

THE MESSENGER

February 2014, Volume 4 Number 10

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Celeste Hemingson, *Interim Rector*

Our Mission (What we do)

All Saints' is committed to being a church community in which Christ's love is experienced and shared.

Our Vision (Where we are going)

We wish to help people grow in their faith and trust in God. Our vision is to help people recognize their God-given talents and to use them to serve God and their neighbor.

A Message from Celeste...

Why I love the Bible – God's Word

Our catechism says we call the Holy Scriptures the Word of God because *"God inspired their human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible."* (BCP p. 854)

And so it is that every time I open the Bible I find myself in the company of friends from long ago who knew God and talked to God and who wanted to share their experience with me, even though they never imagined who I might be. In addressing the Old Testament, our catechism says this also, describing it as *"books written by the people of the Old Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to show God at work in nature and history."* (BCP p. 854) I think the same is true for the New Testament as well.

When I read the Bible, my first step is to picture the writer who wanted to share his or her experience with me, to imagine their time, their individual circumstances, the questions, anxieties, and hopes that they had, just as I also bring my questions, anxieties, and hopes to God when I open the Bible.

Then, and only then, I open up my backpack full of the questions, anxieties, and hopes of my time and place and share them with the friend who speaks to me on the page. "So this is how you experienced God at work in your life," I say. "What can you tell me about how God is at work in mine?" And we walk along together and talk together, sharing also in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

At times, when I consider the possibility that in the next life we may see all the people who have gone before us, I make a mental list of some of those inspired people who wrote the Bible. I can't wait to look them up.

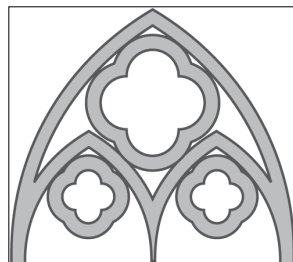
Some people turn to the Bible looking for answers to questions, or for a rulebook or an instruction manual. But I find myself reluctant to bypass the friend who speaks from this book. I say this because when I abide in the company of a faithful friend who was there at the time, I gain a more vivid picture of the Living God and his Living Word.

Celeste+

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Christian Education

Lots to Look Forward To

Since the theme of this month's *Messenger* is "Spreading the Word," I thought it was the perfect opportunity to let everyone know about some of the events and opportunities coming up for the Youth Group and families taking part in Christian Formation for children here at All Saints'.

There seems to be a "theme" that emerges throughout the year, both inside and outside the Sunday School through the programs offered and the events that take place. My first year here, the theme was "covenant." As I got to know the students and they got to know me, an understanding and agreement emerged built on trust and a common desire to have a thriving, robust program available for children and families. We studied the covenants between God and His people in Godly Play, the Intermediate Classroom and in the Youth Group Sunday lessons, and the implications that these covenants have had throughout Christian history.

Last year our theme was "the wonder of creation." We enjoyed that creation outside in the St. Francis' garden, building terrariums, on our hike, playing outside during movie nights and the 30-Hour Fast, and we worked to preserve it by creating recycling bins and raising money for Heifer International and World Vision with our fundraisers.

This year, the emerging theme is "caring for the poor." We have had several moving lessons with the Youth Group about poverty, and a difficult but inspiring trip to Boston in the fall. This spring we are once again taking part in the 30-Hour Fast and developing new programs, partnering with other local charities to help bring awareness and assistance to the needy in our own community.

We also enjoy fun-filled experiences of fellowship and prayer. On January 18, we had a movie night and were joined by the Search Committee who listened to the young people about what they wish to see in our new rector. On February 8, we will have a snow-tubing adventure at Pats' Peak from 1-3 PM. All are welcome! On February 22 and 23, the young people will once again take part in the 30-Hour Fast to raise money for World Vision. Please consider donating to our group so that we may make a meaningful contribution to help fight hunger worldwide. We will once again offer a live "Stations of the Cross" experience during Holy Week. In March, we will host a multi-church game night in Reynolds' Hall and will also journey (along with other youth from New Hampshire) to Portland, Maine to take part in a Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) weekend retreat. The TEC model of retreats focuses on teen-led worship and fellowship, with the adults in the background. Please pray for us as we embark upon this exciting trip. We are also in the beginning stages of planning a Spring Fling event the final weekend of May at the Barbara C. Harris Center. This will be a chance to reflect on our work as a group over the past year, and to begin planning events for next year.

