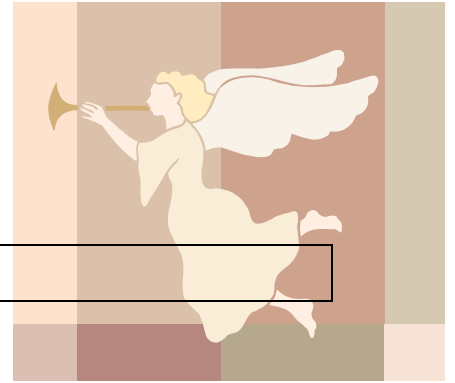


All Souls Children's & Youth Choirs

Handbook

2009-2010



INTRODUCTION

The All Souls children's and youth music program is a place where friendships are built and wonderful memories created. It has been a musical starting point for many. And, without a doubt, it's been a place of just plain fun. Because of the group's annual concert trips, All Souls Children's and Youth Choirs are well-known among Unitarian congregations from San Diego to New York and internationally in England, Toronto, Hungary, and Romania.

As an extension of the Religious Education department, the Choir program offers children and youth not only the highest quality music education, but also opportunities to learn about their own talents, interests, and self-expression, thus fostering personal growth and the development of life skills through travel, and intense study, teamwork and excellence in performance.

We have three choirs to serve our children and youth:

- Cherub Choir: 1st - 3rd grades (introduction to choir, meets on an abbreviated schedule)
- Children's Choir: 4th - 7th grades
- Youth Choir: 8th - 12th grades

CHOIR STAFF

David Smith – Children's and Youth Choirs Director
dsmith@allsoulschurch.org
743-2805, ext. 320

Justin Rosser – Cherub Choir Director
jmrosser@baschools.org
743-2363

Accompanist:
Children's Choir: Erik Collins
Youth Choir: Erik Collins

BOARD

The All Souls Children's Choir Board provides oversight and assistance to the Choir Directors to ensure that the purpose of the Choir program is met.

The Board generally meets monthly and one-year terms begin each July. If you are interested in serving on the board contact any member of the Choir Board.

Choir Board 2009-10

Name/Position	Phone	Email
Kim Thiessen – Board chair	742-1331 H; 381-7773 C	kimthiessen@cox.net
Deanna Tirrell – Treasurer; vice-chair	492-4896 H; 857-5546 C	deannatrl@sbcglobal.net
Missy Hicks	296-3341 H; 605-2755 C	dewmiss@cox.net
Bill Westcott – Pie Sales Co-Chair	491-9338 H; 633-1173 C	bwestcott@cox.net
Mike Wessinger – Pie Sales Co-Chair	355-5621 H; 633-3433 C	mike@unigus.com
Rhonda Jacobs -- Secretary	743-2859 H; 269-8891 C	rplindsey@hotmail.com
Kathleen Pahl	835-2186 H; 808-0285 C	pahlkathleen@sbcglobal.net
Lei Rumley	744-7661 H; 230-9049 C	maleirum@cox.net
JoAnn Mangili	408-7336	jmangili@yahoo.com

REHEARSALS

Cherub Choir: grades 1-3

Contact Justin Rosser, Choir Director, for more information.

Children's Choir: grades 4-7

Wednesdays: 7:00 – 8:00 pm **and** Sundays: 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Cantori

Wednesdays: 8:00 – 8:30 pm

Youth Choir: grades 8-12

Sundays: 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Choirs have special rehearsals prior to the Christmas Concert and the Spring Concert. Additional rehearsals may be called as needed by the Choir Director.

PERFORMANCES

The Choirs perform for the All Souls congregation and the community throughout the year. A performance and activity calendar will be provided.

Monthly Performances:

The Children's and the Youth Choirs usually perform once each month during Sunday morning services. The performance and activity calendar to be provided at a later date will provide details.

