

THE MESSENGER

January 2014, Volume 4 Number 9

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

Parish Office: (603) 924-3202 ❖ Office Hours M-F 9 AM-4 PM ❖

Web: allsaintsnh.org ❖ Office Email: d.callahan.allsaints@gmail.com

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...

New Beginnings

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

Our Thursday morning Bible group has spent the last three months studying the apocalyptic book of Revelation. Apocalyptic literature is one way to understanding new beginnings. It assumes that the only way to make a new beginning is to throw out or destroy everything that has gone before and to start over from scratch.

But there is another way to begin anew, and that is through redemption. To me, "redemption" is an inspiring (and Christian) word for "recycling." In recycling "things which were cast down are...raised up, and things which had grown old are...made new" (BCP, p. 540.)

The great recycling center of the Church is the baptismal font. In our baptism, Christ our redeemer acknowledges that we are made of valuable material that need not be destroyed, but rather be put to good use. That new and good use is the ministry we receive through baptism.

It often comes as a surprise to lay persons that they, as well as clergy, are ministers of the church; but our catechism makes this quite clear. Before describing the ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons, the catechism defines the ministry of the laity:

The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church. (BCP, 855.)

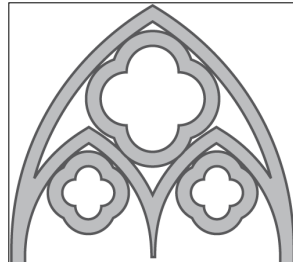
You often hear talk of the last part of that ministry – taking one's place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church. Usually you hear this in the context of someone, usually your priest, asking you to serve on the Vestry, or to help with coffee hour, or to teach Sunday School.

But recently, at the urging of Bishop Rob, the Commission on Ministry has been exploring how we can better equip the broader ministry of the baptized – witnessing to Christ wherever they may be, and according to their gifts, carrying on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world.

I urge you to consider how your life, with all it has brought you in the way of gifts and trials, can be put to new use in this ministry. You can learn more about it in the classic book on this subject, *Living on the Border of the Holy* by L. William Countryman. As Countryman says, "It's a matter of transformation. It's what you do with your one true

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THE MESSENGER

Gail Anthony
Publisher, 924-3534

Christine Howe
Editor, 924-6569

Marilyn Weir
Assistant Editor
924-3405

Eleanor Erickson
Janet Fiedler
Steve Fowle
Bev Kemp
Alma Ruth
Carl Wagner, Jr.
Carl Wagner III
Dotty Wagner
Bob Weathers
Production

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Christian Education

Change is Coming – Are We Ready?

In the short time I have known him, I already have learned so much from our Bishop. He is a man of incredible kindness, sensitivity to others, vision and authentic Christian faith. One message has given most loudly from the many times I have heard him speak in public or have interacted with him one-on-one: something is afoot in Christendom – Episcopalianism and beyond. Anyone with an Internet connection, television or radio has surely heard about the stunning and truly inspiring changes happening in the Roman Catholic Church under the leadership of Pope Francis, who can only be described as a “great soul.” His re-direction of Christian attention to the needs of the poor, the plight of the suffering and the gritty work asked of us by Jesus of Nazareth represents, for many, a stark departure from what the Pope himself has described as “Catholic obsession with the culture wars.” Pope Francis’s message is one of collaboration among Christians, a welcoming spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood with all people. It is the same work our own Bishop Rob is calling us to do.

I recently read a five-part, in-depth and harrowing article from the *New York Times* on an 11-year-old girl named Dasani, one of New York City’s more than 22,000 homeless children. She lives with her parents and seven brothers and sisters in a one-room “family shelter” in Brooklyn. Her life is filled with uncertainties: fear of being violated in the one bathroom an entire floor of families shares in her multi-level apartment building, food scarcity, lack of privacy, her parents’ battles with drug addiction, her need to help raise her siblings, and the list goes on... This is not a story from a third world country: this is taking place in the wealthiest city in the country. Across from her “shelter” is a high-end wine store selling \$425 bottles of chardonnay. Something is deeply wrong with this picture. Pope Francis sees it. Bishop Rob sees it. Do we see it?

