

THE MESSENGER

November 2017, Volume 8 Number 7

All Saints' Church 51 Concord Street, Peterborough, NH 03458

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Our Mission (What we do)

Our mission is to help people grow in their faith and trust in God by helping them recognize their God-given talents and to use them to serve God and their neighbor.

Our Vision (Where we are going)

Our vision is to be a community in which God's love is experienced and shared.

Dear Parishioners,

This is All Saints':

We welcome and include; We worship and pray; We tend and serve; We seek and learn.

These four ways are the ways in which we talk about our life together in this community we call both church and home - our DNA of sorts, defined by our ministries, which are vibrant, life-sustaining, and community-bound. We believe, through our faith in connecting with each other, that we are connected to something larger than ourselves. Through our commitments, we can make a difference in our own lives and the lives of those who may never know our names. We stand as witnesses to hope and purpose in all the ways we live and move and have our being.

As your Rector, I am so encouraged by your passion expressed through our Cottage Meetings, through individual conversations and writings, and through your commitments to our ministries and worship. Your voices and vows help me to see more clearly (and dearly) what makes All Saints' tick. You inspire me daily; your enthusiasm is like a map drawn on our tongues, seared in our hearts, and placed in our hands, shaping our future. You love this church and you love all the ways that you give and receive.

Here are few examples (too many to include all of them) of the ways our lives together are being further shaped, influenced by your continued inspiration and desire:

We welcome and include: We are expanding our ushering ministry so that more of us represent the face of the church as we greet people coming through our doors. We are exploring the idea of a "crossing guard" so that people can cross the street safely with support. We have "grab bags" for newcomers that share a glance into the vibrant life of All Saints'. We are a part of the Peterborough Welcome Team with a mission to welcome new residents to Peterborough- the next greeting gathering is November 16th in the Town Hall- please join us if you would like!

We worship and pray: We continue to explore and implement each other's preferences for worship. It is rare to find a church that honors and supports the varieties of ways we pray and sing, and for us to be curious and respectful of the differences, and yet know we are one church.

We tend and serve: We are now an integral part of the civic team in Peterborough that supports our hungry children in our schools. Nurses, social workers, principals, and teachers throughout the Conval District trust in our commitment. I am stopped at the grocery store, and I receive emails, and calls on the phone, all expressing thanks to All Saints' for our commitment to providing snacks to children in ten different schools. Over and over, repeated is the mantra- *this isn't just about snacks-* this is about kids feeling included. Our educators know that we believe that their kids are our kids. We are part of the team which enables them to learn and grow.

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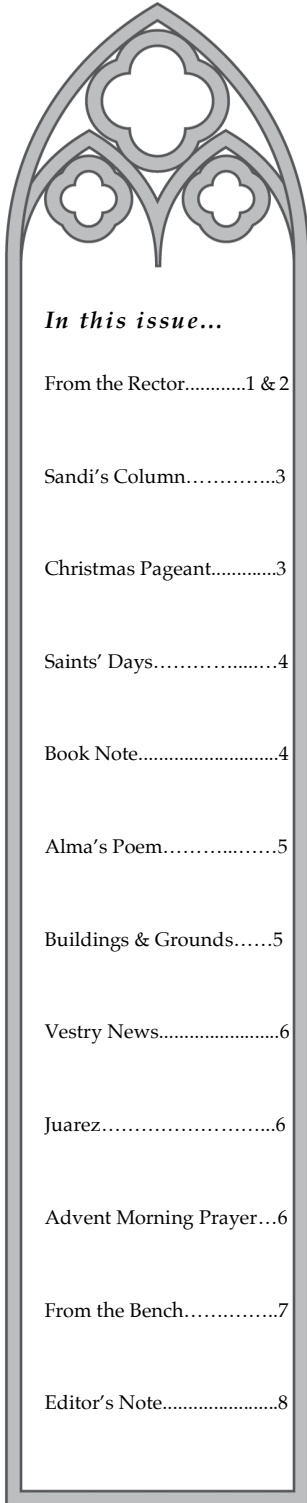
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**THE
MESSENGER**

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We seek and learn: We are currently exploring the life of the Buddha and the life of Jesus in our monthly Book Group, and this offering has brought new people to our parlor who want to learn about these two spiritual masters. These new people are both thrilled and surprised that “your church is so inclusive and inviting of those beyond your door.”

These are only a few examples of how we are “walking the talk.”