Special Performances:

- ★ Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 13, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
 - 4:30 pm Junior Choir
 - 6:00 pm Children's Choir
 - 7:30 pm Youth Choir
- ★ Spring Concert – Sunday, May 2, 2010 @ 4:00 p.m.
- ★ Others as may be scheduled.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (partial list; subject to change)

Sun, September 13, 4:00 – 6:00 pm	Youth Choir Rehearsals Begin
Sun, September 13, 6:00 – 7:00 pm	Children’s Choir Rehearsals Begin
Sun, September 13, 12:45 pm	Choir Parent Meeting – President’s Room
September 18 – 20	Choir Camp (Fri p.m. - Sun a.m. for Youth choir; Sat a.m. - Sun a.m. for Children’s choir)
Sun, October 4 – CC @ 10; YC @ 11:30	KISS Sunday performances
Sun, October 25	Holiday pie orders due at rehearsals
Sat, November 15, 9:00 – 11:00 am	Holiday pie pick-up; All Souls Parent’s Lounge
Sun, November 22 – time TBA	Thanksgiving Festival performances
Sun, December 6 – CC @ 10; YC @ 11:30	KISS Sunday performances
Sun, December 7	Holiday pie money due at rehearsals
Sun, December 13 @ 6:00 p.m.	All Souls Christmas Concert
Thursday, December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
	4:30 pm – Junior Choir
	6:00 pm – Children’s Choir
	7:30 pm – Youth Choir
Sun, January 3, 2010	Choir rehearsals resume
Fri, January 22 @ 6:00	Trivia Night, All Souls Emerson Hall
Sun, February 7 – CC @ 10; YC 11:30	KISS Sunday performance
Sat, February 27 – all day	Garage Sale, All Souls Emerson Hall
Sun, March 7 – CC @ 10; YC 11:30	KISS Sunday performance
Sun, April 4 – CC @ 10; YC @ 11:30	Easter Sunday performance
Sun, May 2 @ 4:00	Spring concert
Sun, May 9 – CC @ 10; YC @ 11:30	Mother’s Day performance

Reminders and updates will be sent via mail or email.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- ★ **Choir Camp:** An overnight Choir Camp is held annually each fall. It is a time of team building, music and voice activities, fun, and making and renewing friendships. Parent/adult chaperones are present at all times. Youth Choir members attend Friday evening through Sunday morning. Children’s Choir members attend Saturday morning through Sunday morning. Cost: less than \$50.
- ★ **Youth Choir Overnight Trip:** An overnight visit to a nearby Unitarian congregation is held each year, usually in January, for members of the Youth Choir only. Purpose is for performing, building relationships, and fun. Parent/adult chaperones are present at all times. Cost: less than \$50
- ★ **Annual Trip:** Each year members of the Children’s and Youth Choirs and parent chaperones travel on a multi-day trip to perform for other Unitarian congregations and communities. Parent/adult chaperones are present at all times. Recent trips include: Austin, San Francisco, Minneapolis, and Toronto. Cost: varies; usually \$400+

Recent Trips:

1983	- Springfield, Chicago, St. Louis	1996	- Indianapolis & UU General Assembly
1984	- Dallas	1997	- Kansas City/Shawnee Mission
1985	- New York	1998	- London, England
1986	- No trip (10 th anniversary celebration & “Biblical Book of Beasts” premiere	1999	- Atlanta
		2000	- San Diego
1987	- Kansas City	2001	- Memphis
1988	- St. Louis	2002	- Hungary & Romania
1989	- Washington, D.C.	2003	- New York City
1990	- San Antonio	2004	- St. Louis
1991	- New Orleans	2005	- San Francisco

1992	- Chicago, Milwaukee	2006	- Austin
1993	- Seattle	2007	- Minneapolis, St. Paul
1994	- Albuquerque, Santa Fe	2008	- Toronto
1995	- Minneapolis, St. Paul	2009	- Washington DC

Note: Ample fundraising opportunities are available to offset costs of the above special activities. Some scholarships are available with first preference given to families who actively participate in fundraising activities. We never want cost to prevent a singer from participating in the program and its activities. If cost is a concern, please contact David Smith, Choir Director, or Deanna Tirrell, Choir Board Treasurer, as early as possible.

