Speaker Training: Tuesday, September 28, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

The second of two opportunities to practice your speaking skills at the podium is coming up near the end of September. We hope those of you who were not able to come in August will attend, including Board members, Worship Associates, and those who have led or might lead a worship service. We'd love to have a few members of the congregation who are good listeners in our audience as well. The format is peer participation. You are invited to bring a script which is typical of what you usually say — a poem, an announcement, a paragraph. We will take turns speaking to each other, commenting on what we really like and what might be a little better. If there is interest, we might arrange to make videotapes so you can see yourself as others see you. To register your interest, please contact Christina Gibbons, your friendly Worship Coordinator at 257-0115 or gbbn@mac.com

Providing Hospitality and Raising Funds at the I-91 Vermont Welcome Center, October 7

All Souls Church again has the opportunity to offer coffee, refreshments, and conversation to travelers who stop at the I-91 Welcome Center – this year's event will take place on Thursday, October 7, in the peak of foliage season. All items are offered by donation and this event has the potential to raise upwards of \$1,000 for our church and its programs. If you would like to help over the next few months to secure donations of baked goods, sandwich fixings, fruit, snacks, beverages, or any other items you think travelers would enjoy, please contact Sue Graff at 246-2553 or graffsue@hotmail.com. Closer to the event date, volunteer and donation sign-up sheets will be posted in the foyer at church and announcements will be made in the newsletter and church bulletin. Thank you for your anticipated support!

Fall In Love with Vermont Bed & Breakfast Fundraiser and Universalist Heritage Tour

This will be our ninth year opening our homes to UUs from around New England, NY and NJ. We usually make over a thousand dollars over the two weekends. It means providing a place to stay and a nice breakfast in the mornings. If you would like to host a couple, single, or family the first weekend of October 1-3, or the long weekend October 8-11, please email, see, or call Kathy Squires. I am especially looking for new host families this year. Steve and I have hosted every year and have always been delighted in the visits from fellow UUs. In addition, this year we are hosting a dinner and one-night stay for the Universalist Heritage Foundation as they tour New England Universalist historic sites. The evening/night for that is October 16. It will be a bus load of folks so we will need more hosts than usual. Hope you can help out.

The Garland School

Summer greetings to you all! The Garland school is just about to complete its last week of our first summer program, and it was a great success. The children, ages two to six, basked in this summer's glorious weather. We stayed cool thanks to the shady play yard and babbling brook. Some highlights included outdoor face painting, water play, bread baking, washing and carding wool, making sculptures with clay, watercolor painting, tending to and eating the harvest from the garden, woodworking, fairy and gnome making, fort and sand castle building, tree climbing, and woodland excursions.

It's hard to believe, but pumpkins and squash are in the garden and fall is on its way. We are busily preparing for the opening day of school on September 7. You may have noticed some changes around the building and grounds. Our Kindergarten teacher Alexandra and her crew have painted more of the walls in the hallway and in the classroom and our Administrator, Stephanie, created the stone walk way around the back of the building and some lovely trails in the woods. Please feel free to stop by and have a peek into the classrooms to see what else has changed.

Thank you all for sharing your welcoming haven with our school. It is an ideal place for both the children of the R.E. program and The Garland School. When they are here, they feel the warmth, care, and joy of the incredible natural environment that surrounds them. Are you curious about The Garland School's program? This year we will be offering a few 'open class' mornings for anyone who is interested to come and check out the program. Stay tuned for dates.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

The Northern New England District (NNED) of the Unitarian Universalist Association includes 73 congregations within the boundaries of the States of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Our District's primary purposes are to serve the needs of its member congregations, to organize new congregations, to promote the religious life within its member congregations, to assist member congregations to carry on active and effective programs within their respective communities and to work actively to support and sustain diverse and anti-oppressive congregations. This information and more is available online at <http://nned.uua.org/index.php>.

Harvest the Power: NNED Leadership Development Training, Saturday, October 23, in Keene, NH

This is an amazing training effort for our emerging and existing leaders. Harvest the Power consists of 12 units delving into major leadership development themes and provides self-reflection for new and experienced leaders. The program is based on personal, communal and societal narrative as the basis for theological reflection as members deepen their faith and lead our congregations into the future. Those who attend will come away with basic knowledge of:

- our congregation as a system
- the differences between management and leadership
- how adaptive leaders function
- how history and polity inform leadership in UU churches
- how to manage anxiety and conflict
- and how our faith grows when we lead from our centers

It would be great to have All Souls Church represented by a team who can then bring back and share what they have learned. Harvest the Power will be offered in many different locations throughout the NNED this fall, but the one nearest Brattleboro is on Saturday, October 23 in Keene. For more information, go to http://nned.uua.org/harvest_the_power.shtml. Flyers are also available at All Souls Church.

NNED Environmental Sustainability and Justice Conference, November 5 - 6, in Concord, NH

I am very excited to share that the Northern New England UU District fall conference will focus on environmental sustainability and justice. It will be held in Concord, New Hampshire, on November 5 and 6. This conference is for UUs of all ages who would like to bring more inspiration, strength and focus into their environmental sustainability and justice work. Children will be involved in quality programming related to environmental sustainability. Youth and young adults are invited and encouraged to participate fully with adults. Scholarships are available. Registration deadline October 12. Call 603-228-8704; if you want to register, or contact Jerelyn Wilson if you have questions (Jerelyn@BuildingGreen.com, 257-0019).

Jerelyn Wilson

General Information

Worship and Contact Information

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
 Childcare available
 Young Souls Program: 10:20 a.m.

Address: 29 South Street
 PO Box 2297,
 West Brattleboro VT 05303

Phone: 802.254.9377

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Email: asc-admin@allsoulsuuchurch.org
 Website: www.allsoulsuuchurch.org

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Bookkeeper: Marianne Rigatti
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Housekeeper: Jasper Green

Nursery Care Providers: All Souls Youth Team

Newsletter Information and Deadlines:

The West Village Voice is Published monthly. Submissions are due by the 15th of each month to our editor, David Olle. Email is preferred: ascnews@comcast.net.

If email does not work for you, mail your submission to: David Olle, 3296 Sweet Pond Road, Guilford, VT 05301. Please include your name and contact information. Questions? David Olle may be contacted at 802-254-3899 or ascnews@comcast.net.

Board of Trustees

President: Sue Graff
Vice-President: Kathryn Turnas
Treasurer: Steve Squires
Clerk: Shirley Ridgeway
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Building and Grounds: Ruth Lane and John Spicer
Committee on Financial Stewardship: _____
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Committee on Ministry: Orion Barber, Becky Cameron, David Shallenberger
Nominating Committee: Mary Henderson
Pastoral Care Committee: Chris Greene
Remembrance Committee: Chris Greene
Social Action Committee: Janet Schwarz
UU Women's Fellowship: Chris Greene
Worship Associates: Christina Gibbons

The mission of All Souls Church

Is to create and sustain an open and caring community
 where we may find inspiration for our spiritual growth, opportunities for lifelong religious education
 and encouragement for putting our beliefs and values into action and service