How far we have come from that stable, that baby laid in the manger, his parents carrying on their backs whatever few possessions they may have had? And yet this story is much closer to Dasani’s than mine: my children will have gifts to open on Christmas; they will have a hot meal and will be surrounded by family who loves them. And yet – in my own community, people rely upon the charity of others to provide gifts for their children. In my state, food pantries will provide the Christmas meal for many who could otherwise not afford one. In my country, children will huddle with their siblings and families in one-room shelters with very little to celebrate *other* than the Christchild. It makes me wonder how often I am too distracted to remember what it’s all about. This is the challenge of the New Year, of every new year: how deep can we dig into our reserves of compassion? How fervently will we answer the call of our own spiritual leadership to care for the poor? Pope Francis would argue if we are not giving until it hurts, perhaps we are doing it wrong. Not an easy bar to reach – but so many are waiting for us to try.

Becky Goodwin, Director of Christian Education



Alma's Poem

How to spend New Year's Eve?
 I'll tell you, if you give me leave
 The custom I'm told is to stay up late
 How does that help to make you feel great?
 I'd rather wake up New Year's day morn
 Rested and eager to greet the dawn
 Here's some advice I think you should keep
 A New Year is best started after a good night's sleep.
Alma Ruth

Women's Prayer Group

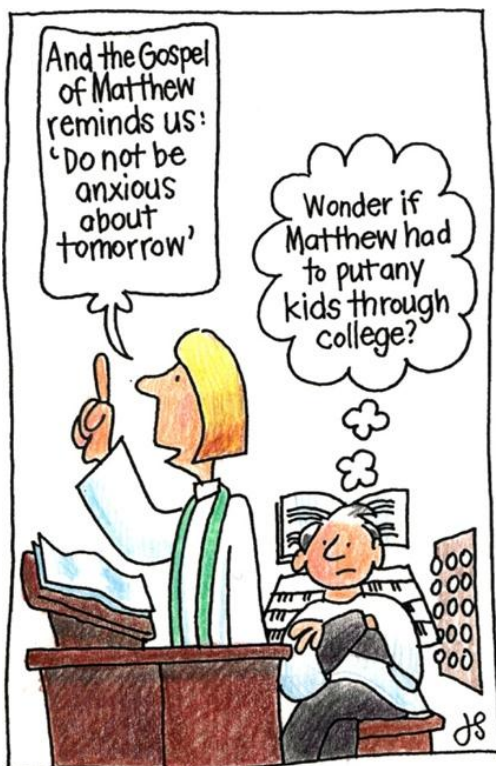
The All Saints' women's prayer group is a group of committed women who meet twice a month on Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Old Parish House. We pray for ourselves, our families and friends, the church, and for needs of the congregation as expressed in the prayer requests collected weekly from the prayer request boxes. We have become a supportive community to our members. Anyone woman who would like to join us is welcome.
 Please call Deb Peterson at 604.764.5745

Saintly News

Congratulations to...

- ❖ ConVal High and South Meadow Middle school students for achieving High Honors or Honors: Ryan Betz, Marguerite Krommes, Megan McClintock, Montana Schultz, Elektra Thomson, Michelle Tourgee, Evan Wagner, Carl Wagner
- ❖ Becky Goodwin who has been appointed to the Diocesan Commission on Ministry
- ❖ Lois and Warren Sponsler, celebrating with their son, Warren Jr., who has been appointed to the rank of Battalion Commander, 66th Armor Regiment in the U.S. Army, Fort Carson, Colorado
- ❖ Ace Award recipients from ConVal High School and the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce: Daniel Frehner, Marguerite Krommes, Megan McClintock, Montana Schultz

Gloria Schultz



Beginning Anew

We moved to Hancock last July after being active members in an Episcopal Church in Cleveland, Ohio. We were happy to find All Saints' so nearby. Now that we are pretty much settled and can shake the dust off our sandals (or should I say snow off our boots), we are thankful to find that All Saints' is truly about being the Body of Christ in the greater Peterborough area. The passage from 1 Corinthians 12 about spiritual gifts seems appropriate in describing what we have found at All Saints'.