COST

There is no cost to join the All Souls Children’s and Youth Choirs – only the desire to actively participate. Uniforms are required (cost \$40-50). In addition there are a few activities with a fee attached, e.g. choir camp, annual choir trip, and youth trip however there are ample opportunities for fundraising as well as some scholarship funds. We never want cost to prevent a singer from participating in the program and its activities. If cost is a concern, please contact David Smith, Choir Director, or Deanna Tirrell, Choir Board Treasurer, as early as possible.

UNIFORMS

Singers are required to wear the following uniform for all performances:

Children’s Choir:

- Black dress pants/slacks with belt loops (No denim; waist/rise at hips or above; no sagging)
- Black choir polo shirt to be purchased through the choir (approx. cost \$20) (casual uniform)
- White long-sleeve oxford shirt with button-down collar (formal uniform)
- Black belt
- Solid black dress shoes; no open-toe
- Black socks or black hose
- No necklaces to be worn outside shirt collar

Youth Choir:

- Black dress pants/slacks with belt loops (No denim; waist/rise at hips or above; no sagging)
- Black choir polo shirt to be purchased through the choir (approx. cost \$20) (casual uniform)
- White long-sleeve oxford shirt with button-down collar (formal uniform)
- Black belt
- Solid black dress shoes; no open-toe
- Black socks or black hose
- No necklaces to be worn outside shirt collar

POLICIES

Attendance Requirements:

The All Souls Children’s and Youth Choir standards of excellence require commitment, discipline, and teamwork on the part of every singer in the choirs. While social activities are an important part of the program, rehearsals and performances demand hard work and a serious attitude. All singers are expected to sign the Behavior Contract and abide by it.

Careful records of attendance, promptness, and behavior will be kept. Uniforms will be checked before every performance.

Singers whose attendance or behavior has been deficit or who are not wearing the required uniform will not be allowed to perform and may be prevented from participating in the spring trip.

Enrollment and active participation by October 1st is required for participation in the holiday concerts.
Enrollment and active participation by January 3rd is required for participation in the Spring Trip.

Disciplinary Policy Statement:

1. The highest standards of behavior are expected (i.e. showing respect, courtesy, and consideration for others) at all times.
2. Singers act as representatives of All Souls Children's/Youth Choirs as well as All Souls Unitarian Church when visiting anywhere.
3. Singers behave as team members, remembering what's best for the group, not just the individual.
4. Adult chaperones are expected to enforce these high standards at all times.

Procedure for Infractions:

1. At the discretion of the choir director, the singer committing the infraction(s) meets with a panel (composed of 3 Youth Choir singers and 3 adults) for hearing the case and determining the consequences.
2. Singer completes assignment/consequences.
3. Singer meets with panel for reevaluation and to determine whether singer may return to good standing.

BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

Each singer must sign the behavior contract as part of their registration.

1. I will actively participate in all choir activities to the best of my ability.
2. I will make every effort to attend all rehearsals and performances, and will call the director **before** any rehearsal or performance I cannot attend.
3. I will be on time (arrive at least **5 minutes early** in order to be seated on time).
4. I will wear the required uniform to every performance: black pants/slacks – no denim; rise/waist at hips or above; no sagging; black belt; choir polo shirt or white oxford shirt; black dress shoes; black socks or black hose.
5. I will show respect for everyone at all choir activities.
6. I will turn my cell phone off or to vibrate during rehearsals. I will not text during rehearsals.
7. I will not disrupt rehearsals or performances.
8. I will take good care of all choir property.
9. I will not bring gum, food or drinks into rehearsals or performances.

