



THE MESSENGER

September 2017, Volume 8 Number 5

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.

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Here in Peterborough seems transplanted an ancient English rural Church, but with a difference. In All Saints' there is light and spaciousness, movement and life.

The American Magazine of Art, September, 1926

Dear Parishioners,

Sometimes, in the middle of the day, I will slip away with the beautiful brass church key in hand (have you seen the key? If not, please ask me to show it to you), and I will open the front doors to the church, just to sit. Sometimes I pray, but often I just sit and take in the play of light and spaciousness and movement streaming through the church windows. In so many ways, experiencing the sitting and resting and feeling is a prayer with no words.

Life. I am held not only by the dance of light and space and stone in the present moment, but also by the past parishioners and the future ones who have and will walk through our doors. I feel a community of angels, many names unaware sitting with me in prayer. Rooted in the Body of Christ that transcends time, present always, yet out of our reach, is the gift we have been given in this ancient future we call Church.

I like the term *ancient future*: We are held together by early traditions that echo from the days Jesus walked the earth, and we believe these ancient rituals will also shape our future, one identified by hope and love and trust. As I sit in the nave and look up to the vaulting of the ceiling, I know that I am in the keel of a ship, and this is God's ship. And we are on a journey, all of us together, past, present and future, and that we have and will continue to make a difference. This is part of All Saints' legacy. We are blessed with a confidence that love is stronger than death, a trumpet sound that that world is eager to hear.

Through our recent cottage meeting conversations, we shared our stories of how we have been touched by the Spirit of the Ancient Heart of Love and why we call All Saints' our home. In those conversations, we identified that we are living into God's dream for us through our ministries. We worship and pray; we welcome and include; we seek and learn; and we tend and serve.

These four areas of ministry emerged through our conversations, as were two common threads: the impact that our beautiful sanctuary and its surrounding grounds has on our worship and spiritual experience, and the need to address safety and accessibility so that all feel as if they belong. We are practicing radical hospitality and it is shaping how we live and move and have our being.

As I write, we are "mobilizing" our property in preparation for demolition and the building of a new parking lot; we are organizing a day of prayer in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Charlottesville, VA; and we are providing lunch for hungry kids throughout the week with the abundance of our snacks gathered on Sundays. All God's work we are blessed to do.

We are the ancient future; and the world needs us to lead the way.

Blessings,

Jamie+

Church School News

Exciting happenings taking place at Church School this coming fall at All Saints'!

Registration and Blessing of the Backpacks – September 10

We will start back on September 10 with Church School registration. Students, bring your backpack to church on that day, as we begin a new tradition with the **Blessing of the Backpacks** taking place at the Homecoming service at 9:30 AM.

Communion Enrichment Program

Beginning on Sunday, September 17, we will begin **Communion Enrichment**. Children of all ages will be learning about the sacrament of the Eucharist and will explore what it means to them as young Christians and members of the All Saints' family. Parents, you are invited to attend the classes, too!

Three classes will be held on September 17, 24 and October 1. A "retreat day" will be held on October 14, from 9 - 11 AM, when the children will prepare bread to share at the October 15 Eucharist celebrations.

Please note: It is not necessary to attend all classes to participate.

Throughout the time the children will spend in Communion Enrichment, we will also be sharing reflections and resources for the entire parish to enjoy. May this be a time for all of us to contemplate our own relationship to the Lord's Supper.

Calling all teachers and helpers!

Are you willing to answer the call to help in Church School as a teacher or a helper? Come and see what a lively and fun time we have with the children. They would love to see you and to share their joy with you!

Safe Church guidelines require us to have more than one adult in the classroom and it's important that we meet this important safety standard. If you were to volunteer one Sunday in the fall and once in the spring, we would have all the people we need to be with our children!

Please see Rev. Jamie or Sandi Albom to find out more about what you can do to help.

Church School Schedule Fall 2107

September 10	Registration and Blessing of the Backpacks
September 10, 17 and October 1	Communion Enrichment Program classes
October 8 (Columbus Day)	NO CHURCH SCHOOL
October 15	Communion Enrichment Sunday (10 AM service)
October 22 and 29	Holy Moly Curriculum
November 5 – 26	Holy Moly Curriculum
December 3 - 17	Holy Moly Curriculum
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	NO CHURCH SCHOOL
December 31 (New Year's Eve Day)	NO CHURCH SCHOOL

Christmas Pageant

Christmas Pageant sign-up will take place on November 19. More to come...