The final opportunity I want to inform you all about is a partnership that we are forming with Otter Brook Farm in Peterborough working with their farm manager Matthew Roy. This farm has generously offered to give space to people from All Saints' Church to do whatever we would like to do with it! Members of the local Unitarian church have been growing all their own lettuce for their community suppers, and have built a "green" retaining wall for growing herbs and strawberries. Members of our church community will be able to not only take advantage of growing space, but also of the expansive property itself, which can be used for hiking, nature walks and more. I am thrilled about this chance for our children, their families and really anyone in the church to take advantage of some hands-on time in God's creation.

I hope to see many of you become involved in the programs offered to our children and

Alma's Poem

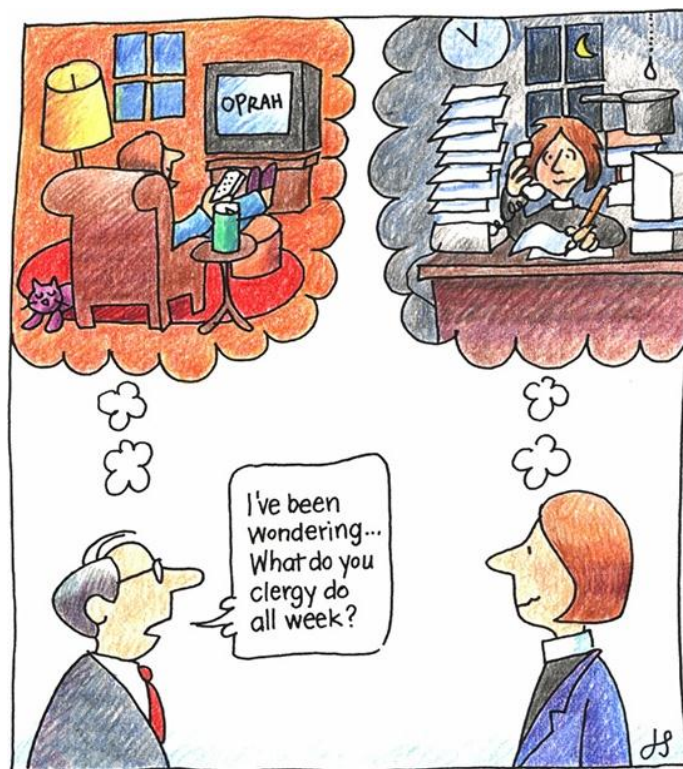
Spreading the Word

We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...

Hebrews 12:1

Of course our parents were the first
 Encouraging us to thirst
 And seek His Word
 Later on we heard
 Our Sunday school teachers
 And inspiring preachers
 Then Christian friends
 The list never ends
 One day I looked around
 And I found
 What I'm sure you'll guess
 We are the witnesses
 One more thought that's true
 It's not what we say but what we do.

Alma Ruth



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Saintly News

Congratulations to...

- ❖ Lara Scheinblum and Brooks Niemela in celebration of their marriage on December 31, 2013.
- ❖ Kirsten and Andy Peterson in celebration of the recent engagement of their daughter, Anna to Douglas Cole. A wedding at All Saints' is planned for October 11, 2014.
- ❖ Charlie Richmond in celebration of his 90th Birthday.

Gloria Schultz

Community Meetings Each Week at All Saints'

Mondays:

10 AM-noon Monadnock Area Food Bank Open
 7-8 PM Al-Anon meeting, OPH Room 2

Tuesdays:

10 AM-noon Monadnock Area Food Bank Open
 5:30 PM Community Soup Supper, Reynolds Hall
 7-8 PM AA meeting, OPH Room 1

Wednesdays:

10 AM-noon Quilters, OPH

Thursdays:

Noon-1 PM AA meeting, OPH Room 1
 1 PM-4 PM Serendipity Shop Open
 8-9 PM AA meeting, OPH Room

Fridays:

10 AM-4 PM Serendipity Shop Open
 7PM Open Meditation Group, OPH, Room 1

Saturdays:

10 AM-noon Serendipity Shop Open

Spreading the Word with Flowers

Welcoming visitors to All Saints' is a parish-wide pleasure. Spreading the word about All Saints' Church, the love of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is what we do when we welcome visitors on Sunday morning. We invite you to be part of the fun by wearing a brightly colored flower! Celeste will lead the way by inviting visitors to identify themselves so we know who they are and can reach out to invite them to coffee hour, answer questions, give them a brochure and ask them if they'd like to be on the mailing list and write down their names and addresses. Celeste also will let the visitors know that the people wearing the flowers are available after the service to shepherd the visitors if they have questions or need assistance.