We are working our way through Year 1 of the EfM curriculum and have enjoyed being with this group on Monday nights. We have been attending the 10 AM worship on Sundays. In this coming year we look forward to meeting more people at All Saints' and finding new ministries in order to serve our Lord in new ways here in the greater Monadnock region.

Standing in the Need of Prayer

Winnie Skeates, Candidate for Holy Orders

Picture this: you're alone in a room with your computer, it's 9 AM, and you have until 12:30 PM to answer this question:

Jesus said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others." (Matthew 23:23)

In this passage from Matthew, Jesus is quoted as criticizing the scribes and Pharisees for neglecting to practice justice (as well as mercy and faith).

- 1. In an essay of 1000 words, present and expand on a Christian understanding of justice, drawing on your knowledge of sources in Scripture and the tradition of Christian thought. Identify and differentiate at least three forms of justice commonly discussed in Christian ethics and moral theology.*
- 2. In an essay of 500 words, explain in detail what it means for individual Christians and the Church as a body to practice these forms of justice. (Question on Christian Ethics and Moral Theology, General Ordination Examination, 2013)*

Now imagine answering questions like that for four full days!

This is what our own Winnie Skeates will be doing in Cambridge, Massachusetts from January 2-6, taking the General Ordination Exams (GOEs). The canons of the Episcopal Church require that all candidates for ordination be examined and show proficiency in seven subjects:

(1)The Holy Scriptures; (2) Church History, including the Ecumenical Movement; (3) Christian Theology and Missiology; (4) Christian Ethics and Moral Theology; (5) Studies in Contemporary Society, including Racial and Minority Groups; (6) Liturgics and Church Music; and (7) Theory and Practice of Ministry.

I guess this means you can be pretty sure that your clergy know what they're talking about, but that's another matter...

Believe me, the prospect of taking these exams can make you pretty anxious! But in actual experience, most who take the GOEs are pleasantly surprised to discover how much they have learned in their years of study in preparation for ordination.

This year, almost 200 candidates will take GOEs at various examination sites, usually Episcopal seminaries around the country. They, like Winnie, have been prepping for the event for the last few months, both in informal study groups and on their own. For them, New Year's Eve revelry will be pretty subdued. So please keep Winnie in your prayers. And keep in mind, she won't know how she did until late February.

If you want to learn more about the GOEs, visit this website: <http://www.episcopalgbec.org/index.php>

Celeste, whose GOE scores were "good enough for all normal purposes"

January Saints' Days

1/3	Lucas Gregory	1/8	Charles Richmond	1/10	Gloria Lipson
1/5	Peter Oliver		Megan Graff	1/12	Mary Weis
	Ryan Betz	1/9	Christine Kelly		Susan Sarles
1/6	Jerry Branch			1/14	Emily Manns
	Beth Krommes			1/17	Martha Raymond
	Tommy Goodwin				Libby Twitchell
1/7	Lilianne Tullio			1/18	Susan Gill

1/19	Heather Peterson	1/23	Claire Marlar
1/20	Louise Lawrence	1/24	Laura Campbell
1/23	Isabella Zielie		Finbarr McCullough
		1/25	Judith Pratt
			Bailey Guinn
			Elisabeth Foecking
			Catherine Pendleton
		1/26	Lily Beyer
		1/28	Elsbeth Pendleton
		1/31	David Boothby
			Naomi-Clare Praul

Epiphany Brings the *Icon House Project*

Thanks to local artist Keri Wiederspahn, All Saints' parishioners will experience firsthand the connection between art and faith this coming Epiphany, January 6, at 5 PM on the All Saints' lawn.

