

THE MESSENGER

June 2014, Volume 5 Number 3

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)

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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A Message from Celeste...

Recently, in a conversation with one of you, I suggested that Mary Magdalene was one of the disciples. That brought a quizzical response, because, after all, she wasn't listed among the twelve in any of the gospels.

But the fact is, when she recognized Jesus on Easter morning she called him "Rabbouni," which John the evangelist tells us means "teacher." And someone who *has* a teacher is a disciple - a learner.

Thinking about this, I become increasingly interested in the many men and women who were among Jesus' original disciples. And from them, my prayers turn to the millions of other disciples who have come after the first ones.

Like ourselves.

Often, in our anxiety to get everything right, our eagerness to be certified in the faith, we forget that we are, and will always be, disciples. And the church, the body of Christ, is our university.

Our course of study at this university only *begins* with our Baptism - the ceremony of matriculation in this school. We go on from there to learn from Jesus in the same way the original disciples did:

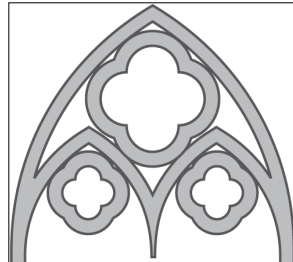
- Reading, hearing, and studying his Word - a lecture course
- Meeting him in the Eucharist - a tutorial
- Watching him at work in the world - our "field education"

And there are also seminars at this university - the many ways in which we learn together as we share our struggles, questions, and insights with one another.

Of course, there will be tests as well. But because we have applied ourselves to learning, we will be able to make a good showing on them.

Our goal is graduation - so appropriately called "commencement," when we move on to a new and eternal beginning.

Your fellow student,



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.
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A Bonus Sermon for the Summer...

This text was assigned for the daily office this morning – it’s one you rarely get to hear, because it is not included in the Sunday lectionary. So I’m offering an abbreviated version for your study over the summer.

Leviticus 23:10-22

The LORD spoke to Moses: 10 Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you and you reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. 11 He shall raise the sheaf before the LORD, that you may find acceptance; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall raise it... 14 You shall eat no bread or parched grain or fresh ears until that very day, until you have brought the offering of your God... 15 And from the day after the Sabbath, from the day on which you bring the sheaf of the elevation offering, you shall count off seven weeks; they shall be complete. 16 ...then you shall present an offering of new grain to the LORD. 17 You shall bring from your settlements two loaves of bread as an elevation offering, each made of two tenths of an ephah; they shall be of choice flour, baked with leaven, as first fruits to the LORD...When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am the LORD your God.

And here’s the sermon, I won’t get to preach:

The book of Leviticus is the basis of Jewish understanding of right relationship with God, and right worship. Knowing it as they did, the first Christians came to understand their relationship with God in the same way.

This particular passage taught them and us today the two great ways we fulfill the great commandments: that we love the Lord with all our hearts, with all our minds and with all our might, and that we love our neighbors as ourselves: First fruits giving, and sharing with our less fortunate neighbors.

What we traditionally refer to as “stewardship” is actually this sacrifice of the first fruit of our labor, a ritual acknowledgment that all we have belongs to God. “First fruits” or “sacrificial giving” is the practice of determining what share of your income you will offer to God, and then making that gift “off the top” throughout the year.

Please note that almsgiving – in this passage, leaving some of your harvest for the poor – is commanded *in addition to* the first fruits offering; not a substitute for it.

In the fall, your church leadership will appeal to you to pledge financial support for the ministries of All Saints’ Parish. I encourage all of you to make sacrificial giving part of your ongoing with God.