Please join us by wearing a flower, welcoming visitors and spreading the word!

Deb DeCicco, Jr. Warden

Book Note

Anne and I are fortunate, indeed blessed, to have a view of Mount Monadnock from our house. It is a source of endless fascination; we are compelled to look at it, even in passing, morning, noon, and night. I climb it, or at least on it, frequently, though not obsessively. It is like an old friend whose mystery remains. And I have known since I was a child the unique sense of awe and privilege, as well as of joy and accomplishment, that rewards those who climb to high places, rugged places, rock-strewn and windswept, where vegetation is occasional and hardy if there at all.

On the other hand, of course, there is church, which I have been attending with regularity, pleasure, and sometimes holy fear, all my life. I suppose I could be said to have worshipped in both places; but the experiences are not the same. How not? How are they different?

Belden C. Lane is a Presbyterian teaching in a Roman Catholic University (St. Louis University) and has explored such questions in a masterful work, *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality* (Oxford University Press, 1998). In this remarkably organized account, there are three strands: his own coming to terms with the death of his father and the long dying of his mother, the history of the Christian tradition of desert (or wilderness) spirituality, and his own excursions into the wild, in mountain and desert settings.

The effect is a kind of reassurance that such questions as mine have a long history; that they are central to our search for God; and that facing them is a vital and

fascinating part of the Christian's journey toward God. Not just the Christian's: he refers with respect and knowledge to other traditions, from aboriginal to Buddhist to Jewish and Muslim, that find in lonely places a particular wisdom, peace, and fulfillment.

Beside the positive, rich, image-filled life of Christian prayer, the *via positiva*, there has always been an impulse toward the spare, the imageless and wordless prayer described as the *via negativa*. The interplay between them in the search for God has been summarized, "This also is Thou; neither is this Thou." Lane, in this work, leads us to an appreciation of the history of the *via negativa*, from the Desert Fathers of ancient Egypt and Cappadocia, through the founding of medieval monasteries in the wilderness of, say, the Grande Chartreuse or Cîteaux, to Charles Foucauld in the Sahara, and shows how these devotees were not so much fleeing *from* as fleeing *to*.

Part of what they were fleeing towards, it seems, was indifference. The wilderness is formidable largely because it is so obviously unimpressed by our presence. It is, and it does, without reference to us. And that indifference is a road to God, as the author discovers for himself. There truly is consolation in the realization that I am not the center, or anywhere near the center, of the universe. God does not love us because we are important. Thank God.

Cassius Webb

New Sound System in the Stone Church

Thanks to some very generous donors, the church is now equipped with a hearing assistance system, which will provide you with your own personal speakers. The device in use at this time is a disk that fits over your ear, and is very similar to ones you may have used on group tours, in which the tour guide talks into a microphone, and you can hear his words broadcast over some distance. The disks work with or without a hearing aid. We will soon offer a second option for hearing aid users. This device is a necklace that transmits the sound from the speakers into your hearing aid, if your hearing aid is equipped for that. If you find that you sometimes have trouble hearing everything in church, ask the ushers to lend you one of these new gadgets.

Celeste+

Grace, Healing and Community

"I'm glad you love it here, but like at some point, I will disappoint you or the church will let you down..."

These words spoken by Nadia Bolz-Weber, the tattooed Lutheran pastor of the House for all Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado, during a radio interview with Krista Tippett on NPR that I happened to hear one Sunday way back in August, hit me like a sack of potatoes.

You see, for the first six months of the year I had been digging my own deep hole of disappointment, anger, and hurt feelings in my relation to many at All Saints'. I couldn't seem to find the way out. I had had a great deal of my identity wrapped up in being an active member, supportive and in-the-know. Then one day I didn't want to be any of those things.

I wanted to share some of my experience of how I got over disappointment. There is really no point in arguing the justification for my feelings. I don't think anybody meant for it to happen, it just did. What is more interesting in our life together, is how one goes forward after disappointment.

To begin with, I wanted to lash out. I spent a lot of time having angry conversations in my head, and more time crying than I would like to admit. What was I going to do? Over the years that I have attended All Saints', I have seen those who choose to leave, disappointed with the community and how they fit in. It surprised me to think that I might become one of them. I looked around at all of the people I knew who had been here longer than I, and thought, over the years they must have experienced disagreements and resentments. How did they maintain their commitment? How did they return to harmony?