As many of you know, the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) helped us to form our Cottage Meetings, trained our facilitators, and will assist us with future thinking. We called on them when we bought the parking lot, asking for advice about raising money. They advised us to take a step back and introduced a process which involved three distinct steps: (1) Discernment (Cottage Meetings); (2) Feasibility Study; and (3) Capital Campaign. One step does not inevitably trigger the next step.

We engaged in the first step of Discernment, and we learned a lot about ourselves. Not only did we identify new ways to engage in our four areas of ministry (outlined above), but we heard **two common threads:** the impact that our beautiful sanctuary and its surrounding campus has on our worship and spiritual experience, and the need to address safety and accessibility issues. Given the clarity of your responses and the needs of the church, your Vestry decided to implement changes in the staffing to be more proactive in supporting our ministries and to address our physical campus needs by moving to ECF’s Step #2- Feasibility Study. Over the summer, we worked on fine tuning and defining building projects to create a Tentative Case Statement.

We are on the verge of sharing that Case Statement and Questionnaire with you. But first, just a word about the Feasibility Study. We **have not yet decided** if we will be moving into a Capital Campaign. The Case Statement is **not** our Capital Campaign. It includes everything that we would like to do **if** we had the resources. We will decide whether to move forward with a capital campaign when we have the results of this study, which will tell us:

- Does the Church community understand the need for a campaign?
- Do we agree with it?
- Will we work to support it?
- Will we contribute financially? And if so how much can we raise?

Your input is critical to making the decision to launch a campaign.

Here’s the timeline:

Sunday, October 29th, there will be hard copies of the Tentative Case Statement- one for each family. Please take one to read. Members of your Vestry will be available to answer any questions.

Friday, November 3rd, there will be an email in your inbox (Check your Junk Mail folder) from erin@episcopalfoundation.org with a subject line All Saints’ Peterborough, NH. When you open that email, you will receive a cover letter, the electronic form of the Tentative Case Statement and a Questionnaire. The Questionnaire will take about fifteen minutes of your time and can be submitted directly from your email. The date to submit this email is **Monday, November 13th.**

For those of you who prefer to answer the Questionnaire by mail, we will provide a hard copy and a self-addressed envelope for you to return your Questionnaire to the ECF, which also needs to be returned by **Monday, November 13th.**

Your replies are being compiled by an ECF coordinator and all your comments will remain confidential.

Sunday, December 3rd, there will be a meeting after church in Reynolds Hall at which our consultant will share with us a comprehensive summary of the report. And then, we move into the next stage of deliberation based on your feedback.

Please do not hesitate to email or call me or one of your Vestry members if you have any questions. We will be communicating with you often during these next few weeks as we engage in this very exciting process.

Blessings,

Jamie+

Sandi's Column

Things I Learned in Church School

For the past few Sundays I have been spending time with our church school children (ages 5-8). We have been talking and learning about God and Jesus, particularly in the context of the Eucharist. I find it especially interesting to hear what the kids know from observing what they see in church. For example, as we set a table for a communion meal, we looked at the bread we receive at the Eucharist. One child noted the cross that is pressed into each wafer. (Have you ever noticed that yourself?) Another raised the host high above his head and exclaimed, "We do this in remembrance of Him!"

It's such a blessing to spend time with these young ones and to witness the joy they find in each other's company and to see the interest they have in what goes on in "big church." They speak often about their homes and school life in the context of what we are talking about in the stories of, Jesus and his friends.

Me: *Jesus often eats with his friends, doesn't he?*

Children: *Well, that makes sense. I eat with my family, too!*

We eat together in church during communion, right? It is the Lord's Supper!

Does Jesus like cookies?

Jesus is very present for these young folks. They imagine his life and experiences as a child in parallel to theirs. They seem to simply accept that God is all around them. As we learned about the Lord's Prayer last week, the word that they used to describe God over and over was "Love."

There is a story that you may have heard before about a 5-year-old boy whose parents bring home a new baby sister. As they settle her into her crib, her brother asks to speak with her alone. The parents are a bit wary, but do leave him with his new sister, staying close by the door just in case they are needed. As they listen, they hear their son ask, "Tell me what God looks like; I've started to forget."

Perhaps on those days when God seems far away and we begin to forget in the midst of our busyness, or doubt, we might ask our young ones to tell us about their experience with the God they know as Love.

In Christ's Love,

Sandi

Calling All Angels and Shepherds!

