

Dear Parishioners,

*Alleluia, Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen indeed, Alleluia.*

I am writing my Easter letter to you in front of the fire, with another nor’easter raging, our third in less than two weeks. I take some comfort to see the word “easter” within my angst about another storm. So tired of winter, I am in search for any and all hints that remind me that spring will appear, with its new light, new warmth, and new buds breaking through the ground carrying new life--Life that will light the new fire for our Paschal Candle. Oh yes, Easter!

Holding onto this hope within this wild storm, I am reminded that the Resurrection appears everywhere. So powerful, Easter is not just contained within the Christian faith. This life force of creation, of renewal, of repair, of rebirth has been woven into our very nature, as part of our world, our essence, our very existence, as the core of our DNA. How blessed we are that our Christian faith is grounded in a Reality that manifests itself everywhere: Life can and will emerge out of Death. Rising is God’s nature and since all life is created in the image of God, we too are rising. Alleluia.

Sometimes, especially when people, often who are not Christian, complain about Christians’ obsession with sin, I sigh. How in the world did we minimize the power of God raising Jesus from the dead? Jesus’ saving act has less to do with our sins and more to do with Jesus’ relentless message that God brings life to empty places. And sometimes, if not often, those empty places are us. How are we, fragile people that we are, open to listening to how God is taking our empty places, and making us into a new people who are present to life, to each other and to the rising spirit of hope?

That’s why the womb and the tomb are essential images of the Christian faith. Both were empty. Mary’s womb, empty of human touch, is filled with the life force of God, which will bring grace, dignity, goodness and love to the world. And Jesus’ tomb, empty because of God’s touch, ushers in God’s Yes, yet again. Jesus is gone! And he’s busy! So gracious, Jesus first descends to Hell to resurrect us, even before he himself is resurrected.

We are always on God’s mind and in God’s heart. God is always saving us. We are an Easter people who have been saved from our relentless worry that we are not enough, into a people who can bring new life to empty places, both womb-like-projects that are teeming with life potential, or tomb-like-deaths that are heaving with loss and pain.

As we are present to each other’s wombs and tombs, we become the Body of Christ, woven and held together by the very nature of God’s rising spirit of hope within us.

May you and your family be blessed within our Easter promise,

*Jamie+*

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

Parish Office: (603) 924-3202 Office Hours M-Th 9 AM-2 PM

Web: allsaintsnh.org Office Email: [admin@allsaintsnh.org](mailto:admin@allsaintsnh.org)

Jamie Hamilton, Rector Email: [revjamie@allsaintsnh.org](mailto:revjamie@allsaintsnh.org)

**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.*

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**Sandi’s Column**



***The Messenger***

Sue Ernst, *Publisher* 207-716-2151

Christine Howe *Editor*, 759-5626

Brad Taylor *Assistant Editor* 924-6595

***Production***

Sue Ernst

Janet Fiedler Steve Fowle

Bev Kemp

Alma Ruth

Charlie Ruth

Bob Weathers

OFFICERS AND VESTRY

*Senior Warden*

Phil Suter

*Junior Warden*

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Tim Riley

Sally Steere

*Take my hands and let them move*

*At the impulse of thy love.*

This line of Frances Havergal’s lyric to the lovely hymn “Take my Life and Let it Be” describes a central focus of ministry for me. As a nurse and massage therapist, and now as pastor and chaplain, I know the gifts of hands and of touch are not to be underestimated.

I don’t believe that we can ever truly understand just how essential touch is to our spiritual, emotional and physical well-being. Our hands are for giving and receiving; they simultaneously touch and feel. We know touch from the very moment of our birth and know it to the very moment of our death.

In the past few months I have been accompanying several hospice patients who are afflicted by varying degrees of dementia. One woman in particular has become non-verbal and rarely responds to words. When I am with her I will read or pray or even sing, but I receive little to no discernable response. One morning as I sat next to her, I touched her hand and it felt very cold. There was a bottle of lotion at her bedside and I took some, warmed it with my palms and started to massage her hand in mine. To my surprise, she looked me in the eyes--something that had not happened before in the times we had been together.

“That is nice”, she sighed and closed her eyes.

The ministry of touch is the ministry of presence. Our scripture gives witness to the power of touch and the hand of God over and over and over. Prophets anointed kings and Jesus and the apostles laid hands upon many in the name of God and healed them in body, mind and spirit. The woman with the long history of hemorrhage was relieved of her suffering and isolation by the faith and hope she received by simply touching Jesus’ robe.