FUNDRAISING

Choir families have the following opportunities to raise funds to offset expenses for special activities (Choir Camp, Youth Choir Trip, and the Annual Trip). Although scholarships are available, first preference is given to families who have actively participated in fund raising opportunities. Only active choir members and their families may participate in fundraising activities.

Fundraising Opportunities:

- **Trivia Night:** Buy a ticket, sell a ticket to this fun evening of trivia. All proceeds benefit the All Souls Children's and Youth Choirs. Parents and Youth Choir members who work the evening serving food and waiting tables earn \$5.00/hour for their activity account. To volunteer contact Janet Adams-Westcott at 491-9338 (H) or bwestcott@cox.net
- **Garage Sale:** Clean out the attic or the garage and bring it to the annual garage sale. To participate, you mark your own items and work a shift at the sale. Sales of your items are credited to your activity account. For more information, to volunteer, or to participate, contact [REDACTED]
- **Sunday Brunch:** Parents/adults and singers in grades 6-12 are needed to serve brunch each Sunday from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Payment at \$6.25/hour is made to the choir member's activity account. To sign-up to assist, contact JoAnn Mangili @ 408-7336 or JMangili@yahoo.com
- **Holiday Pie Sales:** Just in time for the holiday season, choir members and their families sell delicious, frozen pies to family, friends, neighbors, church members, co-workers, and strangers. Pies are available for pick-up and delivery by the choir member early in November, just in time for the holidays. 75% of the proceeds are credited to the choir member's activity account. For more

information, to volunteer or to participate, contact Bill Westcott at 633-1173 or bwestcott@cox.net or Mike Wessinger at 633-3433 or mike@unigus.com

Additional details on fundraising opportunities will be distributed via email, mail, or flier. Please contact a board member if you are willing to spearhead an additional fundraising idea.

Fundraising monies accrue to the singer's activity account and are held in escrow. These funds may transfer from year to year but can only be used for activity expenses related to the Children's and Youth Choirs, e.g. choir camp or spring trip expenses. These funds may be transferred to another Children's or Youth Choir singer's activity account.

Funds held in escrow in a singer's activity account will be returned to the choir's general fund when:

1. **Graduating seniors:** When a graduating senior has no younger sibling in the choir program, any funds remaining in the singer's activity account at end of the choir year in which the senior graduates will be returned to the choir's general fund unless the family elects to transfer the remaining activity funds to the activity account of another active singer.
2. **Inactive Singers:** In the event a singer has been inactive in the choir program for two years, activity account funds of \$100 or less will be returned to the choir's general fund. Exceptions may be made at the family's request. Reasonable efforts will be made to contact the families of singers who have been inactive for two year and whose activity account balance is over \$100 to determine if the activity fund balance should be carried forward or returned to the choir's general fund.
3. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Treasurer and the Choir Director.

Questions about a choir member's activity account should be addressed to the Treasurer, Deanna Tirrell at 492-4896 (H) or deannatrl@sbcglobal.net.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Family/Parent support is the secret to the success of our Children's and Youth Choirs program, so please lend a hand on the project you like best. Each family is expected to complete a Volunteer Opportunities Form (attached separately; only one per family is needed) and select and participate in at least two volunteer projects during the choir year. (You'll find choir parents great to work with!)

1. MONITORS:

For Children's Choir Rehearsals: Two monitors are needed for each Children's Choir rehearsal (Wednesday: 6:45 – 8:15 pm; Sunday: 5:45 – 7:15 pm) to provide supervision. We encourage you to volunteer for a month of Sundays or a month of Wednesdays.

For Youth Choir Rehearsals: At least one monitor is needed for each Youth Choir rehearsal (Sunday: 3:45 – 4:30 pm) to provide supervision. We encourage you to volunteer for a month of Sundays.

For Performances: Two monitors are needed for each performance to assist the singers with their robes and to keep tabs on the progression of the service. Monitors arrive 30 minutes early and leave after robes are hung up following the performance.