Sandi Albom, Curate

THE MESSENGER

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Alma's Poem

Doing God's work

That's something I'd love to do
But just between me and you
There are some problems as we age
And I have reached the stage
When getting to town is a big event
My slowing down I don't resent
A grandchild's visit makes my day
I love more time to meditate and pray
Maybe that's the answer to my prayer:
Pray for others and show I care.

Love, *Alma*

Please become a Publishing Volunteer!

The Messenger publication staff needs volunteers!

Please let Sandi Albom, 924-3202, know if you can help print *The Messenger* on the fourth Monday of the month. We use the copier in the church office and it takes a few hours to get the job done.

We also need help preparing our newsletter for mailing. Please let Gail Anthony, 924-3534, know if you can volunteer for two or three hours on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Saintly News

Congratulations to:

- ❖ Jody Simpson for being named the 2017 recipient of the Choral Arts New England Lifetime Achievement Award
- ❖ Anna and Ellie Graff for winning the 2017 New Hampshire Environthon from Conant High School
- ❖ Co-Authors Kirsten and Virginia Peterson on their new book: *History 1890-2015 of the Formation of the City of Mill Creek Washington*

If you would like to share a special news item or a happy occasion with the parish, please email Gloria Schultz at glojoemointheglen@gmail.com or call 924-9489.

HOME COMING WEEKEND

Saturday, September 9, 5 PM Reynolds Hall

Sunday, September 10, 9:30 AM Church

Adult Education 2017-18

The Rebirthing of God – starts Thursday September 4

All Saints' Adult Education 2017-18 series of book discussions will start on Thursday, September 14 at 7 PM, with an examination of John Philip Newell's inspirational book **The Rebirthing of God**, led by Philip Huckins. The discussion will focus on the opportunity to sit and examine our individual and community relationship to and understanding of God. To better have the discussion take on life beyond the meeting room door, our work will thrive not on answering questions, but on asking important questions about how we can give birth to a new and vibrant communion with God. One of the guiding tenets of our work together is that God loves us and wants our companionship. One of the opening questions will be, "How does God show God's love and gratitude for us?" We look forward to sharing the experience with you.

We will meet four Thursdays from 7-8 PM, September 14-October 5 in the Old Parish House parlor. You are welcome to attend one or all four evenings and please bring a friend.

Questions? Email *Beth Healy* bhealyee@gmail.com

Vestry News

It is my pleasure on behalf of the vestry to welcome you back from summer vacations, special family gatherings, adventures and wanderings! A new church year is upon us. As we gather harvests in our gardens, send our children back to school and watch the transformation of the season, we see that our church home has been undergoing its own transformations. Demolition of the buildings for the construction of the new parking lot and restructuring of the office to accommodate new staff are visible signs of progress.

Your vestry has been kept busy building upon the momentum from this past spring and early summer. Various *ad hoc* committees have been working diligently throughout the summer months with great thoughtfulness to restructure the staffing needs identified and position us for the future we are collectively building. It has been my privilege personally to work on a Vision Committee this summer to move the themes identified through the spring cottage meetings during the Discernment Phase into a tangible framework for the Feasibility Phase we are entering this fall.

Jonathan Swift, a satirist and poet, once said, "Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others." The creative

process of taking ideas and transforming them into visible goals and actions is hard work. Our brainstorming took into context important and dedicated work begun during the search years for our rector, Jamie.

It is a journey All Saints' has been on for some time now, transforming from a smaller pastoral church model to a growing program church model. For those of us, like me, who are new to this terminology, this basically means that the priest does not lead every program or ministry exclusively but relies on licensed or trained lay persons to participate and lead in many dynamic roles overseen by the priest and vestry liaisons.

With continued input from its members, All Saints' is on a path of growth with strong clergy and lay ministry leadership positioned for some exciting work ahead. Building on the sacred foundations laid, the will of God and the people, we invite you to come and see, ask questions and help us move forward. Let's build something beautiful in our time. I know I'm excited and ready to keep working. Happy Homecoming!