Keri, who is also director of the Sharon Arts Center, will erect her site-specific art installation, *Icon House*, a small devotional space made out of a twine-lashed birch frame, within the circle in front of the stone church. More than 240 glass jars holding lit votive candles will hang from the horizontal beams of the walls and roof, transforming the small structure into a literal house of light. The back wall will display the focal point of this structure – an icon of Mary and the Christ child, painted by Keri, who spent six years studying the ancient tradition of Russian-Byzantine iconography with the support of two N.H. State Arts Council grants.

According to Keri, iconography is the original tradition of Christian sacred art, and has been an integral part of the worship and mystical life of Christians since apostolic times. Referred to in the Eastern Christian tradition as "windows into heaven," icons have inspired and uplifted millions of the faithful, and have at times been the instruments for demonstrating God's miraculous intercession in the life of mankind.

Keri's work has focused on developing alternative ways to share the icon with the public – in both private and collective experiences – outside the traditional walls of church, gallery or museum. So she created the *Icon House*, echoing her own version of the Old Testament "tent in the wilderness," which provides not only a beautiful means to display her work, but also "a non-conventional place for the spiritual to birth."

Through this public performance, Keri will provide a contemplative encounter for those who participate.

And we hope many parishioners from All Saints' will participate. Here's what to expect: At 5 PM, participants will gather in the Old Parlor House to hear an Epiphany reading. Then we will process to the *Icon House*, where we will sing a hymn and say a few more prayerful words to enter into a contemplative space.

While volunteers will begin lighting the candles at 4 p.m. – and parishioners are encouraged to come watch the process – the candles on the back wall that surrounds the icon will be lit by participants during the contemplative encounter. This is a family friendly experience, although parents are asked to accompany their children when lighting the candles.

Afterwards, participants will return to the Old Parlor House where we will enjoy traditional Epiphany foods – lovely baked goods and hot apple cider – baked by Dorie Richmond and other parish members.

The *Icon House* will remain lit until 6:30 PM.

"Through my work, I hope to elevate the spiritual aspects of our lives and lay the ground for a more primitive and simple experience of mystery," say Keri. "I believe that if we work together, artists and the church can break down many barriers."

Keri also writes: The proposed "performance" is intended to initiate a welcoming atmosphere where our common human condition can come together, where the "joy of the feast" can emanate, where the celebration of humble shared experience can summon and lend question to the importance of prayer, the reality of our earthly and eternal home, our passage through time, and the slow and hopeful revelation of

how a simple personal and collective pilgrimage can ultimately lead to an encounter with God.

Tricia Rose Burt Masterson

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

Book Note

Anne Lamott is, I am sure, a familiar name to many of you. She has been writing of modern life and perplexity, hope and faith, for many years. I have just finished her most recent offering, *Stitches: a Handbook on Meaning, Hope, and Repair* (Riverhead Books, 2013) with much enjoyment, but also with great respect. It is often funny, even when dealing with dread, loss, pain and death. But the humor simply gives us permission to look at things calmly, with enough detachment to catch the tragic, the absurd, and the hopeful all mingled together in whatever life throws at us. Hers has been an unconventional and decidedly bumpy journey thus far, with good friends, Alcoholics Anonymous, and a Presbyterian church as reliable guides along the way. But she seems to have discovered the virtue and the gratification in keeping one's eyes peeled and one's ears listening, and to have found meaning, beauty, and grace in odd places.

The central metaphor is stitching, seen as a method for repairing what is torn in and around us. It requires planning, preparation, and then simple actions, one at a time, for as long as it takes. But her gift for analogy is wide-ranging and vigorous, almost C. S. Lewis-like. Some of the strength of her argument comes from her descriptions of what is manifestly the world we live in. (Well, it's actually northern California, but that is a lot closer to us than Augustine's Hippo or Catherine's Siena.)

This is a small (96 pages) but not a slight book. It is easily accessible to non-Christians, but the author's own faith is quietly present. She doesn't shy away from displaying her wide reading and erudition, but at its core this is simply wise companionship from one who is learning humility and compassion. For which we can be grateful.