Casting Call and Volunteers needed for the Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant will take place during the 4:30 service on Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24.

Children of all ages are invited to take part.

We will prepare during Church School sessions (9:45-10:30) beginning December 3.

On December 17, we will rehearse in the church after the 10 AM services.

A final run-through time will be determined closer to December 24.

A fun time is sure to be had by all!

Saints' Days

11/03	Anna Ritchie	11/15	Isaac Dylan Sistare	11/21	Nancy O'Neill
11/04	Hugh Beyer		Jacob Michael	11/23	John Vance
	Daniel Frehner		Levesque	11/24	Frankie Beyer
11/08	David Johnston	11/16	Katy Barnes	11/26	Evelyn Marot
	Kathy Miner	11/18	Caitlyn Scott		Evelyn Schmitt
11/09	Marguerite Krommes		Dan Keaveny	11/27	Mary Lou Weathers
11/11	Brad Taylor	11/19	Jack McLaughlin	11/28	Philip Huckins
	Sandy Zielie	11/20	Donna Abbott	11/29	Sean Russell Witt
11/12	George King		Carolyn Manns		

Book Note

I have already discussed in this space a compendious view of Christian history. But sometimes the more intimate family stories are even more compelling than the great epics. For a look at our own little corner of the Church, there is Robert Prichard's *A History of the Episcopal Church* (Third Revised Edition), Morehouse Publishing, 2014.

Prichard, a professor at Virginia Seminary, has produced here a cogent and richly informative narrative of what has happened to members of the Church of England who emigrated to what became the United States, to those who joined them here, and to the society in which they lived and still live. It gives enough background of the English Reformation and European politics to make developments in America intelligible, but from 1585, with the settlement of what became the "Lost Colony" on Roanoke Island, the book traces how people who had been members of a Church not only by law established but also wealthy, powerful, and omnipresent, made the transition to a collection of new communities an ocean away from their nominal bishop, established in some places, tolerated in others, and outlawed in still others. It was no wonder that laity, especially the prosperous, became accustomed to a degree of control in local parishes that was impossible in England.

The story continues with the at times quite energetic pastoral activity among free and enslaved Africans and native Americans, the Great Awakening of the Eighteenth Century and the crisis of the Revolution, the maneuvering among the generally clericalist Northeastern Anglicans and the more laity-empowering ones of the Middle and Southern states for the shape of the new independent Church of the United States, the emergence of High and Low Church parties, in all their nuances, the expansion to the West, the perhaps morally suspect refusal to deal as a body with the slavery issue, the emergence of social criticism and action between the end of the Civil War and the Depression, the arrival of deaconesses, religious orders, and the increasing visibility of women in the work of the Church, the shallow but genuine boom years of the 1950s followed by the tumult of the '60s and beyond. The ordination of women, the adoption of the 1969 Prayer Book and 1979 Hymnal, the ecumenical movement, the broadening out of our national Church to encompass the Philippines, Mexico, Central and South America, and parts of the Caribbean, renewal movements, are all covered, along with numerical and demographic shifts in our churches.

Among the numerous surprises for me was the great shift in the style and content of preaching following the arrival of John and Charles Wesley and especially George Whitefield, to the colonies. The extent to which reasoned discourse to prove a (or three) point(s), which had been the traditional kind of sermon throughout the Eighteenth Century, gave way to impassioned pleas to the hearts of sinners for surrender to a judging and loving God, can't be overstated: it is with us still.

Another surprise was the ferocity of old High Church clergy in their belief that they should not only refrain from preaching on political matters, they should have nothing to do with them. The Church was seen as an alternative to the world order. The impossibly vigorous Bishop Hobart never voted.

In its breadth of concern, this relatively short book gives us a vivid sense of where we have been—in the chancel, in the pew, in large gatherings, on various frontiers. Where this prologue is leading, is up to us.

Cassius Webb

Alma's Poem

Thanksgiving Every Day

Early in life our mothers have taught
When given a gift we ought
To thank whoever gave it
As gratitude is a good habit
Look around and count the ways
That God has blessed our ways
It seems mom was right
Add "Thank You's to your prayers tonight.

Love,*Alma*

Hello from the Buildings and Grounds Committee!

There have been some very exciting projects worked on in 2017 and as we approach the New Year, we wanted to provide the Parish an informative update on all the great work our committee has accomplished, as well as what's on the horizon.