Madelyn Morris, Vestry Member

Book Note

Those fortunate enough to have completed the third year of the Education *for* Ministry program in recent years have encountered, in most cases with great enjoyment, Diarmaid MacCulloch's *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years* (Penguin, 2010). So have many others: it was a *New York Times* Bestseller. Not necessarily what you'd expect for a tome of 1184 pages (almost 100 of them notes and bibliography) by the Professor of the History of the Church at Oxford.

But MacCulloch is many things: a great and productive scholar, a gifted teacher, an insider as the child of a Church of England rector, an outsider who clearly loves a Church he no longer, I believe, claims for his own. The search for truth, in the highways and notably in the byways of the past, seems the cord that binds together this immense yet disciplined book.

Even the subtitle displays the strategy of the educator at work. "*Three Thousand Years?*" Is that a misprint? He has already engaged us in his contention that the coming of Christ itself had a context, and not just in the previous millennium of Israel's history, but also in the Mediterranean world of earlier empires and civilizations. From there he takes us through the development of the "Jesus movement" in East and West, including the non-Hellenistic East often neglected by Church historians: the Syriac Churches, the Armenians, the Copts and Ethiopians, whose struggles have recently come to the fore in our own day.

Throughout, we are told of the relationship of worldly power to the paths taken by Christian bodies. As we come to modern times, the function of women, the leadership of lay people, the effects of the Second Vatican Council on the churches, liberation theology, the churches' complicity in and attempts to redress racial oppression, are all addressed with the compassionate wit and energy that makes this book such a joy to read. There are nuggets of pure gold in here, and the prospecting with such a well-prepared and helpful guide is well worth the need for persistence. And there are constant cross-references to refresh your memory or alert you to future delights, and to his stunning color plates.

As an appetizer, or for dessert, MacCulloch has also produced a six-part documentary series, "A History of Christianity," originally for the BBC.

In both book and television series, amid all the regrettable aspects of the Church's past, there is an irrepressible note of hope and confidence. This has been, after all, only "*The First Three Thousand Years*".

Cassius Webb

The Feast of the Transfiguration 2017

Exodus 34: 30 *Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.*

Peter 1:15 *...we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty...*

Luke 9:29 *And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.*

Encountering God changes us.

The Israelites knew immediately that something monumental had happened to Moses. He was transformed. He didn't look the same. After he realized how he was affecting others, Moses had to veil his face because his radiance was overwhelming to human sensation.

Peter reports he and his companions saw with their own eyes the majesty, the glory of Jesus as he was transfigured.

And Luke describes that Jesus's face and even clothing were altered. *Dazzling* is a powerful, exuberant, happy word. Things that dazzle bring joy, zest, sparkle to our lives.

The words describing the Transfiguration and its foreshadow, the transformation of Moses, are wonderful words.

Thirty-eight years ago, I became an Associate of the Society of St Margaret, an Episcopal religious order for women whose headquarters are in Duxbury, Massachusetts. *An Associate is a witness in the world to the value of living an intentional, prayerful life in the world.*

After I worked with the Associate Sister and developed a Rule of Life, our relationship was formalized in a Service of Commitment, and I was presented with a two-inch silver cross inscribed with the words *per angusta ad augusta*—through suffering to wisdom.

I recall walking down the center aisle of the chapel on that July day so many years ago after I got my cross. I recollect the clothes I was wearing. I remember smiling with tears in my eyes. At the reception afterwards, more than one person told me my face was glowing, that I looked radiant.

By nature, I am a person prone to melancholy. It runs in my family...our natural state is wistful, regretful, self-critical. But at a retreat at Saint Margaret's a few years after I became an Associate, their supervising priest, Father Richard Valantasis, gave an amazing sermon in which he said, "Conversion is the gathering up of the fragments of our lives."

And this sounds mightily like some lines from "The Promises" of Alcoholics Anonymous. "If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we

are going to be amazed before we are half way through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We are not going to regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it...We will see how our experiences can benefit others..."

How does it happen? Is it automatic that we go from suffering to wisdom? Does age alone season us, mellow us out and make us glow with serenity and wisdom?

No, it's not inevitable.

I can't change my dysthymic body chemistry any more than I can change my blue eyes or the size of my hands. This is who and what I am.

But I can be open to the transformative, supernatural, dazzling power of encountering God.

The fragments of my life—those things of which I am proud and those things of which I am ashamed—are redeemed by God's love.

