

The Messenger

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All Saints' Church • 51 Concord Street • Peterborough, NH 03458 • allsaintsnh.org

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Dear Parishioners,

“Behold what you are. May we become what we receive.”

Said at the breaking of the bread

We are in the season of Epiphany. Epiphany invites us to be open to insights and to how Christ's love is breaking upon us in new ways, giving us opportunities to explore what we believe we are and what we believe we are becoming. It's a time for reflection, a time to ponder how we can become more Christ-like.

I am discovering that those who want their lives to matter, whether they are Christian or not, really do want to become more Christ-like. We want our lives to count. We find a despairing limitation if life is centered only on nurturing one's ego. There should be more, something outside of ourselves, something or someday to help us connect with the mystery and power of life. We do not want to see our quests in life played out on a stage that is indifferent to our efforts or soulless in its character.

We want to talk about capacity rather than capabilities, or spaciousness rather than successes, or gratefulness rather than greatness. We want to engage with our own integrity, rather than feel a need to exaggerate or prove our worthiness. We want to feel whole and joyful, no matter our life circumstances. We want to believe in the power of community. We want to lean into possibility, into listening deeply to others' journeys, into seeing in truthful ways, and into making a baptismal difference, especially as we “strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.” At the end of our lives, we want to know that we were willing to risk in order to love. These risks come in a myriad of ways: by forgiving, showing mercy, practicing patience, letting go, trusting in gratitude, and committing to compassion.

In other words, we want to become more Christ-like. Most of us do.

I think our religious world should no longer be restrained by categories of religious identity – be it Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, etc., or that loosely termed phrase, “Nones.” I think these are becoming limiting categories. These simple categories assume that religions are monolithic and static and able to confer “automatically” on their adherents a loving way of living.

Rather than identify folks by their religious identification, let's define ourselves by what stance we take in life that is loving, giving and grace-filled. The “identification” of who we are will always take back burner to how we live our lives, how we walk the talk, and how we love. Yes, I am Christian; I am a priest, and I want to be identified with a people who want to be Christ-like. Those Christ-like folks are not always Christian, and they have been some of my best teachers.

Our lives are enlightened so that we may be the light of Christ in the world.

Blessings,

Jamie+

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CityReach

Sandi Albom

All Saints' teens will be traveling to the Common Cathedral CityReach program the weekend of February 15 and 16. As we have done in past years, we are asking for donations to bring with us as we serve alongside those persons experiencing homelessness. This year we are asking for donations of these items:

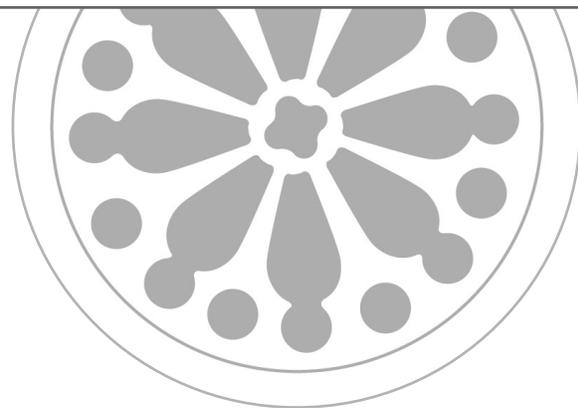
- **New socks, preferably white**
- **Men's underwear, especially sizes 2x and 3x**
- **Women's underwear(briefs) and bras, especially in larger sizes**
- **Thermal underwear**
- **Deodorant**
- **Facial moisturizer and hand cream**
- **Men's warm pants and sweaters (we have enough coats right now)**
- **Women's warm coats and sweaters (no pants please)**

Thank you for your continuing generosity and support of our teens.

CityReach is an overnight urban outreach program begun in March 1996 for youth (with accompanying adults), young adults, and college students from churches of any denomination.

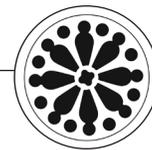
The program gives these young people the opportunity to learn firsthand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. During the 20 hour session, participants join CityReach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food and clothing. This is followed by times of sharing and reflection.

For more information about CityReach, visit commoncathedral.org.



Community Supper Ministry

Gail Caron



Alma's Poem

THE NEW YEAR

In this new year

Our believing makes clear

We've got nothing to fear

He'll guide us all the way

Everyday is a lovely day

When we read our Bible and pray

Make this the year

That others will hear

That God's love is true

And what he has done for you.

It's Tuesday, 5:25pm. The noise level is rising as people joyfully greet one another and begin to form the line awaiting the tinging of the bell that signals "Soup is on!" Where are we? The Community Supper in Reynolds Hall! Amie Spicer, our new chef, along with her dedicated corps of volunteers, has once again provided a meal to nourish our bodies as the camaraderie nourishes our hearts. Each week two soup options are offered: vegetarian and meat-based, along with salad, fresh bread and dessert.

