

**All Souls Episcopal Church, Mechanicsville**  
**Annual Meeting, February 5, 2017**  
**“You are the Light of the World”**



*All Souls' Mission ~*  
*Together We: Respond to God, Love Each Other, Serve in Faith*

Ministry Team Reports for 2016

**Worship**

*Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.*  
Psalm 29:2 (NRSV)

Weekly worship is the central means by which our members experience the Word and Sacraments that encourage them to live into their faith. All Souls is dedicated to providing varied, nurturing worship services that welcome anyone and everyone. We currently meet at 9:15 a.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, before their 10:45 a.m. service. All Souls is in its fifth liturgical cycle at Messiah.

During 2016, in addition to the regular Sunday services, special ministry highlights included:

- ❖ Joint Epiphany Celebration with Messiah Lutheran
- ❖ Participated in the Youth-Led Service for the Week of Christian Unity at Shady Grove United Methodist (A ministry coordinated by All Souls).
- ❖ Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes
- ❖ Lent 1 Great Litany and Holy Eucharist
- ❖ Palm Sunday, Blessing of the Palms and Passion Narrative
- ❖ Joint Vespers services with Messiah on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week
- ❖ Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist with foot washing and stripping of the altar
- ❖ Good Friday Holy Eucharist (communion using reserved sacrament)
- ❖ The Great Vigil of Easter
- ❖ Blessings of the Community Garden (spring planting and fall post-harvest)
- ❖ Joint Services of Holy Eucharist with Messiah during the month of July, including an Independence Day service and special music offering with Mike Jones and choir.
- ❖ Introduced Saturday Evening Monthly Contemplative Eucharists with Rite of Healing (Held July – December).
- ❖ Annual Bishop’s Visitation on Aug. 7 with Baptisms (2), Confirmation (3), Reception (1) and Reaffirmation (2)
- ❖ Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers and Backpack Blessing
- ❖ Morning Prayer and Hymn Sing during the Shrine Mont Parish Retreat weekend
- ❖ All Saints Day Eucharist with Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Prayers for the Departed
- ❖ Morning Prayer at the Atlee House prior to home winterization
- ❖ Annual Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service at New Hanover Presbyterian
- ❖ Joint Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols into which a pageant was incorporated
- ❖ Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist
- ❖ New Year’s Eve Service of Holy Eucharist to celebrate the feast of the Holy Name
- ❖ Offered Weekday Evening Prayer Rite II services at the Atlee House and Wednesday Evening Centering Prayer

Participating in one or more of our worship ministries is an excellent way to serve God and be a part of the All Souls family. Acolytes, Altar Guild, Choir, Greeters, Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers/Visitors, and Ushers all assist to make worship a meaningful and uplifting experience. The Worship Team, consisting of the vicar, staff, and lay leaders, coordinates its efforts to enhance the worship experience for each liturgical season, utilizing the appointed lectionary readings and related liturgy, music, and special activities

### **Acolytes and Altar Guild** (PJ Rhyne)

Acolytes assist the priest during the worship service, and carry the cross and gospel book in procession. They serve to make our liturgy ageless and beautiful! Being an acolyte is a very important ministry. Any person over the age of nine (9) is encouraged to participate!

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the altar, caring for linens, and preparing communion bread for Sunday and special services. We welcome all who are interested in participating, and if you enjoy baking, serving as one of the bread bakers.

### **Choir and Music** (Kerry Court, 2016 Choir Director; David Greenagel, Current Director)

The choir sings during the regular weekly and special services. A variety of music, from traditional to contemporary, is used. The choir practices on Sunday mornings following the worship service at the Atlee House. Special musical ability is not required in order to participate! Voices of all ages are welcome and encouraged. Instrumentalists are also encouraged to participate not only during special services, but also during the weekly Sunday services. Kerry Court concluded her ministry at All Soul at the end of 2016, with the position now filled by Prof. David Greenagel.

### **Lay Readers and Lay Eucharistic Ministers/Visitors** (Bev Spaven, Thom Smith, Pat Pace)

Lay Readers read the lessons and lead prayers at each service. The Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist at communion by serving the wine. The Lay Eucharist Visitors take communion directly from the worship service to those in who request it, bringing the All Souls' community to those who cannot attend church on Sunday morning. Both the LEMs and the LEVs are licensed by the Diocese of Virginia.