Moses and Jesus put themselves in a place—on mountaintops actually—and opened themselves up to become ready to receive the powerful love of God poured into them, transforming them, preparing them, enabling them to go out to do God's work.

Each of us has a story and a message. Each of us can be converted, gathered up, transformed. We need deny nothing about ourselves. We need not cover up our foibles and follies. We need not pretend to be more than we are.

But, we need to open ourselves up to the transformation. We need to sit still and listen.

Scientists and physicians and teachers and yogis and priests and rabbis and self-help gurus all tell us that there is one thing that will change our lives—for the better—immediately we do it.

That is meditation. Sitting for ten minutes a day with feet firmly planted on the ground, eyes closed and hands open, ready to receive God's love—just sitting will transfigure you and me.

AMEN

Christine Howe

Juarez - June 26 - July 4, 2017

A group of 24 students and adults traveled to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico to be with the children of Centro Victoria. I was very grateful for the many young strong bodies this year as we were asked to help lay a large area of cement in front of the new athletic building for which we laid the foundation last year.

In addition to our work, we were blessed to be able to attend two events involving the Centro Victoria children:

1. A graduation of six students from secondary to prep school. Student progress like this may be normal for our children, but is critical for these children and not at all guaranteed. It was important that we were there to celebrate with them.
2. A Tae Kwan Do competition. Several teachers from a large Tae Kwan Do studio in Juarez from have been volunteering to come twice a week to Centro Victoria to teach this martial art to the children. This has given the children not only physical benefits but self-confidence and pride in their accomplishments. It is something that children in poverty do not have the opportunity in which to participate.

Our web site, hopeinjuarez.org, gives a good review and lots of pictures of this wonderful trip.

Updates and Future events:

1. Thanks to help from All Saints' Scholarship Fund, we are able to ensure that Daniela, who has had a particularly challenging past, will be able to attend El Paso Community College in the fall. Daniela graduated high school with honors and hopes to pursue studies in chemistry.
2. Max, my grandson, and I will be presenting on Centro Victoria at the NEA conference in the fall, bringing a state-wide focus to our work there.
3. We are making plans for a November trip. If interested, please contact me as soon as possible by phone or email: patriciakwheeler@aol.com or 924-8749.

It is a blessing to travel to Centro Victoria. It is not only a blessing to work with all the children there but to travel with wonderful people from All Saints' and beyond. One of those wonderful people is Heidi Graff and her family. She put the following sentiments in an email to me shortly after returning from Centro Victoria and I asked her if I could share her thoughts with you. Here is what she wrote:

I am grateful for the opportunity to be involved for so many reasons:

1. It is a great reminder that we are all *beyond fortunate* for the life into which we were born.
2. Having my teenage daughters recognize their good fortune is such a grounding experience for them which I hope will continue to influence who they are throughout their lives.
3. It is just plain fun to play with the kids and continue to get to know the adults at CV (and to practice our Spanish!)
4. It helps me realize how resilient people can be, especially children.
5. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the others in the group and to get to know them.
6. I enjoy the hard physical work! I could certainly go on!

Thank you, Heidi, and thank you, All Saints'.

Patty Wheeler

HOME COMING WEEKEND

Saturday, September 9, 5 PM Reynolds Hall

Sunday, September 10, 9:30 AM Church

The World Peace Summit in Ukraine, June, 2017

First, I would like to thank you all for your prayers in getting me to and from the Ukraine this past June. The amount of love and support I received in going to the Global Union of Scientists for Peace world summit was incredible. I was floored.

Next, a bit of good news. The conference was a discussion of scientifically-proven solutions to peace. I wasn't sure what to expect, I had never heard of a scientific approach to world peace. When I arrived, there were Nobel laureates, presidents, and most surprisingly, military officials.

Then the hours of talks from these incredible people began. They discussed stress-reducing techniques being implemented in the hot spots of government and defense, they discussed reducing CO₂ emissions and how to prevent more war and more global warming.

However, the underlying tone of the entire conference went far deeper than that. Every person who stood up, they called for a complete paradigm shift for the human race. Every scientist, every government elective, every military official proclaimed that if life goes on as it has been, the human race will self-destruct.

We can no longer view life from the level of gains and losses. We can no longer measure success by power or money. Instead, we must cultivate a lifestyle of nurturing the individual rather than the masses, we need to have a paradigm that is structured in consciousness.

