

OPENING WORDS
by Marilyn Scott Murphy
September 24, 2017

Good Morning, I am Marilyn Scott Murphy. Welcome to All Souls.

This is an extra special day and week because today Rev. Dick Leonard turns 90 years young. Happy Birthday Dick! I encourage all of you to come to All Souls on Tuesday night to celebrate Dick and to hear him read excerpts from his book, *Wet Cement*. All Souls has been Dick's church home for almost 40 years.

All Souls has been my Spiritual home for just over 30 years. In 1985 I was invited to brunch and parenthetically, "We are going to church beforehand, do you want to join us?" In February 1986, I stepped up and became a member. At the time, I was 33, a young adult. This last summer I turned 65. My entire New York City adult life has been spent right here at All Souls. My heartfelt wish is for everyone to feel as strongly and feel as positive as I do about All Souls.

Right from the start I felt that if I got into any kind of difficulty, the community of All Souls would help guide me....NOT solve my problems, but help me find my way. My responsibility was to speak up and ask for help. We are a community of caring people, but we are not Mind Readers. If in need: Ask for help. Each week we say, "in the spirit of love -We unite for the worship of God and the service of all." All includes us. If and when you find yourself in need, please make use of our Pastoral Care Ministry. Please call them. They are there for us.

I feel cared for and comforted simply by walking into this Sanctuary. Add the Heaven-sent music, inspiring words surrounded by a congregation of caring seekers... for me this makes a perfect Sunday.

You can find me at the "Sell to Serve" table selling Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolates so that we can afford to serve Organic Fair Trade Coffee at Coffee Hour. You will always find me ALWAYS asking for money. Between Stewardship, the Heart & Soul Charitable Fund and the Capital Campaign, my hands are out, up, and open !!!

Personally, I believe in the In-reach/Outreach approach. In-reach is our Annual Giving to care for our spiritual home to keep it functioning all year round. Outreach, through Heart & Soul, gives us an opportunity to share with our neighbors.

The impressive Capital Campaign helps us honor our 200 years with an eye to the future. I love our Bi-Centennial tagline: *Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, Shape the Future*.

In closing, I want to share my personal credo: Care. Share. Be Fair.

Now, Will you please rise- if you are able, and join me in our Bond of Union.