I went online and searched out other churches I might go to. It was exciting to think about finding a church in Boston where I could attend services on Tuesday after teaching my class. I even took a sabbatical during summer and went for breakfast with friends on Sundays instead of church.

The radio interview went on, asking about the sermon, "Loving Our Enemies Even If We Don't Mean It."

Ms. Nadia Bolz-Weber: So I think that the key is praying for them, not like feeling warm feelings towards people who've hurt you or towards your enemy. I don't think it's about feelings. I think it's about an action. And I think that action is commending them to the one who perfected the love of the enemy. That's prayer, right?

I will actually ask other people to do it for me sometimes...I don't think faith is given in sufficient quantity to individuals necessarily. I think it's given in sufficient quantity to communities. The same with that whole thing, 'God will not give you more than you can bear.' I don't think God will give you more than a community can bear..."

So that's it – I could pray for those I find difficult. And if that is too much to do, I could ask someone else to pray for them. That has made all the difference. I realized that sometimes just showing up is all that is needed. Sometimes it takes a long time for wounds to heal, but you just have to keep working at it and not give up. Now I am trying some new ministries, teaching Christian education every other week, and helping with the healing ministry when I can. It has meant a great deal to me to be able to reach out to those in need.

I pray for our Search Committee and Vestry. I have great confidence in them. I appreciate the work that Celeste is doing preparing us for a new rector. I look forward to our continued life at All Saints' and hope to be a loving participant in the body of Christ.

“... Because if you leave, you will miss the way that God's grace comes in and fills in the cracks of our brokenness. And it's too beautiful to miss. Don't miss it.”

You can see the video of the Bolz-Weber interview at <http://vimeo.com/73913123>

Laura Campbell



Introducing Our New Vestry Members

Isabella (Boo) Martin, M.Ed. (*Vestry*) grew up attending All Saints' Church and joined the youth group after moving from Washington, D.C. when she was 12 years old. She has always loved the Episcopal Church and has been very involved throughout her life. She attended UVM where she met and married Gene Robinson, who was the chaplain on campus. She attended his last year of seminary with him in NYC where she finished her education at Fordham University, taught in Harlem, and worked at Bellevue Hospital. Together they did youth ministry in his first parish.

After moving to Boo's family farm in Temple, they started the Sign of the Dove Retreat Center prior to him becoming the Bishop. Sign of the Dove served many parish committees, vestry retreats and specialized in youth groups, both locally and nationally.

Boo founded Pony Farm, a nationally accredited summer residential riding camp that is in its 42nd year. Twenty-five years ago, she founded Horse Power, a nationally recognized therapeutic riding and carriage-driving program for children and adults with special needs. She has served on numerous national committees for camps, therapeutic riding, equine welfare and equine education. She hopes to bring her master's degree in organizational development and management from Antioch New England, and her years as of running both a for-profit and a not-for-profit organization to the parish.

Patricia Row (*Vestry*) is a cradle Episcopalian, baptized, confirmed and married at St. John's Church, Beverly Farms, Mass. She is married to Lock Row and has two sons and two granddaughters. After raising her children, she spent her life in the medical world as an EMT and RN. Pat's church work includes singing in the choir at St. John's Church, Gloucester, Mass., where she also led the YPF (Young People's Fellowship) for several years, and later at St. John's Church, Beverly Farms. She was continuously on the Altar Guild in several churches, retiring after 63 years. Pat is an acolyte trainer, Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) and LEM scheduler. She has served on the Pastoral Care team and is a graduate of EfM. Pat is a delegate from All Saints' to the Diocese and has been for the past six years.

Christina Meinke (*Treasurer*) holds a degree in business and management and has worked in both very small businesses and large corporations (i.e., Honeywell, Lotus Development Corporation, and IBM) in addition to owning her own consulting business. She is currently working as the operations manager for the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce after nine seasons at Monadnock Music. She has managed all aspects of the organization's finances, including bookkeeping, payroll, tax preparation, cash flow analysis and budgeting. She has a strong civic commitment, having donated her time as Troy Planning Board clerk, founding publisher of the Troy Town News, service init manager for the Swift Water Girl Scout Council, and eight years as deputy commander for cadets with the Civil Air Patrol N.H. Wing and serving on numerous other committees. She lives in Jaffrey with her husband, CJ Joyce, and has been a parishioner at All Saints' for seven years, including two years on the Reynolds Hall altar guild.