2. **CHRISTMAS CONCERT RECEPTION:** Volunteers help prepare the punch and trays of cookies brought by choir members, and serve the punch and refill trays during the reception.
3. **SPRING CONCERT RECEPTION:** Volunteers help prepare the punch and trays of cookies brought by choir members, and serve the punch and refill trays during the reception.
4. **COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS:**
 - **2010 Annual Trip.** Volunteers help plan and implement the annual choir trip. Adults.
 - **2011 Annual Trip (probably an international trip).** Volunteers help plan and implement the annual choir trip. Adults.
 - **Trivia Night.** Volunteers help sell tickets, set up, take tickets, serve food and beverages, clean up. Adults and Youth Choir Members.
 - **Holiday Pie Sales.** Volunteers help sell pies, sort pies for distribution. Adults.

- **Garage Sale.** Volunteers help set up, take down, and during sale. Adults and Choir Members.
- **Day Center for the Homeless Meal.** Volunteers help prepare and serve food for the Choir Board's meal at the Day Center for the Homeless. Adults and Choir Members.
- **Holiday Ornaments.** Volunteers help select/design, make/purchase annual Children's and Youth Choir holiday ornament. Adults and Choir Members.
- **Telephone Committee.** Volunteer help contact choir members/parents when we have last-minute changes in plans to pass the information along quickly. Adults and Youth Choir Members.
- **Transportation.** Volunteer drivers use their personal cars/vans to provide transportation to and from Choir Camp and when the choir is asked to sing in the community. Adults.
- **Chaperones.** Volunteers help chaperone Choir Camp and the Annual Trip. Adults.

CHOIR HISTORY

Tulsa's All Souls Unitarian Church made a commitment to its youth and music in 1976 with the creation of a concert-quality children's choir. The concept was far from new for All Souls minister John Wolf, who had dreamed of "young singers being provided with a personal music education, more meaning and substance to their lives in the church, the varied performance experiences, and a large measure of beauty and joy to the congregation."

Plans called for the children's group to furnish the choral music for the weekly chapel service of the church school, monthly anthems for the adult services and to perform throughout the area. Lucy Nave was named full-time director.

In April, 1983, the troupe of 40 young voices made its first spring tour, traveling to Springfield, Chicago, and St. Louis. The Allison Hill Memorial Award (in memory of a five-year member of the children's choir) was established as an annual award to the choir member for "most vocal improvement of the year." The first annual Lucy Nave Most Outstanding Choir Member Award was given in 1988.

Betty Mitchell was hired in 1984 to help teach the Junior Choir (grades 1-3) and became its director the following year. Upon Betty's retirement in 1995, Shannon Shirley became Junior Choir director. The Youth Choir (grades 8-12) was established in the fall of 1987. Membership in the Junior, Children's, and Youth Choirs has now reached an all-time high of 110 singers.

In 1986, composer Daniel Pinkham was commissioned to write a new piece for the choir in celebration of its 10th anniversary. The piece, title, "*A Biblical Book of Beasts*," was premiered in April.

As an extension of the Religious Education department, the Children's Choir program offers children an opportunity to learn great masterworks of choral literature, as well as jazz, folk, spirituals, and contemporary works. The recent introduction of fine percussion instruments and instruction in the method of Carl Orff has added a new dimension to children's music at All Souls. In 1994-95 the choirs commissioned and premiered two new works by composer Beth Mattingly, both of which were performed at the Oklahoma Choral Directors Association convention in Norman in July, 1995. In 1996, a 75th anniversary piece by Dr. William Heinrichs, "*Out of the Stars*," was jointly commissioned by the adult choir and the children's choir.