Cassius Webb

Treasurer's Report

In preparing to write this report, I went back over the past two years' December Treasurer's Reports. I could probably just take excerpts from each of those, paraphrase a little, and, for the most part, be pretty spot-on for this year's report. With some glaring exceptions during 2013, it seems the end-of-year issues continue to be repeats each year. One thing is for sure, financially speaking, December is always a very anxious time for the clergy, wardens, Vestry and me. Our annual budgets are always carefully crafted. We watch our expenditures and continually monitor our financial performance throughout the year. However, as the year-end approaches, there is always some uncertainty as to exactly how the year will conclude. But because so much of our income is derived from voluntary parishioner contributions, it is very hard to forecast. This year is no different.

Again, barring any unexpected expenses, coupled with traditional strong income performance during these last few weeks, we should end up as forecasted, or close to it. At this time, we are expecting a small deficit. This is what we originally budgeted. Frankly, if we do end up with a small deficit, or better, it will prove to be a great accomplishment. Unlike previous years, we encountered some unexpected changes (clergy departure, sexton retirement, and position restructure)

and unexpected expenses (two boiler replacements and much higher maintenance costs), so we have done quite well to be where we are today. At this point it all depends on remaining income. As we know, many parishioners choose to delay their contributions until the end of the year. In addition, traditional December activities are sources for added income. We are hopeful that, once again, our expectations will be met.

December is also time for budgeting for the next year. I will be presenting a 2014 preliminary budget to the Vestry for their review at our next meeting. The budget will then be finalized and approved after December's financial results are known. I will present the final version to the congregation at Annual Meeting. That will be my last official duty as All Saints' treasurer. I just wanted to tell you that it has been an honor to serve as your treasurer. Throughout my tenure, the clergy, wardens, and Vestry have been very supportive. As with any job of this nature, there have been some anxious and challenging moments, but I could always count on plenty of guidance, patience, and help. I also want to thank you, the congregation, for your ongoing contributions, both financial and otherwise. All Saints' is very fortunate to have such a caring congregation and staff.

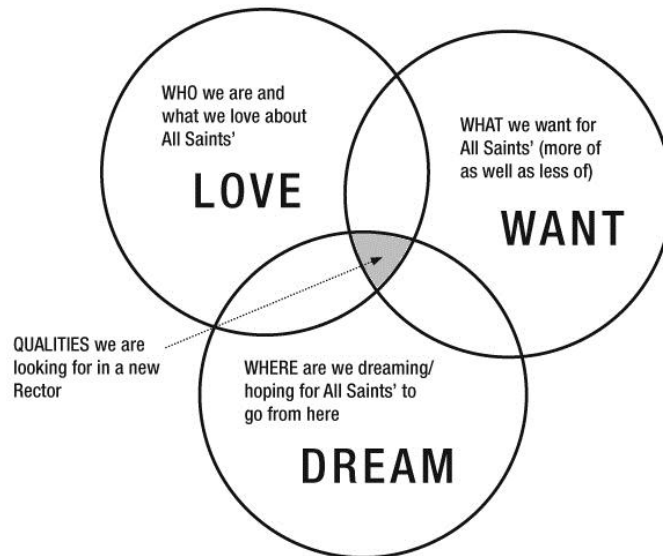
Warren Sponsler, Treasurer



Self-Study Phase in the Search for Our New Rector

Please join the Search Committee for one of the upcoming forums to learn more about the search process and to participate in the self-study phase by sharing your thoughts and feelings about All Saints' and the qualities we are looking for in a new Rector. The main areas of inquiry are: Worship Life, Christian Formation, Fellowship and Hospitality and Outreach.

We'll explore each of these areas by asking who we are today and what we love about All Saints'; what we want for All Saints'; and what are our dreams for the future of All Saints'.



We hope you will also participate in a survey that is being developed and will be available both online and on paper in January.

The input gathered from these forums and surveys will help inform the next phase of the search process, the creation of our parish profile.