Phil Suter (*Vestry*) has been a parishioner for a little more than two years, since moving to the area from the Seacoast, where he attended St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth. Phil was drawn back to "regular" worship at St. John's in part by the welcoming phrase that appears frequently in church communications, "No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at St. John's, and most importantly at God's table."

A life-long Episcopalian, Phil's Episcopal roots run deep – from Bishop Samuel Seabury on his mother's side, to the Rev. John Wallace Suter (Custodian of the Prayer Book, and Dean of Washington National Cathedral) on his father's side. Phil's past professional life includes several years in advertising and marketing and more than a dozen years in the Foreign Service. Currently, Phil wears several professional hats, including president of the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce, executive director of the Regional Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing (RCAM), based at Keene State College; and adjunct professor of management at both University of New Hampshire in Durham, and Antioch University New England in Keene.

Phil was born in Brattleboro, Vt., and grew up mostly in Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Milton Academy, The Colorado College, and UNH (where he received his MBA.) Phil is on the board of the Peterborough Folk Music Society, and enjoys as many rounds of golf as New England seasons permit. Phil lives in Hancock.



The Search for Our New Rector

People sometimes ask, "How's the search for a new rector going? Do you have any good candidates?" Those of us who are on the Search Committee or have been following our updates have heard on good authority that we can expect to have some very good candidates, but we know that it will be a while before we receive names. We are still in the important first "Self Study" phase of that process, which will lead to creating a parish profile reflecting how we see ourselves now and looks ahead to the future into which God calls us with a new rector of All Saints'.

As we write for the February issue of *The Messenger* in mid-January, we are about to complete a series of six open forums and a meeting and conversation with the youth group. Since we have not yet completed these sessions or had an opportunity to discuss as a committee what we have heard, we do not yet have attendance figures or summaries to share. We can say that we are grateful to all of you who took time to attend one of the meetings and to share your thoughts and feelings. Our discussions began with some questions about what we love about All Saints', our hopes and dreams for the future and the qualities we would seek in a rector. We asked about various aspects of our life and ministry together: worship, Christian education and formation, outreach, fellowship, welcome and hospitality, and growth and renewal. In those meetings we reviewed the stages of the search process briefly, but it has been our goal as a committee to talk less and listen more. We introduced SC members who were present at each meeting and encouraged

parishioners to speak with any of us individually about questions or concerns.

As this writing, we are about to launch a survey during the week of the Annual Meeting on January 19. By the time you read this, we hope many of you will have responded to the survey, which those on the parish email list will have received electronically. For those who do not use the Internet, paper copies will be available at the Annual Meeting or at church. If you are not on our email list and would like to be added, please email d.callahan.allsaints@gmail.com in the parish office.

The input from the forums and the survey will help inform the parish profile, which we hope will be ready this winter to be approved by the Vestry, Bishop and Canon for Transition Ministry and then shared with the wider Church and potential candidates for rector. We anticipate receiving names, beginning interviewing and visiting in the spring and recommending three names to the Vestry, all in God's time. We are grateful for the privilege, honor and challenge of being entrusted with this holy task of discernment. Please continue to join us in praying for all concerned during this time of transition, using the prayer provided in the Sunday bulletin each week, on our website, and below.

Betsy Fowle for the Search Committee: (Rick Simpson, John Catlin, Judy Collier, Joan Cunningham, Andrew Graff, Chris Howe, John Koch [Vestry Liaison,] Jack Lewis, Sally Steere, Chris Tourgee)

Our Search Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, giver of wisdom and truth, look favorably upon us, the people of All Saints' Church, as we search for a new rector. We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be guided by you and strengthened in our mission to be a church community in which Christ's love is experienced and shared. We pray for members of the search committee, that they listen to your Spirit with humility, patience and joy. We pray for all priests in discernment and that you call one to us so we may minister together in this parish, the diocese and the world. Give us your grace to follow where you lead us, and grant us your peace. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Ministry will focus on community support. The Ministry's mission is to follow Christ's commandment to love one another by providing a ministry of spiritual caring, presence, and community to the parishioners of All Saints'.

Thus, the Ministry seeks not only to help with concrete needs such as transportation, meals, visiting and phone calls, but also to acknowledge happy events such as weddings and graduations. We also will explore ways to keep those not able to come to church on a regular

basis (such as students) connected with the parish community.