Our volunteers include both All Saints' and community members, some of whom have been involved with the Community Supper for years. This winter is the twelfth year for the Supper. The Supper is sponsored by All Saints'. There is no charge, although donations are appreciated.

So, if you are attending a meeting on Tuesday evening, want to see friends, haven't time to cook, don't eat alone! Come join us. Soup is on at 5:30pm.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Shack by William P. Young

Louise Howlett & Paige Spaulding

Tuesdays, March 12 to April 2 • 6:30 to 7:30pm

On Tuesday, March 12th from 6:30 to 7:30pm, Adult Christian Education will begin its next session reading and discussing *The Shack*, a *New York Times* best seller from 2008-10. The novel shakes up traditional theology and wrestles faithfully with the questions of why God allows tragedy and where God is when we are in unspeakable pain. The Rev. Louise Howlett (M.Div., LMFT) and parishioner Paige Spaulding will facilitate an interactive discussion.

Patrick M. Roddy, *ABC News Emmy Award-winning producer*, reflected on his reading of the book, saying, "The Shack is a one of a kind invitation to journey to the very heart of God. Through my tears and cheers, I have been indeed transformed by the tender mercy with which Young opened the veil that too often separated me from God and from myself. With every page, the complicated do's and don'ts that distort a relationship into a religion were washed away as I understood Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the first time in my life."

Please bring your book with you. We will be watching the film at one session and if you have seen the movie and not read the book, we highly recommend you join us in reading it as well. If possible, read the first 5 chapters in preparation, but come even if you haven't!

We will meet in the Old Parish House. Sessions are free and all are welcome to attend one or all four evenings. And please join our weekly Tuesday evening Community Supper for a delicious homemade meal from 5:30 to 6:30pm at Reynolds Hall just preceding the discussion. For more information, call the church office at 924-3202.

Our Flood Wall

Deborah Waldo

Last year, when the Serendipity Shop flooded, we all agreed – it was time to install preventative measures. Toward that end, the Vestry discussed options and John Catlin’s firm designed a foundation flood wall to protect the building. Because the parish hall is adjacent to the river, it was necessary to apply for a Shoreline Protection Act permit. With the help of Don Scott and John Catlin, that permit was granted.

The goal was to install the wall before the late winter/early spring combination of heavy rain and ice dams created flood hazards. But as any of us who have attempted to book a contractor for a relatively small project know, it can take many contacts and weeks or months before a reputable contractor actually brings his crew to do quality work for a fair price (that is, no \$15,000 ‘surcharge’ for a small job). We got lucky. Winter weather was setting in. A larger project was canceled, and Doug Lawler installed our wall.

There was no time to add aesthetic touches because cold temperatures arrived with a vengeance. But we have our wall. In the spring,

the church leaders will decide how to finish the wall aesthetically. One economical recommendation is to sandblast the concrete, which will create a rough texture that matches the stucco exterior of the building, and paint the wooden inserts at the openings grey. Landscaping such as climbing hydrangeas could provide a finishing touch.

It is a work in progress!

Meanwhile, for the winter, we are leaving just one opening to access the lower entrances of Reynolds Hall. That way, if a flood danger occurs, only one covering has to be quickly installed. Phil Suter, Sonny Tavernier, Jamie, Tere Anderson, and Gretchen Rae have trained to receive a call (from Gail in the office or, indeed, from anyone), hasten to the hall, and install the door cover.

If you see an ice dam occurring, please call Gail in the office. During off hours, call one of the trained responders. If you would like to be a part of this emergency team, please let Gail know.

Thank you – and welcome to the flood watch team!



Thank goodness AllSaints’ doesn’t have to resort to such measures!

Saints’ Days

January

Andrew Goss	1/01
Lucas Gregory	1/02
Ryan Betz	1/05
Peter Oliver	1/05
Jerry Branch	1/06
Beth Krommes	1/06
Tommy Goodwin	1/06
Lillianne Tullio	1/07
Megan Graff	1/08
Charles Richmond	1/08
Christine Kelly	1/09
Mary Weis	1/12
Susan Sarles	1/12
Martha Raymond	1/17
Libby Twitchell	1/17
Susan Gill	1/18
Heather Peterson	1/19
Louise Lawrence	1/20
Claire Marlar	1/23
Finbarr McCullough	1/24
Laura Campbell	1/24
Elisabeth Foecking	1/25
Catherine Pendleton	1/25
Bailey Guinn	1/25
Judith Pratt	1/25
Lily Beyer	1/26
Elsbeth Pendleton	1/28
Naomi-Clare Praul	1/31
David Boothby	1/31

