

OUR CHURCH, COMMUNITY and PASTORAL VISION



all souls
CHARLOTTESVILLE

OUR STORY

In August, 2008, a handful of Charlottesville-area churches connected to the Baptist General Association of Virginia invited the Collier family, along with a handful of friends, to move and help form a new church. In January of 2009, All Souls began meeting in the Collier home near downtown, moving to two different locations over the next year. In January 2010, Brendan and Katie Jamieson moved from Montana, and Brendan became our Pastor of Worship and Small Communities. Our pastoral team has served and prayed side-by-side, a source of stability since our beginning.



Our first months together, we met on Sunday evenings, sharing a meal and evening prayers—and then one person a week would tell us their story. In those days, we slowly became a community, knowing the life we shared together as we sought to follow Jesus was all we had to give away. In the years since, we've sought to continually renew this way together, introducing new friends with these

same rhythms. Our Meals & Stories groups carry this narrative forward, creating simple circles of friendship, prayers, meals and stories. And always—Jesus in the midst.

During our first year, we formed our communal Rule of Life, the concrete ways that we sensed the Holy Spirit calling us to embody the Jesus Way. Specifically, we understood Jesus to be inviting us to be people of hospitality, restoration and shalom—all ways that God has loved and welcomed us and that we now, in the power of God's love, love and welcome others.

Our founding pastor, Winn Collier, has accepted a position at Western Theological Seminary (Holland, MI), where he will teach and be the founding director of The Eugene Peterson Center for Pastoral Formation & Christian Imagination. This transition, while a bit of upheaval for All Souls, comes at a time when we are poised for our next season. After 12 years, we have a shared identity that has taken root, and we are eager for the possibilities God has for us.

OUR ETHOS

While birthed by the BGAV, All Souls holds much in common with the Anglican tradition. Most people assume we are connected to the Anglican Communion. We live in the rhythms and the story of the Church Year. Liturgically, we follow the general flow of the Book of Common Prayer, though our liturgy is contextualized for our community and offers a good bit of creativity. On any given Sunday, you might hear us sing a 5th century hymn or a gospel rendition or a bit of bluegrass or a song familiar to our church's partners in Kenya. You'll often hear original music emerging from our community, particularly pieces written by Brendan.

We're a contemplative church, seeking a listening and discerning posture. We are comfortable with silence, with questions. We assume that what we most need is for God to speak to us, and we assume that this path, following the God Who Speaks, will be a lifelong endeavor. We invite people to practice Sabbath and friendship and prayer and generosity and service to our neighbor, all fruits that are born as we hear from the Living Jesus in the Scriptures and as we find our hearts and affections transformed by God's healing love. Amid cultures obsessed with image and expertise and efficiency, we long for the simple, quiet way. By God's Spirit, we hope to defame the idols of accomplishment and reputation, of accumulation. We ask God to renew us, to make us people of New Creation. We hope to be a people who receive and extend God's hospitality, restoration and shalom.

But don't take this to mean we're grey and somber. We laugh a lot. We don't take ourselves too seriously (the running joke is that sometimes All Souls is a three-legged dog). Sundays are holy and reverent, but they're also playful, imaginative. Some folks write litanies. We regularly have a space for "Beauty, Truth and Goodness" where folks share something they've created—or something they've encountered—that has touched their soul. We have parties. We have impromptu afternoons at a local Vineyard. Potlucks are a hit. And hot donuts on Easter. You could sum it up this way: All Souls is vibrant community that knows the way of both laughter and tears.



We are compelled by the vision of the Church as Jesus' new community, created to be, by the Spirit, Jesus' presence in the world. We believe that following Jesus means we will never fit neatly into the binary categories often assumed (left/ right, progressive/conservative, activist/disengaged). We seek to learn and walk the Jesus Way. Jesus creates new possibilities, and we long to be part of Jesus' generous, upending, creative work.

OUR LEADERSHIP

All Souls is an elder-led church (5 women and men). We also have 10 deacons who are our front-line leaders for serving our community's life together.

Our current staff (all part time except for Brendan) consists of:

Brendan Jamieson | Pastor of Worship & Small Communities

Marcy Klug | Director of Administration

Jen Patterson | Director of Children's Ministry

Flynn Pinkston | Director of Youth Ministry

OUR THEOLOGY

All Souls is a church centered on the radical presence of Jesus and the truths that Jesus has revealed to the world. We are a creedal church, affirming the

Apostles and Nicene creeds. We seek to worship and be continually shaped by the reality that God has revealed Godself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are also a diverse church, recognizing that there are many important and complicated matters that the Creeds do not answer for us—and that the global Church is wrestling to answer as well. We do not shy from difficult conversations, and our leadership reflects a myriad of viewpoints on controversial matters. However, we believe that as we declare Jesus as Lord over our lives—and over our theology—that we can find a unity around Jesus' Table that rejects the antagonisms and polarities that our world (and church world) often assumes.