### **Ushers** (*still seeking coordinator*)

Ushers play an important part in the worship experience. They assist by making those present feel welcomed, guiding people during communion to the altar rail in an organized fashion, help with receiving the offering, and making sure attendees have bulletins and prayer books. PJ Rhyne currently serves as the leader of this team yet is eager to offer this opportunity for leadership to someone who feels so called.

### **Greeters** (*still seeking coordinators*)

Members of this team greet members and newcomers upon their arrival at our Worship services, assisting with name tags, handing out bulletins, answering questions, and distributing publications concerning current church activities.

In order to continue enhancing our worship at All Souls, the participation of adults, youth, and children in our worship ministries is critical. In other words, WE NEED YOU! If you and/or your children are interested or feel called to help in any of these ministries, please do not hesitate to ask anyone on the Worship Team. Take a leap of faith - explore a new opportunity at All Souls!

Dorothy DeJong, *Worship Team Leader*

The Reverend Amelie Wilmer Minor, *Vicar*

## Adult Faith Formation

*The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.*

Throughout the year, members of our congregation participated in a variety of opportunities for formation in Scripture, Spirituality, Ethics, and Creativity. Our offerings for the year included:

- ❖ Wednesday Evening Book Study: *Pastrix* by Nadia Bolz-Weber W
- ❖ Epiphany Season Program: “The Muslim Tradition” concluding with guest speakers Anjum Ali and Annette Kahn E
- ❖ Lenten Devotional Booklet: reflections on the daily lectionary by members and friends. L
- ❖ Wednesday Lenten Series: “Growing a Rule of Life” – Joint Program with Messiah Lutheran using the program developed by Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE). W
- ❖ Sunday Lent/Easter Series: “Rule of Life” by the brothers at SSJE S
- ❖ Sundays in the Great 50 days of Easter: “The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm,” “The Early Christians” S
- ❖ Spring/Summer Class: Seven sessions, including Five Adults and one Youth, led by Carol Sutton-Abaire and Vicar Amelie S
- ❖ Adult Bible Study during Vacation Bible School, led by Marilyn Ellis A
- ❖ Shrine Mont Retreat: “Go Tell it on the Mountain” with Evening Vespers, “Tell me A story” story-sharing, Mountain scavenger hunt, Evening Skits, and Joint Worship with St. Paul’s Hanover. S
- ❖ Fall Sunday Program: “Our Questions are our Friends” – Discussions the nature of God, Interpretation of Scripture, The God of All?, How we live into our faith. F
- ❖ Wednesday Evening Formation Program: “The Letters of Paul” W
- ❖ Special Sunday Stewardship Program: “Household budgeting” S
- ❖ Sunday Advent Series: “The Poetry of Advent” with reflections on the Anglican Poetic tradition and other Advent poetry. S
- ❖ Creative Sessions: “Art and Soul Workshop” – offerings throughout the year on knitting, weaving, and other creative projects C
- ❖ Weekly “Seekers” weekday Bible Study W
- ❖ Weekly Wednesday Evening Centering Prayer Group W
- ❖ Weekly Wednesday Evening Community Suppers W

Attendance and participation in faith formation remains vibrant and continues to grow, both at our Sunday Formation hour and our Wednesday evening programming. We have continued offering Wednesday evening Centering Prayer, followed by a collaborative community supper and book or Bible Study. Our Wednesday series on the letters of Paul was especially well-attended and drew new participants from the congregation. Confirmation class included six members of varying backgrounds and stages in preparation for our Bishop's visit in June. Our Shrine Mont retreat was attended by over 40 members and friends of all ages.

We welcome your input and participation in this vital ministry as the year unfolds. Your ideas, gifts of teaching and hospitality are valuable and needed!

The Reverend Amelie Wilmer Minor, *Vicar*  
Bev Spaven, *Vestry Liaison*

## **Children's Ministry Team**

*Let the little children come to me...for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.*

Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)

All Souls Children's Ministry continues to thrive with a core group of children in our Sunday Formation class. We provide nursery care for infants through age 4 during the worship service each week. The children participated in our joint Advent Lessons and Carols service with Messiah Lutheran in December by recreating the manger scene and singing "The Friendly Beasts". They also recite the dismissal at the end of the worship service on the last Sunday of each month (sending us last week with "Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!")