February

Isabelle Caruthers	2/02
Raven VanHorn	2/02
Susan Piscopo	2/04
Gail Anthony	2/12
Gerry Hallgrimson	2/12
David L. Simpson, Jr.	2/13
Stephen Fowle	2/13
Cynthia Naudascher	2/13
Deborah DeCicco	2/17
Carl Wagner IV	2/19
Tony Anthony	2/20
Michael Heddy	2/22
Elizabeth Smith	2/24
Louise Bryant	2/27
Margaret Baker	2/28

Angelita's Visit *A Christmas Gift*

Patty Wheeler

Angelita, one of the older children living at Centro Victoria in Juarez, Mexico, came to the US to visit me for almost 3 weeks, on December 17 – the height of consumerism in the United States. She asked me what Black Friday and Cyber Monday were. Being fully aware of her life and background, I found it incredibly difficult and somewhat embarrassing to explain these American phenomena. Also foreign to her were pillows, sheets (and sleeping between them), and being alone in a queen size bed (since she is never alone in a twin size bed). She had difficulty having a day without tortillas and refried beans and found that we in New Hampshire speak English too fast.

On a visit to speak to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in Marlborough, Angelita was asked if she felt badly that she did not have all the “things” that American children have/receive at Christmas. Angelita's response was quick: “No”, she said, “because that would change the person that I am.”

Before Angelita arrived, I wanted to show her and do with her as much as possible in her 3 weeks. I had a schedule and had enlisted family and friends. I quickly learned that I had fallen into the very “Busy American” pitfall and pulled back from about half of the activities. We certainly did do some wonderful trips: to Yankee Candle and to Boston, which she absolutely

loved. We went to a concert, a basketball game, and had dinners in and out with family and friends. But when asked what she liked most, Angelita replied, “Having tea with Patty and playing the card game UNO with her.”

My family and friends and I loved having Angelita with us. We tried hard to include her in all the holiday celebrations, we gave her gifts, and taught her as much English as we could cram into 3 weeks. But what she gave us was the gentle reminder that what makes us the people we are is not our possessions, and that having tea and playing UNO matter most.

Warm Food for Cold Nights

Kathy Boss

When Peterborough Food Pantry volunteer and All Saints' parishioner Cindy Naudascher noticed that Food Pantry customers would sometimes turn down fresh food and meat because they didn't have a way to cook it at home, she got to thinking. She approached me, the Executive Director of the Food Pantry, with an idea – what if the Pantry found a way to fund a purchase of crockpots and then made them available to folks who wanted and needed them?

In October Cindy put out a sign-up sheet at the Pantry to gauge interest. The response was resounding. More than 50 people said they could use a crockpot at home. The search for inexpensive crockpots and/or slow cookers began. Crockpots would give Pantry customers who didn't have a stove at home, or who had crazy busy lives between work and day care and other obligations, a way to cook warm healthy meals for their families.

The Rotary Club of Peterborough and the friends of the Peterborough Food Pantry stepped up with donations that covered the cost of the crockpots. In early December boxes and boxes of slow cookers arrived. True to the spirit of the Food Pantry where they make the most of everything, volunteers at the Pantry used the crockpots to create a prize-winning tree for the Peterborough Holiday Tree Competition to raise awareness about food insecurity. The tree came down the next day and, to the delight of Pantry customers, crockpots were given out to everyone who had requested them, and a few more!



VIEW FROM THE BENCH

Jeffrey L. Fuller, *Organist & Choirmaster*

NEUROTIC KENOTIC

I learned a new word recently from a church music journal: *kenosis* (*n.*), *kenotic* (*adj.*). Theologically, kenosis refers to Jesus' self-emptying of his own will in order to fulfill God's divine will. Neurotic refers to those among us who are perhaps destabilized by the stresses of daily living – clinically, a serious diagnosis, but in popular usage, perhaps a judgment that an individual is a “worry-wart,” stressing out as a way of life. Neurotic kenotic: One who stresses out over God's will.

Let me say that I don't think most people would judge me as neurotic. I'm not Alfred E. Neuman (What, me worry?), but neither do I dwell incessantly on what might go wrong or what's not going right. I generally deal with things as they come. Except... I do lose sleep over my role as a liturgical musician and how that impacts the choir and congregation.

Some people dislike, even dread, being in front of a large group of people to speak, sing, or even be publicly acknowledged. I'm not one of them. I relish the opportunity to play the organ, conduct a choir, or accompany a singer in public; I love to perform. Perhaps it's an adrenaline rush like that which motivates “extreme” athletes, or perhaps it's the hope of affirmation from those who listen. But performing is not what music in service of liturgy is or should be about.