Our All Saints' expended parking lot project is the most visible of our 2017 projects and probably the most exciting for us to share with you. Listed below are some of our most frequently asked questions with a brief answer to each question. If you have further questions about the parking lot project, please don't hesitate to ask one of us: John Catlin, Buildings & Grounds Committee Chairman or staff member Gretchen Rae, gretchen@allsaintsnh.org.

FAQs:

1. **When will the parking lot be ready for parking?** The parking lot is ready for parking but with unmarked parking spaces. Please be orderly in your parking.
2. **Why is only a portion of the parking lot newly paved?** The new driveway is paved and new parking spaces will remain gravel pending further funding.
3. **Who is designing and building the garden spaces and riverside plantings?** The landscape drawing is in draft form and is designed in accordance with the Town of Peterborough's requirements. The town's Planning Board has reviewed and approved this first phase in layout and materials.
4. **What will the walking-path look like once it is no longer a driveway alongside Reynolds Hall?** The walking-path outcomes are all subject to available funding.
5. **Am I still able to park my car along the road to access the church?** For safety, preferably no, but parking is at your own discretion. We believe it is much safer for everyone to park in the new parking lot.

Gretchen Rae, Projects Coordinator

Vestry Notes

Listening with the Ear of the Heart

The preamble prayer used at a centering prayer group I participated in a few years ago included a wonderful phrase to help focus our intentions, “We breathe into God’s love and listen with the ear of the heart.”

While serving on the vestry over the last 2 years, I have often thought about the poetry of this phrase and the impact of trusting this approach.

Jamie’s letter this month beautifully describes how our church loves and serves and walks in God’s ways. Being in the vestry has given me the opportunity to learn more about who we are as a church community. And when I sat in two of our cottage meetings (once as a facilitator and once as a participant) I was moved by the personal stories I heard about how God is working through us as we minister to each other, our community, and the world.

In helping prepare the Tentative Case Study that Jamie mentioned is coming our way, I was moved as well when I learned more about how, one hundred years ago, the faithful who founded All Saints’ Peterborough were loving and serving us.

As two core issues—tending to our beautiful sanctuary and campus and improving accessibility and safety—arose through this first phase of discernment, it seems to me that the next phase of a collective feasibility study is a truly wise approach.

I invite you to join me in taking part in this next phase, as we listen with the ear of our hearts for what resonates as God working among and through us, along with thoughtful discernment of what would be feasible for us to fund at this time.

Joan Cunningham, *Vestry Member*

News about Centro Victoria

November Trip to Juarez: The weekend of November 3-5. The following travelers will go to Centro Victoria in Juarez, Mexico: Max Scheinblum, Tim Riley, Patty Wheeler, Emily Miner, Hayden James, and Michelle Baker (Barbara Kaufmann’s daughter). Our main mission is to be with Pastor Joel and the children, letting them know we will never forget them. Please keep us all in your prayers.

Christmas in Juarez: Traditionally at All Saints’, we remember the children in Juarez at Christmas by sending them Christmas gifts. They have come to look forward to our custom and receiving Christmas gifts, which otherwise,

they would not have. Last year, we tried a new gift-giving custom by asking you to give money to All Saints’, with Juarez Christmas in the memo line. Gifts for all the children to share are shipped through Amazon Prime and each child received a smaller individual gift. The vast majority of you were in favor of this method and so we will continue to do the same this year. Please remember the children at Christmas and send or place in the Sunday plate, your donation to All Saints’ with Juarez Christmas in the memo. Thank you from all of Centro Victoria’s 96 children.

Patty Wheeler

Tuesday Morning Prayer and Advent Reflection

For four weeks on Tuesdays from November 28 through December 19, Deacon Sandi Albom will lead a morning Advent series. We will begin at 7:30 with Morning Prayer, followed by 30-40 minutes of reflection and discussion using “*Rise Up Shepherd*,” a collection of Advent reflections on African Spirituals by Luke A. Powery.

It is not necessary to purchase the book to participate or to attend every session. Powery, in the introduction to the text, talks of “the future present hope” embedded in the Spirituals, which embody the Advent season, built on the hope of Jesus’ coming. We will reflect on the Spirituals as a “Third Testament,” listening to the “marginalized voices in the Spirituals during the liturgical season of Advent, as we await the coming of a humble baby Jesus born in poverty.”

Come, Lord Jesus!