In 2016, we provided regular Sunday School lessons for all elementary school aged children. We continue using the "All in One" curriculum, which gets us up out of our seats with fun activities and which better accommodates the variety of ages of the children who attend. In the Spring, using the P.R.A.Y. curriculum, we learned about "God and Me" with 5 children earning their God & Me patch and 1 youth earning her God & Me Counselor patch for Scouts. In the Fall, we began studying the life of Moses – we have encountered the burning bush, journeyed with the Israelites out of Egypt, run through the parted waters, and even made our own "plague soup"! All children are encouraged to attend our class each Sunday in our classroom adjacent to the Fellowship Hall -- friends are always welcome.

The children participated in a joint Vacation Bible School Program with Messiah Lutheran Church in August. This year's VBS program, "Cave Quest", included dinner, Bible lessons, crafts and science experiments, music, and games each evening with a celebration for families on the last night. Special thanks to those members of the congregation who provided assistance!

The children also hosted a bake sale during the Brunswick stew sale and they sold all of their treats and raised \$138.50 to donate to the church's general fund! Several children also participated in stuffing Sack Hunger bags with their families. This Lent, we will work as a group to submit a Lenten reflection for the booklet.

In 2017 we will serve the children by recruiting more volunteers to help with lessons and activities. We will continue to offer Sunday School during the Christian Formation hour and Vacation Bible School will be held again in a joint session with Messiah Lutheran this summer. We have an enthusiastic group of fun, lively, and inquisitive children and in 2016 we were blessed with the following volunteers: Kim Binner, Doug and Karen Bower, Dorothy DeJong, Rachel Eskite, Beth Harper, Lisa MacNair, Cathy Sutton, Tracy Vail-Rhodes and Susan Vandenhoff. We welcome anyone, male or female, who enjoys remembering how much God loves each of us to come and laugh and learn with us either in the nursery or during Sunday School class – you'll be glad you did!

Donna Haynes, *Children's Ministry Team Leader*

## All Souls Youth Formation

*The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.*

Luke 2:40 (NRSV)

The All Souls Youth group welcomes all youth (and their friends!) in grades 6-12. We usually meet the first and third Sunday afternoons at the Atlee House from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for fun, fellowship, service, and study. The Youth Group chose the name “Fusion” to represent its various members, backgrounds, and world views. The group is open to youth from Messiah Lutheran Church. The following includes some of activities in 2016:

- ❖ prepared and planned an Ecumenical Service for the Week of Christian Unity in January in collaboration with Messiah, Redeemer RC, and Shady Grove UMC (Held at Shady Grove). P
- ❖ planned and participated in a Youth-Led Eucharist, with Savannah Simmons, preacher P
- ❖ worked in the All Souls Community Garden in many and varied capacities, including preparation, tending, and harvesting. W
- ❖ served as hosts and game-leaders for the children and families during the Peter Paul Development Fall Party in October. S
- ❖ participated in Sack Hunger assembly with five other churches in November P
- ❖ participated in All Souls’ mission project involving winterizing and yard work for three local homes and the clean-up of Atlee House. P
- ❖ participated in the All Souls Lessons and Carols Service P

Our youth ministry team invites the adults and youth of All Souls to join in what has become a vibrant ministry of our church. Adults need not have youth in the program to offer their gifts to this important ministry.

Andy Crane and Greg Haynes, *Youth Ministry Team Leaders*

## Outreach Ministries Team

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*  
Matthew 25:34 (NIV)

We at All Souls commit ourselves each year to go out and serve the community through many avenues. We believe we are called to “be present” by working with and directly engaging people in our midst as the needs arise. This is accomplished by using the many gifts the Lord has provided to us. Oftentimes, the needs are brought to us, but just as often, they are ideas from members of our community. While not always possible, the goal is to involve the entire All Souls congregation and any others who may wish to attend. It is always a special day when multiple generations are working together as one. All Souls Mission projects in 2016 that supported these values included:

- ❖ Community Garden – All Souls’ “signature” mission project A

- ❖ class-A-Roll demonstration in Collaboration with Bon Secours, The YMCA and Chickahominy Health C
- ❖ “ Sack Hunger” - Distributing lunch sacks to the hungry “
- ❖ Support work of MCEF through collections for food pantry and cash contributions to assist Hanover residents in crisis. S
- ❖ Hanover Habitat for Humanity Faith Build H
- ❖ Modernization of local homes W
- ❖ Supporting the MICAH initiative at JEB Stuart Elementary School S
- ❖ Hosting a Halloween Party at Peter Paul Development Center (PPDC) H
- ❖ Assist with CARITAS meals and fellowship A
- ❖ Donations for meals and food during holidays for the children at PPDC D

Here are some of the Outreach highlights from our 2016 program year:

**All Souls Community Garden – Lee Hanchey, *Team Leader***

The All Souls Community Garden has completed its fifth year of providing fresh produce to food banks in the Mechanicsville area. This year the garden provided 2069 pounds of food that went to Northside Baptist Church’s Loaves and Fishes program, MCEF’s pantry, Church Hill Wellness Center, Hanover Friends Church, and several individuals in need. A total of 9255 pounds have been donated over the past 5 years.

Our volunteers spend many hours planning, planting, plowing, weeding, harvesting, washing, packaging and delivering our produce. Over 30 All Souls volunteers visited the garden in over 190 days, and we had volunteers from Hanover High School, Hanover Youth Service Academy, and from a few people that come just to help out. In the spring and fall, we gather at the garden to consider our blessings, and dedicate our efforts in the garden to be used for God’s purposes here on earth.

In defining our garden mission beyond our plot, we reached into the community to provide produce and a cooking demonstration. Dietitian Kelsey Miller from Bon Secours’ Class-a-Roll conducted a food demonstration in July at the Atlee House. The Atlee Station Family Y’s Registered Dietician Deanne Hamilton and Chickahominy Health Department’s Registered Dietician Austin Voltin attended to give out information about nutrition, meal planning, WIC signup, and diabetes health. All Souls volunteers assisted with parking, entertaining children, welcoming guests, giving out food samples, distributing over 300 pounds of garden produce, and cleaning up after the event. Prior to the event, our volunteers worked very hard to prepare the garden, cut the grass, clean up the borders, and place signs on the property for advertising and parking. This small army of people did an outstanding job sharing the nourishment from our garden and welcoming our guests.

All Souls volunteers also took a food safety demonstration class so they are prepared to demonstrate fresh foods at food bank events. When MCEF gets their “one stop shop” set up with a demonstration kitchen, our volunteers will use our fresh produce to provide tastings and recipes. In

2017 we hope to have special donation days in several Mechanicsville locations where our food is needed and transportation is limited.

Tools for gardening come in all forms! This past year, All Souls members donated additional funding what greatly helped with the cost of providing seeds, plants, fertilizer, pesticides, and watering system replacement parts. Currently a proposal is being prepared for a Mustard Seed grant to supply funding for raised beds, additional organic compost, a refrigerator, and watering system parts. One bed will be dedicated for a children's garden. And we want to experiment with straw bale planting. We seek knowledge and the best tools to tend our garden and to give life to ourselves and to others.

**With gratitude:** our volunteers appreciate your continued support for the Community Garden and the impact the garden makes in our community. You are invited to continue to nourish the garden with your vegetable and fruit peels, leaves and grass clippings, newspapers, and financial support. We also encourage you to come and experience the joy and satisfaction of working in the garden, or help by making food bank deliveries, or sign up to train for food demonstrations! Your effort in this ministry touches many people, mostly unseen or heard from, but never the less, truly appreciative.

**Sack Hunger** – Don Alcxander and Sean Vail-Rhodes, *Coordinators*

Sack hunger is a mission that seeks to provide needed nourishment to the local homeless population. This year's collaborating churches included St. Philip's Richmond, Church of our Saviour, Montpelier, St. John's Church, Richmond, Emmanuel Brook Hill, Richmond, and Messiah Lutheran. Each church is assigned an item to collect and bring to the project. The items include a protein (Vienna sausages are popular), a fruit, a snack, nabs, bottled water, and an item of clothing (usually socks or a ski cap). In addition, every sack gets a prayer card with resources for the homeless on the back. This year the result of this outpouring of love was 875 sack hunger bags.