On April 14, Bishop Rob will place his hands upon my head; the clergy who are present will also place their hands upon me, and we all pray for the Holy Spirit to “fill her with grace and power”, as I am ordained priest. Then, the bishop will anoint my hands with holy oil, saying,

Consecrate and bless, O Lord, these hands through this oil and our blessing so that whatsoever they consecrate, may be consecrated, and whatsoever they bless, may be blessed and made holy in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is a powerful blessing and one filled with a deep trust that in each moment, God will guide my hands and my heart to move at the impulse of God’s love. May I, with God’s and all of your help, faithfully fulfill the ministry of presence to which you have called me.

In Jesus’ name I pray.

Amen.

*Sandi*

**Easter Greetings**  
This is the day that the Lord has made  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118 vs24  
  
Each sunrise reminds us  
Where our faith finds us  
As the darkness takes flight  
We worship the Lord of light  
We know he lives  
And welcome the blessings He gives.  
  
Love, Alma

**Happy Spring from your Vestry**

A little skeptical of that greeting? We agree! As I write, we have just experienced our third major snowstorm in two weeks, and we are buried under two feet of snow. But we are New Englanders, and we must remain patient and hopeful. I think of a line from one of my favorite movies, *The Peaceful Warrior,*"There is never nothing going on." So, while it might sound like too many negatives or poor English, it does speak of the power of the unseen. Deep under that snow, something is indeed going on.

So too with your vestry. Your new vestry members and officers are in place and it is a privilege to work with such a diverse and talented group. Some of us are currently learning more about the specifics of our church finances in relationship to how we function, our association with the diocese and to better understand our fiduciary responsibilities. Others are getting ready to attend a Lay Leadership conference at the diocesan level to hone and enrich our skills for their best use in our church roles and as a Christian community. Most of us are working with the Episcopal Church Foundation Capital Campaign Consultant, Leslie Pendleton in several capacities to finalize the presentation of the goals we have all been working toward for at least a year now which will launch us into the future we envision. This on the footsteps of the publicity we got on*NH Chronicle* on March 12, highlighting All Saints' Church, its beauty and its history. As Fritz Wetherbee said, "It is a gem."

All Saints’ is a gem that plans to shine on for another 100 years with your help and divine guidance.

Happy Spring to all of us,

*Madelyn Morris*, Vestry

**Our True Nature**

It’s the mind’s true nature…

To be open-and never to rest

From seeking what is better…

Until it finds what’s best.

It’s the heart’s true nature…

To be grateful-and never be afraid

It’s blest with hope and wonder…

It’s where the future’s made.

It’s the spirit’s true nature…

To be giving-and to receive thereby

Ever growing as we’re living…

‘til it cannot be denied.

It’s the soul’s true nature …

To create-more than was there before

And it’s when souls touch that we find…

What we are here for...

So, if ever you are troubled

Or feel you’ve lost your way

Remember your true nature…

And begin again that day.

*Andy Peterson*

**An Unexpected and Unplanned Lenten Journey**

I have always observed Lent as I eagerly awaited Easter with its magnificent promise of Life triumphing over Death. I have had my feet washed on Maundy Thursday with tears streaming down my face, sat alone in the spooky dark for the Vigil, and was heartbroken each and every Good Friday for those ominous three hours. Lent to me meant extra prayers each morning, ‘giving up something’ like dessert or wine, and taking the 40 days seriously as I awaited the Good News of Easter morning.

This year Lent was very different for me and like none other!

Unbeknown to me, my Lent was to start on December 26, literally the day after we celebrated the Birth of the Son of God. My asthma with pneumonia and collapsed lungs hit like a Mac truck. I could not turn it around despite my best efforts. I entered Monadnock Community Hospital on New Year’s Eve for what was to begin a total of five hospital stays spanning six weeks, including Brigham & Women’s Hospital in Boston. The irony of December 31 being the date of my last day of being the Executive Director at Touchstone Farm is not lost on me! God does have a sense of humor!

I had always envisioned Jesus wandering alone in the desert in his dusty robes. I imagined he searched and wondered and worried, unsure of his future and working to face his fears. He gave up his normal routine, his friends, his home, his mission, his bed. As I lay in the hospital tethered to my unfamiliar bed, helpless and scared and searching for my next breath, I felt like Jesus in that far off desert. I wondered and worried if I was going to live. I wondered if I would have a future. I was afraid. Jesus’s Lent took on a profound new and deepened meaning. Lent became more than reciting a few extra prayers, ‘giving up chocolate’ and eating more fish.