Upcoming Search Committee Forums:

Sunday, January 5 after the 9:15 service AND after the 10:00 service - Reynolds Hall

Sunday, January 12 after the 8:00 service - Old Parish House, Parlor

Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00 pm - Old Parish House, Parlor

Search Committee: Betsy Fowle and Rick Simpson (co-chairs), John Catlin, Judy Collier, Joan Cunningham, Andrew Graff, Chris Howe, John Koch, 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.*



The All Saints' Stained Glass Windows

I would like to share with you an update on the status of the Stained Glass Window Fund. For the last three years many parishioners have faithfully fulfilled pledges for the restoration and perpetual care of this precious asset of All Saints' Church. As you can see below we have completed the restoration of ten windows and have four more to do this spring.

Our artisans Greg Gorman and Kathy Chapman (see their article below) have assured me that the windows are now good for at least another one hundred years.

Here are the facts and figures:

Total amount pledged to date:	\$97,809
Total amount received to date:	\$92,583
Balance due (reminders have been sent)	\$5,234
Expenses to date:	\$49,500
Windows repaired:	
Angel	\$3,850
Isaiah	\$7,700
Children's (North Transept)	\$7,700
Mary Windows (South Transept)	\$10,500
Paul (Nave North)	\$4,200
John (Nave North)	\$5,250
Mark (Nave North)	\$7,500
Matthew (Nave South)	\$3,850
Windows still to be repaired:	
Luke and Paul, each approx.	\$4,000
St. Nicholas, approx.	\$3,000
Grisaille in side vestibule, approx.	\$1,500

I would like to remind you that the estimated replacement cost for insurance purposes of our windows is \$850,000.

Thanks are in order for some very special helpers: Sally Steere and Carol Walsh, who have been running the "back office operations, that is keeping track of everything. Praises also go to Greg Gorman and Kathy Chapman, the artisans who are doing such fine work. I would like to acknowledge a generous gift to the perpetual care fund of \$40,000 from Elsie Van Buren in memory of her son Charles. I would also like to express appreciation to Rick Simpson, Audrey White, Rod Falby and Jerry Branch who made calls to donors. I am most appreciative of the support of this effort by our former Rector, the Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole and my co-wardens Jack Lewis and Pam Everson.

Praise be to God!

David L. Simpson, Jr., Chair

Restoring the All Saints' Stained Glass Windows

The stained glass windows at All Saints' Episcopal are all quite consistent in their appealing coloring and design, which is remarkable for the dramatic difference in years between the first and the last sets of fabrication. Sadly for those who are responsible for the stewardship of the church, these beautiful panels of glass are quite fragile and need constant attention. Your windows have suffered the very same structural breakdowns that plague every stained glass window. Gravity and the soft, flexible nature of the lead itself have caused a gradual slippage of the panels into "bowing" that can easily be seen, especially from the outside. Once a panel begins to bow, the vertical plane of the panel is broken and gravity and the weight of the lead and glass in the sections above the bow weigh down on the infirm section and the problem gets worse and worse. Only removal of the damaged sections and re-leading of the panel will solve the problem.

However, the good news is that the rebuilt panels will be structurally sound for many generations: the money is well spent in terms of the spirit of stewardship. We have been honored to have been given the responsibility of bringing these beautiful Connick (and Redmond) windows back to their original state. Every panel that has been removed has undergone similar restoration. Once the panels were removed from the stonework (a difficult and delicate process) and moved to the workshop, the glass is separated from the lead and every and each piece is scrubbed in a special

solution to remove the dirt and old putty. The cleaned pieces (as well as the new, repainted ones) are then re-leaded with strong, modern-style lead 'comes' and the panel re-puttied. The 'new' panel is then installed into the stonework and puttied into place. A network of thin support bars is soldered to the outside of the panels, which will guarantee that the panels are much more strongly supported than before.