These sacks can be kept in the car and easily handed to people we encounter as we drive around town. Each sack contains a ready to eat non-perishable meal and a message of encouragement. However, the mission does more than just provide the physical nourishment of its contents – it nourishes the souls of both the giver of the sack and the receiver.

**JEB Stuart Elementary School** – Julie May and Doc Ellis, *Coordinators*

All Souls Episcopal Church contributes to a Richmond Hill program supporting the elementary schools of Richmond Public Schools: *The Micah Initiative*. Our mentors/tutors have been assigned to JEB Stuart Elementary School on Fendall Avenue. During 2016, this ministry involved tutoring children in specific academic areas, assisting teachers in the classroom, breaking bread with students in the cafeteria, joining students during recess, chaperoning field trips, attending academic award ceremonies and participating in the PTA. Our volunteers also delivered school supplies, clothing and food donated by the All Souls Episcopal Church community to the Site Coordinator for Communities in Schools (CIS) at JEB Stuart Elementary School.

This is exciting work that helps uplift students, teachers and families in Richmond's Northside. This school could use more mentors, tutors and citizen role models to help form young students into confident, educated citizens. We encourage more people from All Souls Church to visit the school and lend helping hands.

**CARITAS** – Donna Haynes, *Coordinator*

CARITAS is the Latin word for "care" and it is also an acronym for Congregations Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter. Their mission statement is "United by our compassion, we

help our most vulnerable neighbors break the cycles of homelessness and addiction to reclaim their dignity.” In June of 2016 we assisted St. Ann’s Catholic Church in providing dinner, breakfast and lunch for 35 adult guests. We enjoyed grilling burgers and hot dogs outdoors with our guests on Saturday evening, laughing and playing card games together, as well as being with them on Sunday morning to start the day together. As anyone who has volunteered for these projects can tell you, it is a moving experience to show our neighbors the smallest of kindnesses and to be blessed immeasurably by them in return.

### **Winterizing Local Homes** – Don and Mary Alexander, *Coordinators*

This ministry seeks to assist local families in winterizing their homes and is facilitated through Hanover County in collaboration with Resurrection Disaster Recovery. Teams of parishioners traveled out to their assigned locations and work included weather stripping doors, checking and repairing water pipe insulation as needed, covering windows, cleaning gutters, raking leaves and other home repairs. This year approximately 40 All Souls members showed up at the Atlee House for Morning Prayer and then broke up into three teams.

Normally all the teams work on winterizing homes, but this year, Resurrection Disaster Relief assigned us three homes at two locations. As a result one team remained to clean up the Atlee House for the winter while a small team went to work on one house and a larger team went to work on two houses located together. Most of the materials were donated by Resurrection Disaster Relief while other materials were purchased to winterize all three homes.

In addition to winterizing the homes, Vicar Amelie and a member of the congregation brought a Thanksgiving basket to each of the families where work was done. The baskets included all the makings for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner (donated by All Souls members) and a cash donation. At least as important as the gifts was the time spent in prayer and conversation with each of the families. It was a blessing for both the givers and the recipients.

### **Hanover Habitat for Humanity “Faith Build”** – Don Alexander, *Coordinator*

On November 4, three members of All Souls joined with members of Messiah Lutheran to work a day at the construction site for Hanover Habitat’s “Faith Build” project, which organized churches throughout the area to construct an affordable home for a local family in need of housing. Churches provided funding, volunteers, and publicity, putting their faith into action.

### **Supporting Peter Paul Development Center (PPDC)**

*Halloween Party for families and friends* – Dorothy DeJong, *Coordinator*

All Souls has hosted a Halloween Party at the Peter Paul Development Center in the center of several of Richmond's housing projects for the last seven years. This year’s party, held on Sunday, October 30, was a huge success. Rosemary Jones, volunteer coordinator, said it was not only the highest attended party in the seven years we have been hosting, but also the best. Now we’ve got a lot to live into! The food included hot dogs, baked beans, chips, and make your own ice cream sundaes for dessert along, cookies and orange and green drinks. Most of the All Souls adults were in costume in one form or another! The party ended with the children going to stations for their treating.