The Good News of Easter that is proclaimed from my mountain top is that my faith, my family and my friends, especially my All Saints’ friends and family, were solidly with me throughout my profound Lenten Journey. My four children, my two sibs, my farm family and you all, my All Saints’ Family, were there holding me, supporting me, encouraging me, and helping me to find that life-granting next breath. I felt surrounded and wrapped in God’s love with lots of ‘skin on’ with my hand held, my face washed, prayers and communion, notes and visits. These simple, yet profound gestures, made all the difference.

As I eagerly await coming back to church for the first time since Christmas, Easter takes on extra special meaning for me this year. Eggs and bunnies and lilies and new life and joy and celebration and hope and faith and triumph and joy all loom large in my mind. I can’t wait to see you and celebrate new life together.

I will truly invite Easter into my heart as I take away some hard-won Lenten learnings. These three months of expectant waiting and reflection have taught me the precious gift of time and peace instead of ‘doing’ and ‘producing’. I have also learned the true gift of connection…of prayer, conversation and communion. Just “being” is enough. I don’t always have to be working and striving and accomplishing. Sitting in the sunshine in a rocking chair being thankful is plenty. God did indeed carry me in his arms as I safely made it though these turbulent waters.

My Lenten Journey has made me eager and ready for Easter. I look forward to sharing the celebration of all that is good and right, bright and beautiful as health triumphs over sickness, good over evil, and joy over sadness. Together, we will be the Easter People as we proclaim the certainly of God’s Goodness and Mercy.

With love and gratitude for All Saints’,

*Boo Martin*

**Capital Campaign Kick-Off Celebration Dinner**

*Save the Date!*

**Friday, May 4**

Details to follow*…*

*Campaign Managers Jack Calhoun and Rod Falby*

**Healing Prayer Ministry**

At the 10 AM Eucharist on Sunday, March 11, Nina Pollock shared some of her experience of prayer: her own personal prayer life and her experience with the Sunday and weekday prayer ministry at All Saints’. After the service the Sunday Healing Prayer Ministry team met for coffee and conversation and were joined by the rector, curate and several parishioners who expressed interest in joining us. We shared some of the history of healing prayer in the wider Church and of this ministry at All Saints’, as well as stories of our own experiences of and feelings about praying aloud with others. We also reviewed guidelines regarding confidentiality, attempted to answer questions and ended with free form prayers for ourselves and those we love.

On Sunday, April 22, following the 10 AM service we will hold a training session for parishioners who are discerning a call to this ministry. Current members who would like a refresher course are encouraged to join us and may help by sharing their stories as one time “newbies”. After the training, anyone who would like to join this ministry and be added to the schedule for the next few months may begin as a silent, listening prayer partner with a more experienced member.

Please feel free to ask any of the Sunday Healing Prayer team members (Nina Pollock, Betsy Fowle, Beth Healy, Ellen Avery, Laura Campbell, Marilyn Weir, Chris Howe and Tanya Roberts) about this ministry.

To help us plan, please be in touch with Nina Pollock (nina.pollock@gmail.com) or me (revbets@aol.com or 535-3571) to RSVP for the training on April 22. We will meet in the Old Parish House parlor for refreshments following the 10 AM service and aim to finish the session by 12:30 PM.

*Betsy Fowle*, for the Sunday Healing Prayer Team

**The Life, Death, and Witness of Jonathan Daniels,**

*New Hampshire Martyr*

On April 8 and 15, after the 10 AM services, get your coffee and come over to the parlor in the Old Parish House for a two-part program on Jonathan Daniels and his legacy, led by Anne and Cassius Webb.

At the time of his murder in Alabama in 1965, Jonathan Daniels was a seminarian at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts and a parishioner of St. James’ Church, Keene. He had responded to the call of Martin Luther King to come to Alabama to march for voting rights and had then taken a leave of absence from his studies to continue this work. He was killed shielding a black fellow-activist twelve days after the passage of the Voting Rights Act. He was added to the Episcopal Church calendar as a martyr in 1991.

On April 8, there will be a conversation about the context of Jonathan’s life and death. On April 15, we will watch the award-winning documentary film on Daniels’ life “Here Am I: Send Me”, followed by discussion.