Please do not hesitate to contact Celeste, Diane or myself with any pastoral care needs for yourself or for others. Our goal is to set up teams of volunteers for each area of need (meals, transportation), so please do
Nancy Marks Perkins
Home in Heaven

Dearest Nancy Perkins,

I received the best phone call last week! Christine Howe called asking if I would write the tribute to you for the All Saints' *Messenger*! I could not be more honored than to write about you, my dear, dear friend, confidante, stand-in grandmother to my sons, fan of my husband, and role model to me.

When I think of you, there are so many wonderful thoughts and feelings that come to mind. Anytime any of us were with you, either at your house, our house, your islands in the Georgian Bay, our sons' weddings, we always felt so cared for, nurtured and loved. Your interest in others was endless. You never ceased to amaze us with the way you extended yourself to us, asking us about our lives, showing interest, and genuinely caring about our accomplishments as well as our struggles. You always offered kind words of support when they were needed, and you consistently stood up and cheered us on with much enthusiasm!

For us, being with you was like being cradled in a safe haven of utter acceptance and love. Do you remember the sermon Adrian gave one day last year about God's vision of Christianity and what it would ideally look like as embodied in humans? As I remember it, he said that if people were walking and talking representations of Christianity, they would smile at strangers on the street when passing, extend kindness to others by taking the time to help them pick up the groceries that might have fallen from their bag, show interest in others without turning the focus back onto themselves, express gratitude to those around them, share their generous spirit, heart, good fortune and humor, possess humility and grace, and extend love. You, Linn, and I were sitting together that day and as soon as the service was over, I turned to you and said, "You Nancy Perkins, embody God's vision of Christianity more than anyone I know." Of course, you only smiled that wonderful smile and turned your head to the side as you touched my arm and said, "Oh, Jeanie."

During the last several years, whenever a health issue arose, you would always say to me, "You know, this wasn't part of the plan." We would then go on to acknowledge that, of course, it wasn't but that it would be temporary, and that life would soon be back to normal with a little time and patience. As much as you did not ever like slowing down to wait for anything to heal, you always did very well and, of course, your darling Mr. Linn Perkins cooked up a storm and provided tasty meals and a very loving watchful eye! The last time we saw each other at Catholic Medical Center shortly before Thanksgiving, you looked at me and said, "You know, this wasn't part of the plan." Little did I know at that point how right you were. Losing you, Nancy Perkins, was not part of the plan.

Throughout the wonderful weekend of your memorial and the meals with your children and grandchildren, all of whom you must be so very proud, we shared many stories about you as you can well imagine! Many were about your gourmet cooking, your letter writing, your habit of correcting peoples' grammar if so needed, and much more. One of the main themes of the entire weekend, however, was the idea that for you, home was wherever you were. Even though you grew up in Chicago and for many years that was home, whenever you moved, you made your home wherever you were. Now your home is in Heaven and our home here on earth is just not the same. All we can do now is try our very best to carry on the way you did. We will try to bring love, warmth, humor, interest in others, energy, gourmet cooking, intelligence, thank-you notes, generosity of spirit, and a huge smile wherever we go. You will never be forgotten, Mrs. Nancy Perkins, and you will forever live on in our hearts. We will love you forever.

Until we meet again,

Jeanie Derrick West

not hesitate to contact us (Liz is at 532-4491 or the church office at 924-3202) if you wish to be a part of this important ministry. As the saying goes "many hands make light work..."

Liz Tong, for the Pastoral Care Ministry

February Saints' Days

2/4 Sue Piscopo
2/12 Gerry Hallgrimson
 Gail Anthony
2/13 David Simpson
 Steve Fowle
 Cindy Naudascher

2/15 Anne Marie Warren
2/16 Nancy Ripley
2/17 John Ross
 Deb DeCicco
2/18 Diane Callahan
2/19 Carl Wagner IV

2/20 Nate Bowditch
 Tony Anthony
2/22 Michael Heddy
2/24 Elizabeth Smith
2/27 Louise Bryant

View from the Bench

I was reading about music at Peterborough Cathedral in a professional journal recently. Before his retirement in 2004, Christopher Gower, as the Master of the Music, presided for 27 years over hundreds of choristers six days a week at more than 8,000 services (Gower was here at All Saints', Peterborough, to lead evensong with the Peterborough Cathedral Choir in 1998.) Summing up Gower's legacy, one chorister recalled that congregations were tiny at weekday Evensongs; one Tuesday, when there was *no one* in the congregation, "Mr. Gower still made us sing."