I fully subscribe to the dictum that liturgical music should never be about performance. For chorister, organist, choirmaster, composer – the call to use one's musical talents in the service of the church is a call to share our gifts to lead and sustain the worship of God's people. Our artistic offering in the liturgy cannot simply be a performance for an audience, but must gather God's people in singing with one voice as they listen, sing or pray.

In an age in which we live as consumers seeking convenience and efficiency, most of us still recognize that a handwritten note prompts different feelings from an email; that a home-cooked meal tastes better than a microwaved one; and that singing hymns accompanied by live instrumentalists is more engaging than singing along to a CD. Why? Because the quality of an artistic offering does matter, and the creative power of the writer, the cook, or the musician – the one who offers – is indivisible from the gift itself. As part of the very being of the one who offers it, it in turn becomes part of those to whom it is offered.

It isn't too much of a stretch to suggest that this is the very act of kenosis. For a liturgical musician, the emptying of oneself into a musical endeavor is often the act that renders what would otherwise be but a technically accurate performance to be received as beautiful and deeply moving. Simply put, one cannot be a liturgical musician without being kenotic. And that's what also makes me, perhaps, a little... neurotic.

It is so easy (and even satisfying) for singers, organist and choirmaster alike to take pride in the quality of a performance of a piece of music as though that achievement were an end in itself. The challenge for those who provide music for our liturgies is not to impress, but to leave an impression, offering a part of ourselves to others – offering our love to one another. It is not just musical gifts we are called to share, but an actual part of who and what we are.

Did we do that last Sunday? Will we next Sunday or the Sunday after that? What about March 24th? I'm never going to get any sleep...

Book Note

Cassius Webb

Between the end of the Second World War (1945) and the Communist assumption of power in mainland China (1949), a Western-trained sociologist, Fei Xiaotong, published an account of the structure of life in rural China. This descriptive work, known in Chinese as *Xiangtu Zhongguo*, was later translated into English by Gary G. Hamilton and Wang Zheng and given the title *From the Soil: The Foundations of Chinese Society* (University of California Press, 1992).

This is an utterly absorbing work for anyone with even a passing interest in China, its history, people, and culture, or in sociology as a discipline. But although the author is a scholar, this succinct book does not sound “scholarly”. The English of *From the Soil* is matter-of-fact, downright blunt in places, and clearly the product of an author who cares deeply about the people and the country of which he writes and to which he belongs.

Writing for a Chinese readership, Fei must describe Western society in order to contrast it with the rural China he is depicting and analyzing. We, therefore, get to glimpse ourselves through Chinese eyes – an additional layer of fascination.

Confucianism, Daoism, and traditional ritual all play a substantial part in the life of the Chinese countryside, and Fei discusses how formative these are, and also how they reflect the emerging culture of ancient and modern China. For example, such concepts as “filial piety” are seen by Confucius as leading to peace of mind, as sons and daughters exercise imagination in pleasing their parents and thus enabling the household, and by extension the wider community, to function smoothly.

This is not a romantic view, but neither is it dismissive or pro-Western. Fei describes a deep divide between the governing assumptions of Western and Chinese societies, with an “organizational mode of association” producing certain results in the West, and a “differential mode” having completely different results in (rural) China. He even ties the development of monotheistic religions with an “omnipresent God” to the concepts of equality before God and impartial justice (not characteristic of Chinese traditional thought).

In their illuminating introduction and epilogue, Hamilton and Zheng suggest that this is a work that repays second and third readings. I will certainly return to it with high expectations, perhaps to understand the complexity of what modern, formally Marxist but practically commercial and imperial China is undergoing. It is extraordinary.



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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.



The Messenger

Editors' Note

In our previous issue, we invited All Saints' participants to share the ways in which we are all serving the community, and voila! Oh, the myriad of ways in which friends and members serve the needs of children in Juarez, of Food Pantry visitors in Peterborough, of the homeless in Boston. It is remarkable. Truly we are at work fulfilling our mission to use our talents to serve God and our neighbors, and of course, to grow in our faith as we serve.

All it takes is a cursory glance through any issue of *The Messenger* and it is easy to see why our newsletter is so widely read – by our parish, by our Diocese, and beyond! The thoughts and experiences and ways of serving that are shared by our members are inspiring. It is a privilege to gather them in one place and to share them with our fellow worshippers/seekers and with our church leaders.

Yours truly,

Deborah Waldo and Margaret Baker

Submissions are welcome!

All members and friends are invited to share your articles, letters, poems or printable artwork to

deborahwaldo18@gmail.com.