*Cassius Webb*

**April Saints’ Days**

4/02 Sylvia DeVinne

Carol Walsh

4/03 Nick Morris

4/06 Alexandra Catlin

4/07 Catriona Row

Chris Tourgee

4/09 David Clinkenbeard

Bill Gill

Sam Hulbert

4/12 William Finlayson

John Koch

Cassius Webb

4/14 Betsy Fowle

Jana Kiely

4/15 Anna Graff

Elizabeth Graff

4/16 Bria Frehner

Rylan James

4/19 Morgan Humphrey

4/20 Sarah Scott

4/21 Alice Weir

4/22 Josephine Wheeler

4/23 Mary Lynn Griffith

4/27 Nina Gatto

4/27 Hayden James

Steve Smillie

4/28 Colin Fuller

Jeff Fuller

Greg Naudascher

4/29 Charlie Beyer

Lisa Koziell-Betz

Myron Steere

4/30 Grace Phillips

Joe Schultz

**Book Note**

Most of us who take the Bible seriously but have little or no Greek or Hebrew are frustrated from time to time by reading a passage the sense of which eludes us. “I wish I knew what it really says!” Mostly, the best we can do is read a variety of different translations, and if they have notes about particular passages, read those as well. This is the artillery approach: bracket the true original meaning of the text by shooting over it, under it, and to either side of it.

The first problem, as always, is that languages are not just codes: a word in one language may not have an exact equivalent in any other. It is shaped by the context of the people who use it.

The second problem, in the case of the biblical languages, is that, although biblical Hebrew and Greek do have modern counterparts, they are still the languages of a remote past and of alien civilizations. How are we to take, say, parables about commonplace Palestinian situations of the first century? Or advice about behavior in a Christian community in a Graeco-Roman city?

Some aspects of these texts we will never understand, to be sure. We have no access to the passing slang, the subversive digs, the unspoken taboos of those times and places. (I am currently reading Kipling’s stories of British India, and parts of them are mysterious enough!)

But some things are accessible to scholars with linguistic fluency, access to other contemporaneous texts, and a sympathetic yet critical ear for what is actually being said.

I have recently come across *The New Testament: A Translation,* by David Bentley Hart (Yale University Press, 2017). This is a one-person translation, not the product of a committee, like the King James or any of the Revised Standard Version family. His aim, he says, is to translate the text “as if doctrine is not given”—free, that is, of any historical presuppositions of what a text *should* mean. He is himself Eastern Orthodox, but thoroughly conversant with the legacy of Western translations, and refers frequently to a word’s usage in Josephus, Philo, and other First-Century Greek writers. But he attempts to give us a better “feel” for the original by sticking as closely as possible to the actual text, even when it makes for clumsy or peculiar English. For most New Testament writers, Greek was a second or third language; the Greek they wrote and spoke was a simplified, commercial lingua franca in the Mediterranean world, not classical Greek. Some of them, for example, mix tenses in the same sentence. Mark 6:1 thus reads, in Hart’s rendering: “And he departed from there, and comes into his native country, and his disciples follow him.”

On the other hand, Hart does not stop half way in translating the epithet *Christos.* Traditional English merely Anglicizes the Greek into “Christ”. Some recent versions give instead the English form of the Hebrew and Aramaic form behind the Greek, “Messiah”. But Hart simply translates the literal meaning of both the Greek and the Hebrew; thus, “Anointed”. Likewise, with the word usually translated “Gospel”; here we have “good tidings”. So Paul’s letter to the Romans begins: “Paul, a slave of the Anointed One Jesus, called an Apostle, having been set apart for God’s good tidings….”

In one notable instance, Hart decides not to translate at all, but to leave the Greek as it stands. John’s gospel begins: “In the origin there was the Logos, and the Logos was present with God, and the Logos was god [sic]; This one was present with God in the origin.” He explains and justifies his choices at some length in the footnotes and in his “Concluding Scientific Postscript” (either homage to, or a dig at, Kierkegaard). That and the Introduction make for quite lively, sometimes combative but thoughtful, reading. And his translation of Romans is a revelation (as is, for that matter, his translation of Revelation). It is a work that beguiles the reader to devour whole books at a gulp; and you will never see them in quite the same way if you do. As Rowan Williams comments on the jacket, this translation “makes us see with new clarity just what was and is uncomfortably new about the New Testament.”

*Cassius Webb*

**Faithful Stewards of God’s Purpose...***Here for All, Here for Good*

During the past two years, your vestry has engaged in ongoing discernment and actions, to involve All Saints’ Church in a major fund-raising capital campaign. Moving forward with our campaign efforts offers each us an opportunity to join together and actively work to achieve God’s purpose in our lives and the lives of others. The capital campaign is an exciting, inclusive call to look to the future of All Saints’. We anticipate the campaign will enable our church to continue to accomplish extraordinary things during the next 100 years!