There were 29 persons from All Souls present to either volunteer help or brought children to participate in the Halloween party. The 29 does not include those members donating requested items who were not in attendance. We served 71 children and 23 adults from the PPDC.

*Donations of food for families* – Bev Spaven, *Coordinator*

In December, All Souls collected and donated 25 bags of groceries to be distributed to families of students for use over the winter holidays. The intent was to provide basic nutrition to students and their families who may not be able to fully meet their needs over the holidays. During the school year some of the students rely on PPDC for a significant portion of their daily nutritional needs, essential to both learning and development.

Don Alexander, *Outreach Ministries Team Leader*  
Sean Rhodes, *Vestry Committee Liaison*

### **Community Connections Team**

In 2016, All Souls embarked on a new ministry focused on intentionally being present in the community. Being present in the community is a way not only to make ourselves know, but also allows All Souls to serve those in our community. This “presence” took a number of forms in 2016 from working with Rutland YMCA on two separate projects to inviting the community to the Atlee House to learn about healthy cooking with Bon Secours. Community Presence team members will look to work with other teams to increase the face of All Souls in our community in the coming months.

## **Parish Life and Events/Hospitality Team**

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.* John 3:36

This past year's Parish Life and Events included:

- ❖ Reception following our Joint Epiphany Service with Messiah R
- ❖ Throve Tuesday Pancake Supper S
- ❖ Coordination of Lenten Suppers in collaboration with Messiah Lutheran C
- ❖ Easter Day Reception and Egg Hunt E
- ❖ Community Garden Workday refreshments C
- ❖ Annual Spring Parish Picnic at the Atlee House A
- ❖ Farewell Celebration for the Callahans F
- ❖ Food and fellowship with Messiah following July joint services F
- ❖ Funeral Reception at the Atlee House F
- ❖ Reception following Bishop Shannon's Visitation and celebration of candidates for Baptism, Confirmation and Reaffirmation. R
- ❖ September Kick-off and Potluck Parish Picnic at the Atlee House S
- ❖ Food and Refreshments at Blessing of the Animals in Rutland Shopping Center F
- ❖ Annual Shrine Mont Weekend in October – "Go Tell it on the Mountain" A
- ❖ 3<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/ All Saint's Day Welcoming Celebration in November 1
- ❖ Refreshments and snacks for Sack Hunger Build and Home Winterizations R
- ❖ Advent Wreath Making and Crafts at Messiah Lutheran A
- ❖ Reception at Messiah following Lessons & Carols R
- ❖ Weekly Sunday hospitality – fellowship, refreshments and snacks following worship W
- ❖ Weekly Wednesday evening suppers prior to faith formation W
- ❖ Periodic "Food, Fun, Friends" dinners in members' homes P

Many of our Parish Life events dovetail with our outreach, worship, faith formation, and youth ministries. We invite your participation in the supporting the vibrant fellowship shared by our congregation – as we gather and pray, serve and play, and above all, as we break bread together!

Tracy Vail-Rhodes, *Hospitality Team Leader*  
Denise Smith, *Parish Life vestry liaison*

### **Pastoral Care Team**

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

Galatians 6:2 (NRSV)

Over the past year, members of the congregation have coordinated their efforts to supplement the pastoral ministry of our vicar in a variety of ways. These included:

- ❖ Accepting prayer requests and maintaining prayer list
- ❖ Prayer Groups
- ❖ Coordinating deliveries of meals to members of congregation as needs arise
- ❖ Coordinating and providing transportation to church members for appointments and other events
- ❖ Providing childcare and youth transportation
- ❖ Assisting with home maintenance
- ❖ Hospital and Retirement Community visits
- ❖ Phone calls, written communication to absent members, and home visits
- ❖ Referrals and references of services to meet particular pastoral concerns
- ❖ Lay Eucharistic Visitor Ministry to provide home communion to members unable to travel to Sunday services.

In the coming year, our All Souls “circle of care” intends to continue its ministry. If you have suggestions to expand its reach or would like to become involved, please contact Catherine Hancock at [ckhancock@comcast.net](mailto:ckhancock@comcast.net) or Vicar Amelie at [vicarallsouls@gmail.com](mailto:vicarallsouls@gmail.com).

