

OPENING WORDS
Barbara R. Beshers and Daniel N. Beshers
Sunday, May 6, 2018

Good Morning. I am Barbara Beshers and with me is my husband Daniel Beshers. I have been a member of All Souls for 14 years. Before that, I sought for many years to find a church with good sermons and good music. At All Souls I found those and more, a sense of community.

... Continuation by Dan Beshers

Since September 1961, I have been a fairly regular attendee at All Souls, but now Barbara and I are moving near my son Sam in Illinois. All four of my sons went through the Church School where they found the community that Barbara just mentioned.

Indeed the community supported me both in the loss of my first wife and in finding and welcoming Barbara.

I have known three senior ministers here, Kring, Church, and Guengerich, all outstanding and all very different. In several sermons, Forrest Church drew my attention to Plato's image of a cave, from which we sense the outside only as people in a cave might observe flickering light on a cave wall coming through an unseen opening. In other words, we do not know much. Descartes said we know just this: I think therefore I am. We move beyond that only when we take notes on what we observe and compare those notes with one another: this is called science. When we find a preponderance of people in agreement, we say that a measure of truth has been tentatively achieved. The process depends on honesty and on forbearance in discussion. All Souls is one place where these vital discussions occur, a community as Barbara just said.

It is a community characterized by St. Paul's "faith, hope and love" but, as Barbara says, hope is the greatest because it is necessary for love. Maintain your hope!