We are a sacramental church, shaped by weekly Eucharist. We believe that God is truly present with us, in the person of Jesus and by the power of the Spirit as we worship, as we pray, as we pass the peace, as we hear the Scriptures, as we receive Christ's body and blood,



We are a curious church, assuming that God welcomes our questions with delight, even as we discover how God's questions are always better than our own. We desire to foster humble conviction and generosity, believing that the way we hold the truth is itself an essential portion of the truth.

We seek to be a church that always bends our knee—our hopes, our desires, our loyalties—to Jesus Christ. We seek to be a church that announces the healing presence of God in the midst of our pain, our turmoil, our injustices, our poverty, our success, our joy, our sorrow. To borrow from Fleming Rutledge, we believe God is the subject of every sentence.

OUR COMMUNITY

All Souls is a church of probably 250-300 people. An average Sunday would be 125-175, including children. Large Sundays like Easter would be 250 or so. We tend younger, sometimes beautifully overrun by children. We've had a number of people land at All Souls that religious sociologists might label as post-evangelicals. That's not a label we use. We don't use many labels. However, it's true that a number of people at All Souls found us as their last stop on the way out of the church. And some have found us as their first attempt to test the waters again. More than a few who were spiritually exhausted or recovering from difficult church experiences call All Souls home—and have referred to All Souls as a "safe" place or a place of "healing and rest."

These dynamics have at times meant that we've had to grapple with threads of cynicism. However, over the past couple years, we've slowly become a place where the life of the Spirit flows more freely, where there's a deepening trust. There's an increasing hunger—even amid the weariness of life and the weight of our world's injustices—for a genuine encounter with the Living Christ.

August 2017, with the Unite the Right Rally, inflicted massive trauma on our city and our church. Our worship around those days was filled with immense tears and lament. All Souls continues to ask (as we have for years) God's wisdom for how we are to wrestle with our participation in the segregated reality of Charlottesville churches. In 2019, we felt prompted by God to help a sister church (Victory Church) form, a church whose natural DNA and Spirit-empowered leadership is bearing multiethnic fruit, thanks be to God. This is a partnership of beauty, but as we sent people from All Souls to Victory, the net result was that our Sundays are even less ethnically diverse. Our hope is steadfast: we desire to live into the reality that Christ's reconciling work means we also live in our city and neighborhoods in reconciling ways. We simply want to be obedient, whatever that requires. The most visible expressions of our attempts at obedience have been to partner with Victory Church and to help to form the Perkins House, an intentional community of UVA students living in the Venable/10th & Page neighborhoods. We currently meet in Venable Elementary School and have an office and community space downtown.

All Souls' Rule of Life expresses the particular hopes we believe God has called our church to live toward, with courage and faith. We affirm our Rule of Life annually on Christ Our King Sunday, the final Sunday of the Church Year. We also feel a particular invitation to generosity, committing to give away 20% of our church's budget to works of shalom.

OUR PASTORAL HOPES

All Souls wants our pastors to truly *pastor*. We pray for a pastor who loves God deeply and then gives this love out of the depths of her/his heart. We are eager for a pastor who, though imperfect, has the character Paul describes in I Timothy 3:1-7. We ask God to send us a pastor who is not trying to build a religiously-themed organization but who believes that Jesus always appears in the neighborhood—and that by Divine humor, Jesus has chosen a very imperfect reality (Church) as his physical body in this weary world. We long for a pastor who will not drive us or maneuver us—but who will love us. We hope for a pastor who can point us to God when we can't see the way ourselves. We pray for a pastor who resonates with Michael Ramsey's words: "The priesthood is to be with God, with the people on your heart."



Given our context and community, a mosaic of words come to mind as we attempt to describe the kind of pastor we believe would thrive at All Souls:

Wise and Discerning
Humble and Strong
Gifted Preacher
Relationally Sensitive
Theologically Adept
Attuned to Questions of Justice

Compelled by the Peculiar Jesus-way of Justice
Unflustered by Open-ended Processes and Structures
Committed to Orthodox Christian faith
Committed to Uncertainties, Mysteries and a Wide Theological Spectrum
Able to Lead with Clarity & Courage
Laughs & Plays

OUR SPECIFICS

We imagine that our next senior pastor will be ordained, have a seminary degree and have pastoral experience.

Our Next Pastor Will:

- >Serve as an elder, working with our elder team to discern God's vision for us
- >Work alongside Brendan to carry the DNA of All Souls forward and discern the Spirit's fresh movement in our church.
- >Lead our staff team
- >Offer pastoral presence with our deacon team
- >Serve as our lead preacher and communicator to our church
- >Build pastoral relationships within our church, offering spiritual direction, counsel and presence in sickness and crisis
- >Lead with hope, humor and humility

If you find yourself drawn to open a conversation about serving All Souls Charlottesville, please send your resume to search@allsoulscville.com

