

OPENING WORDS  
Winifred Donoghue  
Sunday, March 11, 2018

Good morning, welcome to All Souls, my name is Winifred Donoghue.

My experience with All Souls reminds me of the old tale of the camel's nose, but in a positive way. Briefly, the story goes that a camel and his owner were traveling during a sand storm, when the owner crawled inside of his tent, the camel begged to just put his nose in to protect it from the storm. Then little by little, the man was sharing his tiny tent with an entire camel.

That's sort of how a commitment to All Souls crept into the tent of my life. In the beginning, my husband and I would attend services here but sort of lurking in the background. Over time, we joined All Souls and got married right here on this chancel. We signed our children up for religious education, and I soon became a co-chair on the Parent Association. My husband serves on the Religious Education Committee and is working with Small Group Ministries. Up until recently, I taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade here on Sundays. I'm also involved in All Souls Capital Campaign.

But before you get the idea that I'm a joyously self-sacrificing person, I'm not. Just ask my family. I constantly complain that I'm over taxed, that I don't have enough time for this stuff ... but the truth is the more I've gotten involved in this church, the more I get out of being here. I walk into coffee hour and recognize a lot of faces, I've met wonderful people whom I now call friends. I feel a real sense of ownership here at church, and a desire to see All Souls thrive.

So if you're sitting at the edges, not sure if you want to commit or get involved here, I urge you to give it a try. In fact, you should go head lift your tent flap and let the entire camel in, it can be a wonderful ride.

Now, please stand if you are able and join me in repeating the bond of union:

*In the freedom of the truth  
And in the spirit of love,  
We unite for the worship of God  
And the service of all.*