Being in a country which has such deep-rooted stress and hearing the military leaders of that country say "you cannot wash away blood with blood" was inspiring, to say the least.

It is clear that the world is at a turning point now, and the voices of the change makers are hopeful, and they are preaching unity above all else. The love and support I received on my way out there is an example of what the world can and should look like, the world these change makers are looking to build. I am blessed to come from a community which so clearly shows "it takes a village to raise a child."

Haley Spitzfaden

The Feasibility Study

This past spring, All Saints' engaged in discernment, the first stage of a three-stage process to determine the need and focus for a major fund-raising capital campaign. The focus during our discernment phase involved the feedback gathered from parishioners during the ten cottage meetings. During discernment, we reaffirmed our values, vision and aspirations for All Saints'.

We are now engaged in the Feasibility Study, the second part of the process. During this stage of the process, we are examining the feasibility and the potential focus regarding a capital campaign.

We have identified several major capital projects as considerations for our fund-raising efforts. Your feedback continues to be vital. This fall each household in our parish will receive a case study describing these potential projects. The case study will be accompanied by a survey, asking you to rank each of the six potential projects, as a 'high', 'moderate', or 'low' priority for funding.

You can choose to receive the survey via email or in print form. Each household will be asked to complete **only a single survey**. We need to know your preference for the format of the survey form (email or hard copy.) If you have provided a current email address, we will send the survey electronically, unless you contact the church office, by September 22 to indicate your preference for a hard copy.

If you have not provided an email address and wish to do so, please contact the church office at 603-924-3202 no later than September 15. Those households that have not provided an email address will automatically receive the case study and survey via U.S. mail. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to speak with one of the members of the Vestry.

Greg Naudascher, Junior Warden

Sandi's Column

August 14 is the day in the Episcopal calendar when we honor Jonathan Myrick Daniels, a Keene, New Hampshire native. We remember him in August, not because it is the month when he was born, but because August 20, 1965 is the day he was murdered.

In fact, Daniels, a seminarian at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was martyred while he was working to register voters, after the passage of the Voting Rights Act. After spending the night with several other civil rights workers in a local jail for picketing "whites-only" stores, Jonathan was fatally shot by an off-duty deputy who had aimed a shotgun at a black teenager as they approached a store to buy a soft drink. Daniels pushed her out of the way, saved her life, and lost his own.

It was this incident that woke up Episcopalians, especially those in the northern states. The murder of an educated, white seminarian who was defending an unarmed teenage girl shocked members of the Episcopal Church and other whites into facing the violent reality of racial inequality in the South. Ruby Sales, the young woman Jonathan Daniels saved that day went on to attend the same seminary as Daniels. She now works as a human rights advocate in Washington, DC and founded an inner-city mission dedicated to Daniels.

Bishop Rob, in his remarks to the people assembled at the interfaith prayer vigil August 13 at St. Paul's Church in Concord, told us about waking up to the reality of his own white privilege. He said something that struck me deeply when he spoke about the stark separateness in our communities along cultural, economic and racial lines. He said, (and I paraphrase), "I have come to see how my own privilege comes to me simply because of the family and the portion of our society into which I was born. I have been separated from others as a result, and because of it, I am diminished."

And then he asked us, "Are you woke? Have the events of the past days shaken you from your sleep? Are you woke?"

I pray with all my heart that we are woken as a country. I pray that we are shaken and released from the notion that others will lead the way for social justice in our land. Let us pray that God wake us and shake us into speaking our hearts into action, to boldly challenge racism, anti-Semitism and white nationalism for the evil, sinful entities they are.

I pray that we, the Church, are given the courage to preach the love of God that Christ has taught us to be truth. At All Saints', we speak the truth of the Resurrection, and we proclaim God's triumph over the powers of darkness each and every time we meet as Christ's own at his Table. The light of Christ will always shine brighter than all the torches in the night lit by hatred.

Are you woke?

Collect for Social Justice (BCP, 209)

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sandi Albom, Curate

September Saints' Day

9/3	Kathleen Bassett	9/14	Carol LaChance	9/25	Elizabeth Tong
9/7	Brad Wuorinen	9/15	Lynne Betz	9/26	Kyle Nelson
9/10	Shirley Wamser	9/16	Nathaniel Manns	9/28	Patty Wheeler
9/11	Lillian Carter	9/17	Marilyn Weir		Audrey White
	Sue Tavernier	9/19	Carter Judkins	9/29	Ann Fitzgerald
9/12	Donald Scott			9/30	Addison Brezinski

*If your name is missing from our Saints' Days lists, PLEASE let us know so you can be remembered!
Just call or email the Church office: 924-3202 or admin@allsaintsnh.*

View from the Bench

How Can I Keep from Singing?