Catherine Hancock, *Ministry Team Leader*  
The Reverend Amelie Wilmer Minor, *Vicar*

### **Communications**

*Bright eyes gladden the heart; Good news puts fat on the bones.* Proverbs 15:30 (NAS)

Throughout the year, we maintain several avenues to communicate news, scheduling, and other information to members, friends, and to the broader community. This is accomplished through our weekly worship bulletins and announcement section, our midweekly newsletter to members and friends, e-communications for special events and programming, our website, our Facebook page, and occasional letters to the congregation. We also publish an All Souls directory that is updated periodically and sent electronically to the congregation. The work is accomplished through a dedicated team of lay ministers who coordinate with Vicar Amelie to ensure we are keeping our congregation informed.

All Souls new website, designed by Frederico and Mary Garza as a gift, was launched in April of 2016. Updates to the website are made weekly. Information for any announcement or event is welcomed. Please send your information to [lghanchey@gmail.com](mailto:lghanchey@gmail.com) Our website is found at <http://allsoulsva.org/>

All Souls Facebook page is updated almost daily with either announcements or something inspirational gleaned from several sources. We encourage all to “like” and share our page to increase our visibility in the community. <https://www.facebook.com/AllSoulsMechanicsville>

Community advertising includes articles and an updated calendar of events in the Mechanicsville Local and we pay for a church listing in the Herald Progress. All Souls purchases ads in two newsletters: Kings Charter’s monthly electronic newsletter, circulation 550, and Rutland’s quarterly printed newsletter, circulation 900 households.

We continue to welcome your feedback and suggestions. In the coming year, we will be exploring new electronic formats for communicating our weekly newsletter. If you are interested in participating, please contact any member of the team.

Dorothy DeJong: *Worship Bulletins*

Donna Haynes: *Midweekly*

Lee Hanchey: *Website, Facebook Page and Directory*

Tricia Williams: *Office Assistance*

The Reverend Amelie Wilmer Minor: *Announcements, e-communications, and editorial review*

## **Stewardship Team**

*Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.*

The Vestry Committee and members of All Souls Church continued to practice good stewardship of church resources in all ministries in 2016, donating funds, volunteer time, and talent to support the mission of All Souls Church.

The Fall Stewardship Campaign for 2017 resources was conducted from October 16 to November 6, 2016. Pledge solicitation materials, newsletter announcements, written and spoken announcements in worship, and sermons with stewardship themes were all utilized for the Stewardship Campaign.

Stewardship Campaign pledges accrued slowly from November 2016 through January 2017, and it appeared we might fall short of budget goals at our Annual Meeting (February 5, 2017). Fortunately, in the last week of January, Co-Treasurer Janet Aylor reported that All Souls Church received 33 pledges from All Souls members and friends totaling \$91,700, (88.6% of our funding goal) for 2017. This includes pledges from sixteen households that increased financial commitments and four new households. We have also received \$1,650 in pledges to our building fund and \$1,550 to the vicar's discretionary fund. Many members also submitted written pledges for volunteer service in our Church Ministries in 2017 (*Time and Talent* pledges). Experience suggests that All Souls Church may receive additional financial offerings from the community in the months ahead.

We note here that we are blessed with generous and committed members who, with love, grace and mercy, provide resources for ministries within our church and significant Outreach ministries in central Virginia. We are continually thankful for the generosity and support of the Diocese of Virginia and churches of Region XI.

Julie May, *Stewardship Team Leader*

## **Fundraisers**

Our first Brunswick Stew fundraiser was a wonderful event that involved over 36 All Souls volunteers that washed, chopped, cut, stirred, "quartered", counted, scrubbed, sold, and cleaned up over two days. Selling over 360 quarts, we netted \$2,398.25. Stewmaster Randy Bush does not charge for his expertise, but All Souls made a \$200 donation to complete his new cooking pot. Many thanks to our stellar sales and volunteer force, including our wonderful children that waved signs on the street, and manned the bake sale. Plans are already in place for 2017 Brunswick Stew sale the weekend of October 8, 2017. Please put this date in your calendars.