Of course, what Gower was instilling in his choristers was that the worship of God is not a performance. A choir does not sing for the congregation or for themselves – all their work and preparation, in twice daily rehearsals at Peterborough Cathedral or twice weekly rehearsals at All Saints', Peterborough, is so that, in our worship, we offer our best to God.

Here at All Saints' we don't sing Choral Evensong daily, but as we sing it two or three times each year, we continue a distinctly Anglican worship tradition. Whether we sing Evensong in its Elizabethan form to the music of Bach, Palestrina and Tallis, or in one of its 21st century's re-invented orders, we are sustaining a living tradition and making a gift to the whole church. Choral evensong inspires musicians, singers, choirmasters, and composers. Its beautiful music draws people in.

We have always been fortunate to have a substantial congregation for Choral Evensong at All Saints', and it is certainly wonderful when the church is full, with every voice singing God's praises. We'll be singing Evensong on March 30, the fourth Sunday in Lent, hopefully well past "blizzard" season. But what if only a handful or even *no one* were to show up in the congregation? What would be the sound of one Parish choir singing evensong in an empty church?

It would be the same as if the church were full. Our worship is our work. We would go on singing because we are singing to (not performing for) God. At the heart of it, it matters little whether it's just 18 voices in the choir or 200 voices in a full church. We go on singing, because – as Christopher Gower wanted his singers to understand – in doing so, we bind ourselves to God.

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster

All Saints' Health Ministry

Health Ministry, recognized in the National Episcopal Church and throughout other denominations, is an approach to wholeness and health that emphasizes the importance of a person's faith to their overall well-being. Each church's health ministry is unique, responding to the particular needs and strengths of parishioners. We began exploring formalizing our Health Ministry here at All Saints' last spring, and, with Vestry approval, this past fall I completed "Foundations of Parish Nursing," a course for RNs who work in their faith communities on projects that emphasize that "health" is when body, mind and spirit are in balance.

As part of Pastoral Care, All Saints' currently has components of such a Health Ministry through healing prayer, the knitting ministry and pastoral visiting programs. We are considering offering informal support for those dealing with chronic health problems in self or family, ways to deal with the substance abuse

crisis in our state and educational programs on a wide range of health topics. You will be hearing more about our ideas and we will be seeking your thoughts in the months to come.

We have scheduled our first Health Forum on May 4 at 11:30, "Planning for the Rest of Your Life." We will have a panel of speakers from within and without our parish, including Rod Falby (attorney), Lora McClintock (physician), Genevieve Drevet (hospice nurse) and Julie Thibault (funeral director) who will present information that you can use to make informed decisions about your healthcare. This session will be practical, prayerful and helpful for parishioners of all ages who want to understand their options and make their wishes known. This is not just for people "of a certain age," but for all of us who want to consider profoundly important health options with the support of the church family.

Christine Howe



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Editor's Note

The theme of this issue of *The Messenger* is "Spreading the Word" of God's love. Celeste writes of being refreshed in her relationship with God every time she opens her Bible. Becky lets us know of the many opportunities and occasions at All Saints' for our young people to learn about God's love and share their joy with others. Alma's poem reminds us that it's not what we say but what we do that bears witness to our faith in the world.

Deb explains how we can "spread the word" by donning a brightly colored flower on Sunday morning as a badge of welcome. Cassius once again suggests a book that will deepen our understanding of our relationship with God and the world. The new sound enhancement system in the church, described by Celeste, certainly helps "spread the word!"

Laura writes in a profound and personal way of her relationship with the church and the meaning of community.

Our three new Vestry members and new treasurer are introduced in these pages, and we have an update on the work of the Search Committee. Please remember to use the Search Prayer in your daily devotions!

Vestry member and Pastoral Care liaison Liz writes about the new and ongoing work of that ministry, and I write about an upcoming forum sponsored by the new Pastoral Care Health Ministry.

Jeanie's tribute to Nancy Perkins is lovely and beautiful honors that dear, wonderful woman whom we all miss so much. And Jeff reminds us that the choir sings, first and foremost, to the glory of God.

The deadline for the March *Messenger* is February 19. The theme will be "*Observing Lent.*" Please send your contributions to me at chow6569@gmail.com.

With much gratitude and great joy,