Annual spring tours have taken the Children's and Youth Choirs all over the country: to New York, Dallas, Kansas City, San Antonio, New Orleans, San Diego, San Francisco, Chicago/Milwaukee, Seattle, Albuquerque/Santa Fe, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Atlanta, Austin, and Washington, D.C. The choirs were invited to sing at the Unitarian-Universalist General Assembly in Indianapolis in June 1996, when the choirs also performed with the renowned Indianapolis Children's Choir at its annual festival concert.

The Children's and Youth Choirs recorded their first compact disc in the Spring of 1996. "World of Song" is a collection of 23 songs, many in foreign languages, from all over the world.

In 1998 the choirs took their long-awaited trip to London, England. The 9-day trip included four performances before Unitarian congregations as well as unforgettable sightseeing adventures.

In June 2001, the Children's Choir celebrated its 25th anniversary with a whole weekend of reunion festivities, including a reception, an alumni recital and banquet, and a special Sunday morning service with ministers John Wolf, Brent Smith, Suzanne Meyer, and Marlin Lavanhar, and the premier of a new work by Nick Page, "*Recipes for Life*" commissioned for the occasion. A special CD entitled "*2001: A Choir Odyssey*," a poster of original artwork by Laura Shafer, and a video about the program were all produced especially for the event.

The 2002 trip to Hungary and Transylvania took our choirs to a new level of performance and commitment. It laid the groundwork for a larger and more beautiful future, going beyond our tradition of singing at All Souls and in the Tulsa community. Visiting our Unitarian roots in Transylvania gave us a fresh perspective on music-making and showed us the value of connecting with people in place far from home.

AWARDS

Each year, the Choir Director selects and presents the following awards to members of the All Souls Children's Choirs.

Allison Hill Most Improved Singer Award:

Recent Award Recipients

1990-91 – Nathan Tacha	2000-01 – Katie Martin
1991-92 – Chris Blais	2002-03 – Jordan Redemann
1992-93 – Joe Witt	2003-04 – Piper Connelly
1993-94 – Erika Block	2004-05 – Sherene Iskander
1994-95 – A.J. Jacobs	2005-06 – Walker Miracle
1995-96 – Amanda Faith	2006-07 – Addison Sunday & Marie Anderson
1996-97 – Joey Watt	2007-08 – J.D. Wessinger
1997-98 – Laura Blais	2008-09 – Sabrina Schuster
1998-99 – Natalie Henshaw	
1999-00 – Ian Butler	

A. J. Jacobs Heart and Souls Award:

Recent Award Recipients

2000-01 – A. J. Jacobs
 2003-04 – Amanda Baker
 2005-05 – Aaron Wolf Johnson
 2006-07 – Ben Perrault & Maggie Larkin
 2007-08 – Aaron Wolf-Johnson, Ben Perrault, Oliver Seekins, Jordan Redemann

Lucy Nave Most Outstanding Award:

Recent Award Recipients

1990-91 – Chelsea Faughn	2003-04 – Laura Blais & Laura Brown
1991-92 – Sophomore Class: Jessica Crook, Abby Wiens, Asabi Goodman, Erin Ferguson, Melanie Loucks	2003-04 – Seth Knudson, David Hickey & Natalie Schaefer
1992-93 – Erik Vanderlip	2004-05 – Amanda Baker
1993-94 – Dylan Vaughn	2005-06 – Samantha Portman
1994-95 – Elizabeth Crook	2006-07 – Sarah Markland
1995-96 – Harvey Morris	2007-08 – Dennis Spahic & Virginia Stephens
1996-97 – Kent Doss	2008-09 –
1997-98 – Erik Vanderlip	
1998-99 – Justin Mitchell	
1999-00 – Andrea Block	
2000-02 – Amanda Faith	
2001-02 – Molly Housh & Anne Marie Butler	

Chris Ferguson Overall Achievement

Award

Recent Award Recipients

2005-06 – Erin O'Bannon

2006-07 – Thomas Williams

2007-08 – **Olivia Henshaw & Aaron Wolf-**

Johnson

2008-09 – Ainsley Thiessen