A youth bake sale, conducted at the same time as the Saturday stew sale, netted \$138.50. The energy and enthusiasm of the children at the sale created a joyful atmosphere.

A spring 2016 Spirit Wear sale netted \$198.55. Spirit wear will be offered later on in 2017.

A "Stock the Garden" request to the congregation resulted in donations of \$300.00 that greatly helped fund essential garden needs such as seeds, fertilizer, and watering needs. Our congregation is generous with financial and volunteer support.

*Submitted by Lee Hanchey*

## **Buildings and Space Management**

*One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. Psalm 27:4 (NRSV)*

This year marks our fifth year worshipping at Messiah Lutheran Church, a true liturgical space. As many have commented, this has enhanced the quality our music and serenity of worship. In 2015, we adjusted our worship time from 9:30 to 9:15 a.m. and despite the earlier beginning, attendance continues to grow. We continue to believe that sharing this space with Messiah as a transition to permanent space has enhanced our capacity for growth.

The Atlee House continues to be an asset to the community life of All Souls. It provides our congregation with functional office and meeting space, and is a comfortable environment for our weekly Wednesday night suppers and faith formation programming. In addition, we have been able to offer our “board room” to other organizations such as the Girl Scouts and Education for Ministry for meeting space, a ministry that extends our reach in the community.

During 2016, the following improvements or repairs were made.

- ❖ ew directional sign at the corner of 301 (Chamberlayne Ave.) and Atlee Road N
- ❖ ew sign that identifies The Atlee House at 9077 Atlee Road N
- ❖ arage upgrades: Replaced wood on front of Garage doors; Straightened and realigned front and rear over-head door rails; painted exterior walls of garage G
- ❖ rees: thinned out maple tree in back yard, removed branches destroyed in storm; thinned out Willow Oak tree over garage to reduce weight and potential roof damage; removed two diseased dogwood trees adjacent to parking area; removed limbs from Willow Oak tree T
- ❖ ajor kitchen drainage problem in Atlee House diagnosed and repaired M
- ❖ efrigerator moved from pantry to porch to gain more space in pantry R
- ❖ p-grades to upstairs bathroom lighting, floor, sink, and toilet U

Going forward, we have applied for a grant from the Diocese that covers specific building and grounds areas:

- ❖ ew shingles on the breezeway, back office and garage shed roof that are currently leaking N
- ❖ ew 301 sign (damaged in county utility easement construction work) N
- ❖ dditional tree work A

In addition to general household upkeep, we need to upgrade the circuit breakers in the garage. Our pantry room now has space to add cabinets and counters. Our current kitchen cabinets need sanding and new hardware, and eventually we should replace the sink counter and cabinet.

Neal Hanchey, *Building and Grounds Chair*

## **Treasurer's Report**

*You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things,  
and by your will they were created and have their being.* Revelation 4:11

In 2016 we continued to maintain a sound financial position. Our pledge and regular giving income was almost what was budgeted. Our \$1155 deficit for the year was close to being on target with what we had projected.

Using the Diocesan methodology, total income for 2016 was \$152,556, an increase of 3.2%. The major source of our income is pledge revenues along with money received on a regular basis but not pledged, which totaled \$98,799, 1.7% higher than 2015. In addition, we received \$41,800 in Diocesan aid, the same as the previous year.

Expenses totaled \$153,490, a decrease of \$2758. We were excellent stewards of our money in 2016.

We end the year with sufficient reserves: including \$16,961 in the general fund; \$14,459 in the building fund; \$6528 in stock; and with \$1233 in the discretionary fund as of 12/31/16.

As of January 30, we had 33 pledges for our general budget, totaling \$91,700 which is 88.6% of our goal for 2017, and an increase of \$13,520 over the \$78,180 pledged last year. The average pledge for 2017 is \$2778, on par with the average of \$2784 in 2016. We also receive money from donors who give money on a regular basis, but do not pledge. An estimated total of this amount is added to the pledge budget line. We also have several pledges for 2017 for our Building and Discretionary Funds. Overall, we are off to a very good start in meeting our budget for this year and thank you for your dedicated support!

Pat Pace and Janet Aylor, *Co-Treasurers*