

OPENING WORDS
George Collins
Sunday, December 3, 2017

Good Morning.

My name is George Collins. My family has been at All Souls over 24 years. I share the running of Monday Night Hospitality with Kathleen Taylor who handles the meal preparation of 18,000 meals. Over a thousand volunteers do this work every year. For years, the serving of those meals dominated my work but at some point the guests themselves took on the greatest meaning. In sharing with the homeless, urban poor, destitute families and the elderly just getting by – if you call not eating sufficiently getting by – I have found my calling. Our guests, as Galen says live but a hairs breath away from our lives. If we don't help those neighbors how can we celebrate our own lives? For the past year he has been serving waiting guests on Mondays so his insight is well-founded.

I am thankful for the many gifts that life has bestowed on me when I do this work. We have social workers offering tangible lifesaving solutions and monthly health screenings by medical students supervised by Dr. Holly Atkinson. Much of what I could ask for on Mondays has been provided by funding from Heart & Soul. I am amazed at the courage that our guests have when faced with unbelievable challenges – the combination of cancer and homelessness, the daunting challenges of racial walls enforced by past incarceration and addiction issues. I ask that you join me in being thankful for an All Souls that reaches out and offers a hand, a meal and love each Monday and Friday. This is my spiritual home.