Throughout the Discernment and Case Study phases of the process, your vestry has been firmly committed to focusing on the importance of the WHY in guiding our decision making. The pragmatic decisions of WHAT we will do and HOW we will accomplish our goals must be firmly grounded in the WHY of God’s vision for us.

The WHY of our decision to embark on the challenge of a capital campaign is based upon beliefs that are key in sustaining our All Saints’ community of faith and serving God for the good of all. These beliefs cluster around several themes that emerged during our cottage meeting discussions a year ago. These four themes include:

* Our desire to join together and participate in inspiring worship and prayer.
* Our commitment to fostering a sense of welcome and safe access for all.
* Our support and outreach within our parish and our community.
* Our responsibility to serve as faithful stewards of the blessings and resources bestowed on All Saints’.

Using these beliefs as a foundation, the vestry reflected on our needs and compiled a list of priorities for funding. These priorities were determined using feedback from the cottage meetings, recommendations from the Building and Grounds Committee, and survey results from the Case Study Report. Proposed projects were shared in the Case Study Report and at annual meeting.

During February and March, the Campaign Committee, under the leadership of Jack Calhoun and Rod Falby, we continued making preparations for the final fund-raising phase of our campaign. To date, the following have been accomplished:

* During March, about 25 volunteers were recruited and trained to serve as campaign worker members of the Calling Committee. Training of volunteers was conducted by Leslie Pendleton, Consultant, Episcopal Church Foundation. Members of the Calling Committee will be making contacts to arrange visits to the homes of parishioners, during the general solicitation phase of the campaign. Visits will occur during May and June.
* A campaign brochure has been designed. The brochure includes a description and estimated costs for project priorities and links each project to one of our foundational beliefs. The brochure will be shared during upcoming home visits by the Calling Committee.
* During late March through April, parishioners may make a gift in advance of the general solicitation phase of the campaign.

What’s next…how do you become involved?

* On May 4, the general solicitation phase of the campaign begins with a Kick Off Celebration Dinner. The event is a time to come together in fellowship, as well as an opportunity to share information regarding gifts that have been already received. RSVP information for the Kick Off event will be made available during April.
* During April, May or June, you’ll be contacted by a member of the Calling Committee, asking to schedule a home visit. The home visit will be an opportunity to:
  + Receive information and ask questions about proposed projects.
  + Receive information regarding options for contributing to the funding of projects. Campaign pledges may be made over
  + Receive information regarding contributions to an endowment fund, or bequest (such as a planned gift of stock, property, or charitable trust.) These gifts are intended to support All Saints’ during the next 100 years.

NOW is the opportunity for us to come together in supporting the capital campaign. To meet our campaign goals and fulfill the vision we share for All Saints’, gifts of any amount are appreciated and essential. Please prayerfully consider the role you can play in realizing this vision and supporting our ministries as All Saints’ begins its second century.

No matter how you decide to help…Thank you!

*Greg Naudascher*, for the Vestry

All Saints’ Church

51 Concord Street

Peterborough NH 03458

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**Editor’s Note**

Another April, another new Volume of *The Messenger*. This is Number 1 of Volume IX—we started this newsletter in April 2010 and have published ten or 11 issues each year since then. I give thanks for the hundreds of blessed Saints who have written, proofread, edited, and published *The Messenger* over the years. On my computer I have 16 photos taken from our first birthday party in 2011…I wish I could print them all here. The cake had candles positioned to say “73,” for that’s how many volunteers had helped that year. By 2015 over 150 of us had contributed, and that’s when I stopped keeping track. The theme of this month’s *Messenger* is “Spreading the Word,” and I’d say that our newsletter helps us do that. Every story, every announcement in every issue of *The Messenger* is a testament to the faith in action of our church. We have much to be grateful for.

In this issue, Jamie reminds us that we are an Easter people who have life and hope to bring to the world. Sandi anticipates her ordination to the priesthood on April 14, praying that her hands and heart bring God’s love to those she serves. Madelyn tells us what’s going on with the vestry, Boo writes of her profound experience of the love of God at All Saints’, and Cassius both invites us to learn more about Jonathan Daniels and also writes of an exciting translation of the New Testament.

Greg brings us up to date on our upcoming capital campaign and Nina invites all interested folk to April 22 training for the Healing Prayer Ministry. Poems by Alma and Andy and a recognition of Saints’ Days complete this issue.

Please send your comments, columns and suggestions to me at [chow6569@gmail.com](mailto:chow6569@gmail.com). The theme for May will be “Growing in Faith. The deadline will be April 18.

With much gratitude and great joy,

*Christine*