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing;
it finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?*

I'm writing this in the days following threats of war, nuclear attack, the Nazi/KKK marches in Charlottesville, and on the day of the Barcelona terrorist attack. Tumult and strife seem rather an understatement, and what was to have been my annual September appeal to urge folks to consider singing with the All Saints' Choir might have seemed as though I had spent the entire summer on the organ bench, unaware that there had been a cosmic shift in our national life. It has been a terrible summer -- depressing, disheartening, even frightening.

Still... I hear that music ringing. How can I keep from singing?

So, I am taking a slightly different approach. Rather than attempting to persuade, cajole, encourage, guilt or otherwise draw you in with my well-honed marketing skills and a clever branding strategy, I'm asking you to consider facts based on controlled, scientific studies. A growing body of solid scientific evidence explains what choral singers have long known: choral singing is good for you! Here are some documented benefits and outcomes:

- Improved breathing
- Improved speech and posture
- Improved circulation
- Reduced pain (while singing)
- Improved immune responses
- Reduced muscle tension
- Improved mental health
- Increased sense of well-being
- Reduced numbers of physician visits and hospitalizations
- Reduced stress levels
- Increased sense of calm
- Enhanced mental acuity
- Decreased feelings of sadness
- Improved self-confidence and self-esteem
- Improved interpersonal relationships
- Reduced social isolation
- Increased life expectancy

It's a persuasive list. Amid the strife and divisiveness, we witness daily in the news, and especially all that has transpired this past summer, perhaps you owe it to yourself -- to your physical, psychological, cognitive and social well-being -- to let music echo in your soul and to consider singing with the All Saints' Choir this year.

How can you keep from singing (in the choir)? Singing in the All Saints' Choir is a way we mark our life together as a parish community. We sing to celebrate births, grieve together at deaths, and celebrate being together.

New choir members are always welcome. Our weekly rehearsals in Reynolds Hall this season begin on Thursday, September 7, from 7-8:30 PM. If you would like to sing with us this year, or if you want to know more about what choir membership entails (besides singing), please give me a call at 924-0106 or email me at jeff@allsaintsnh.org.

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Saturday, September 9, 5 PM Reynolds Hall

Sunday, September 10, 9:30 AM Church



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Editor's Note

This is a wonderful issue of *The Messenger*. From Jamie's opening letter to Jeff's closing article, the newsletter is full of invitation. Come to church! Be one of us! We need you! We want to listen to you! We want to share with you! We love you!

We need you! We need you to volunteer to help with Sunday School—*please* call the church office at 924-3202 and offer your services. Each class needs two adults—the teacher and a gatekeeper or assistant.

We also need some volunteers to help print and mail this *Messenger* each month. Please call either the church office at 924-3202 or Gail Anthony at 924-3534 to join the crew—it's really a fun three hours on the fourth Monday or Tuesday of each month.

Philip will be leading a book discussion of *The Rebirthing of God* as part of the adult education forums we have throughout the year. Please consider joining one or all of the four sessions.

Madelyn keeps us up to date with news of our vestry, and Greg asks us all to participate in a survey that will be coming to our U.S. Mail or email boxes soon.

Cassius writes of MacCulloch's *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years*, a big book that tackles our fascinating history. Any time you want to discuss an idea you encounter in the book—ask an *Education for Ministry* participant—they read it as a text.

Sandi writes of Jonathan Daniels and our own response to these turbulent times we are living in.

A few weeks ago I wrote about the Transfiguration and happened to share it with Betsy, who was celebrating at the August 6 service when Jamie was away. She asked if I would read it during that service, which I did. A number of you asked for a printed copy, so I have included it in this newsletter. Thank you all!

Be sure to ponder Haley's article about her trip to the World Peace Summit. It is profound and thoughtful.

Thanks again to Alma for her poem and Gloria for letting us know of some of the achievements and honors of some of the Saints.

With gratitude and great joy,

Christine