View from the Bench

Thanksgiving Icons

As I consider music for the Thanksgiving Day service each year, I tend to return to the same hymns and organ compositions. The music may vary somewhat from one year to the next, but not much. I'm sure you understand why. No more would I omit "We gather together" or "Come ye thankful people, come" or "Now thank we all our God" from Thanksgiving Day than I would skip "O come, all ye faithful" or "Joy to the world" at Christmas. These hymns function aurally as icons – as symbolic representations – of all we hold dear about Thanksgiving, of all we are thankful for.

As we sing these musical icons, because the music is pleasing and the texts meaningful, we give little thought to their origins. But probing those origins often reveals some interesting stories. I want to consider the two organ voluntaries I will be playing this Thanksgiving Day, both definitely iconic Thanksgiving pieces, and share the interesting stories behind them.

As a prelude, I will play George Frederick Handel's *Arioso*, an arranged version of the aria "Dank sei dir, Herr," which is often sung in English as "Thanks be to Thee" and which many have believed (because of its text) was originally an aria from Handel's oratorio *Israel in Egypt*, which it can't be since it appears neither in manuscript nor in print until the late 19th century. Most scholars nowadays attribute the *Arioso* to Siegfried Ochs (1858-1929), a German choirmaster who was highly-skilled but without commercial success as a composer. Because Ochs had an uncanny ability to mimic styles of composers from many different genres and periods, he wrote *Dank sei dir, Herr* for a performance he was arranging of *Israel in Egypt*, passing his work off as that of Handel, in order that the work might at least receive a public performance. That the aria has become a standard part of the recital repertoire for many solo artists is a testament to Ochs' nearly flawless "forgery." It is a true Thanksgiving musical icon, in part because we have believed for so long that it was Handel's work.

As a postlude, I will play Sigfrid Karg-Elert's *Marche triomphale*, a chorale fantasia on "Now thank we all our God." Karg-Elert (1877-1933) who studied piano at the conservatory in Leipzig, focused his energies primarily on composition. His first organ compositions appeared in 1909, a set of 66 chorale improvisations of which the *Marche triomphale* was one. Influenced by the works Bach, Grieg, Debussy and Scriabin, Karg-Elert's profound understanding of music theory was reflected in a late-Romantic compositional style that pushed the tonal limits of traditional harmony. Because his music was internationally influenced, he found almost no reception for his music in the Germany of the 1920's and 1930's. Although his music found favor in England and the United States, Karg-Elert was unable to establish a concert career as an organist. His performances were deemed sub-par, particularly when compared to those of premier international recitalists like Marcel Dupré and Louis Vierne. Indeed, when he auditioned to be organist at Berlin Cathedral, he was rejected, some suggesting that he could not even play his own compositions satisfactorily. The *Marche triomphale* is a Thanksgiving icon, but not because the listener will easily hear the familiar chorale melody on which it is based. Indeed, Karg-Elert dissected and scattered the melody throughout the work. (My edition actually has Xs under each note of the chorale to assist the performer.) Again this year, the Karg-Elert will be played at hundreds of churches across the U.S. on Thanksgiving Day and countless churchgoers will nod in recognition at its sounds.

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster



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Editor's Note

A few weeks ago, I was substituting in the Health Office at one of the schools in the Conval District. A faculty member, who knows I am a member of All Saints', came up to me and started to talk about what our church is doing by providing snacks for the students who need them. She got tears in her eyes as she said, "You will never know what it means to them. They aren't *different* from their classmates any more at snack time; they are the same--they fit in; they have something to eat like the rest of the kids."

Thank you, my dear Church Family.

November is gratitude month, and for many years I've spoken of the power of a written alphabetic gratitude list. Here's mine for 2017: **A** is for All Saints' Church. **B** is for the **B**ook of

Common Prayer. **C** is for the Choir. **D** is for 8@8 **D**inners. **E** is for Eucharist. **F**: Family. **G**: God. **H**: Holidays. **I**: Intuition. **J**: Jesus. **K**: Kairos. **L**: Love. **M**: Music. **N**: Nature. **O**: Outreach. **P**: Prayer. **Q**: Quiet. **R**: Reading. **S**: Community Supper. **T**: The Trinity. **U**: Us. **V**: Vestry. **W**: Work. **X**: X as in Xmas. **Y**: You. **Z**: Zion.

The deadline for the December *Messenger* is November 15. The theme will be "Celebrating the Season." Send your contributions to me at chow6565@gmail.com

With gratitude and great joy,

Christine