Kathy Chapman and Greg Gorman, Stained Glass Window Restorers

All Saints' Episcopal Church

Stained Glass Window Restoration Fund Contributors

Patricia Alexander
Charles and Abigail Anthony
Igor and Amédine Bella
Madelyn Betz
Holly Peterson Breedon
David and Laurel Peterson Brouwer
Kathryn "Tommie" Brown
Ruth Carr
David Clinkenbeard
G. Jarvis and Barbara Coffin
Judith Collier
Elizabeth "Libby" Collins
Doris Covey
Jane Cunningham
Deborah DeCicco
Edward Despres and Deborah Rogers
Cynthia Englehardt
Eleanor Erickson
Roderick and Ann Falby
Harold and Janet Fiedler
Paul and Vance Finch
Stephen and Elizabeth Fowle

Gilbert Verney Foundation
Gerry Hallgrimson
Harry and Cynthia Healer
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Christine A. Howe
David and Anne-Marie Irwin
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Steven and Ann Lord
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Eric and Tricia Burt Masterson
Manton Metcalf
Barbara Metivier
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Nancy E. O'Neill
Peter and Connie Oliver
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Bettina Peabody

Jean Peters
Linn and Nancy Perkins
Dorothy Peterson
Heather Peterson
Susan Reynells
Charles and Alma Ruth
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Rick and Jody Simpson
Jacob Skinner
Myron and Sara Anne Steere
Arthur L. Stevenson
Tran Khanh Tuyet
Elsie Van Buren
John and Judith Vance
Carl, Jr. and Dorothy Wagner
Carol Collins Walsh
Thomas and Anne Marie Warren
Robert and Mary Lou Weathers
Josephine Wheeler
Audrey White
Richard and Gail Wilson

Animals Live in Eden

Animals live in Eden
Each and every day
So too would we
If we could see –
How our minds get in the way

This earth our blessed haven
Not for Heaven to be mistook
Just fix your mind
On anything and find –
It grows bigger, when you look

Yet here by the morning fire

In these thoughts won't fit
What my kitten sees
At the center of me –
A pleasant place to sit!

Still off my head will stray
Into worries and regret
To the stack of bills
Or worldly ills –
Though in vain I may forget...

The magnificence and joy

Of life eternal in this day
That my dog knows
And in living it shows –
But our minds get in the way

So let me for a moment

Turn my thoughts to one above
Too good to deny
Too great to magnify –
The simple truth of love

ARP (*Andy Peterson*)



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Editor's Note

My cousin's daughter Sarah and her husband Dariusz came for a visit today (they live in Copenhagen.) After we ate our quiche (admiring the almost-frozen Nubanusit from my kitchen window) and shopped in Depot Square, we visited the church. Sarah hasn't been inside All Saints' since my daughter Jen's wedding in 1993 and Dariusz, born in Poland, has never been to Peterborough or an Episcopal church before.

Both of them remarked on the beauty of the church architecture, the windows, the mosaic of John the Baptist, the tapestry and the "Dancing Madonna" sculpture. But what they liked best was the *feeling* of the church. "Cozy" and "filled with love" are some of the words they used to describe their experience of All Saints'. I know what they mean.

The theme for this month's *Messenger* is "Beginning Anew," and Celeste offers us an inspired way to look at new beginnings. Becky challenges us to focus on our mission of service in

Cassius writes this month of *Stitches* by Anne Lamott. If you haven't read her books, you're in for a treat. In his final column as All Saints' Treasurer, Warren reviews the old year and looks forward to the new. Celeste lets us in on what our Winnie will face the first week in January as she sits for the General Ordination Exams. Our thoughts and prayers will be with her all the way!

Tricia tells us about a fascinating event to take place on Epiphany, January 6 – the construction of *The Icon House* right on our front lawn.

The Search Committee events & prayer, Saints' Days and Saintly News, and an update on the Stained Glass Window Project round out this issue.

The deadline for the February *Messenger* is January 15. The theme will be "*Spreading the Word.*" Please send your contributions to me at chow6569@gmail.com.

With much gratitude and great joy,