



November 8th, 2023  
Ordinary Time

Dear Friends,

As you may know, Sunday, November 12th, is our annual Rule of Life Sunday! For those new to All Souls Cville, this is a yearly time (next year will be bi-annual) for those in our congregation who sense the invitation to affirm and take on our Rule of Life. No doubt this brings up a few questions. We hope so! Over the next few days, we will be sending an email naming and answering a few of these questions at a time.

From time to time, we will be asked the question, “How can I join All Souls?” It is a great question that we hold as more important than you may realize. Why? Because we are not a club. We are a Church. A messy group who recognizes the gospel instigates a certain kind of holy free-for-all. Each of us is finding our way into friendship with God and one another, and this path we walk is our attempt to be messy together. To love Jesus together. To serve this place and this land together.

Because this is our reality, we desire more than structural minimalism (i.e., what’s the very least we can ask of one another and still stick around together?) or static rational systems (say you believe this or sign that – and you’re in). We long to pursue a meaningful life together, a life of friendship and shared mission as we grow up in God in whom we live and move and have our being.

And so, taking a cue from St. Patrick and Celtic Christians and the entire monastic tradition, we have formed the nucleus of that kind of community by taking on a shared Rule of Life. What does this have to do with the question? When one asks what they need to do to “join All Souls,” our first response is to say, Come have a seat at the table. We’ve been waiting for you. However, some of us sense a stirring for something deeper, to be more than one who belongs to the community but also one who shares the community’s identity and mission, to be responsible, with us, for what we sense God calling us to be and do. In other words, you may ask, “How can I offer my heart and life to this particular community, into All Souls’ shared life and purpose before God?” If this is you, we encourage you to consider our Rule of Life.

Why is this our encouragement to those sensing an invitation to move deeper? More on that tomorrow.

Peace to you this Wednesday,



Rev. Bliss Spillar  
Senior Pastor