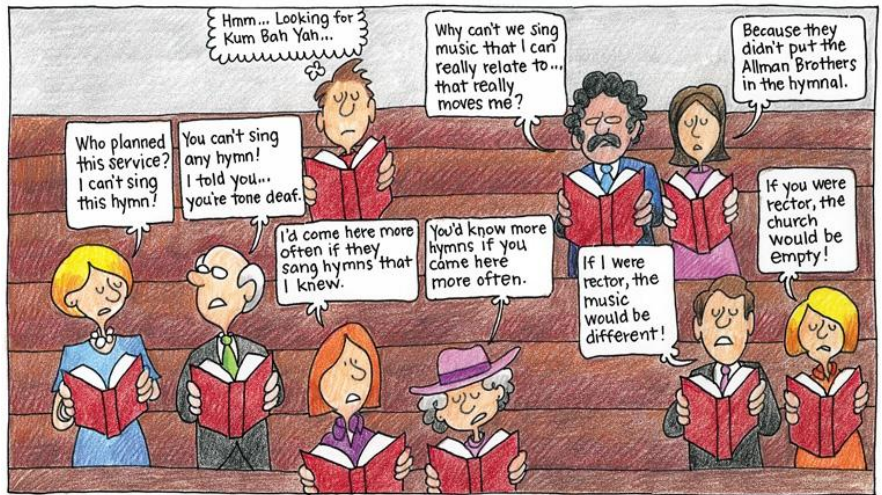
Your sister in Christ,

Celeste+

Alma's Poem

Music is the language of heaven
The choir singing
The church bells ringing
Calling us to worship and pray
All help us on our Christian way
When we leave we have found
We've been lifted to higher ground

Love, *Alma*



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Saintly News

Congratulations to...

- ❖ Frankie Beyer, and her parents Ivy Vann and Hugh Beyer, on her graduation from Sweet Briar College
- ❖ Olivia Krommes, and her parents Beth Krommes and Dave Rowell, on her graduation from Clark University
- ❖ Evan Wagner for achieving honors at South Meadow Middle School
- ❖ Bev Kemp on the birth of her new great-granddaughter, Adelaide Rose
- ❖ Rod and Ann Falby on the birth of their granddaughter, Hannah Rose

Gloria Schultz

Child of Thine

I sought to teach you of the Lord
All glory, honor and laud
But when you turned your gaze to mine
I saw the face of God

May what I saw there in your eyes
Ever be so free
For when I see you in myself
So too shall I be.

You Are Invited!

Ears to Hear at All Saints' Church

“He who has ears, let him hear,” Matthew 11:15

For the past few months, the Vestry has been envisioning All Saints' Church 20 years from now. And we have “ears to hear” how we can better support you and ensure the vitality and growth of our church in the future. Over the next year or so we hope to meet individually with all parish families. In these informal conversations, we want to hear how All Saints' Church can help you grow in your faith and experience God's love in your life. We're looking forward to meeting with you and will be in touch

Andy Peterson, 3/31/14

June Saints' Days

6/1	Jarvis Coffin	6/15	Meghann Wuorinen
6/2	James Sarles	6/16	Shelley Hulbert
6/3	Bob Kipka		Laura Phillips
	Judy Heddy	6/17	Jim Wheeler
	Ian Sistare		Dodie Finlayson
6/5	Charlie Ruth	6/19	Sharon MacCartney
6/8	Libby Fuller	6/19	Eric Masterson
	Andrew Graff		Jonathan Miner
	John Lewtas	6/20	Igor Bella
6/9	Heather Tourgee	6/22	Virginia Peterson
6/11	Brad White		Joy Boothby
6/12	Jean Peters	6/24	David Levesque
6/13	Patricia Szydlo	6/26	Isabella Rose Messa
	Miles Marlar	6/28	Christina Gatto
	Henry Marlar	6/30	Benjamin Frehner
	Calvin Marlar		Jonah Goodwin

Book Note

When Celeste referred to Nadia Bolz-Weber in a sermon a while ago, I dimly remembered having seen a picture of her standing with some diocesan clergy at St. Paul's School, of all places. Skinny and richly tattooed, with, shall we say, vivid speech patterns, this Lutheran pastor from Colorado has captured a lot of attention. Her own difficult journey had led her to a ministry among the marginal, especially the young and marginal – her congregation is named the “House for All Sinners and Saints.”

Her recent book, *Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint* (Jericho Books, 2013), turns out to be far more than an amusing though painful recounting of a squandered youth and eventual redemption. Less “Amazing Grace” and more Augustine’s *Confessions*, in fact. She is funny in a way typical of recovering alcoholics (AA meeting halls are often places of raucous laughter). Her sobriety has called upon a deep well of honesty and clear-eyed observation, both of herself and of others.

But she also is possessed of (or by!) an intelligence of mind, heart, and soul. (Perhaps body, also – her

main tattoo is of Mary Magdalene, whom she has taken as her patron.)

She is alert to the pitfalls of narcissism disguised as compassion. She is a person of faith, and knows to her cost the difference between that and gullibility. She is a profoundly orthodox Lutheran theologian, to the annoyance of some conservative critics. Her story is indeed of grace working through faith, sometimes by means of works, but sometimes in spite of works.

And what a storyteller! The world in which she lives is a profane, ironic, skeptical world, and her diction has all of those qualities. The profanity is indeed there, but if that offends you, I suggest that you simply read on regardless. Profane language is not for her a substitute for expression, but a means of emphasis, and there is far less of it than the first few pages would lead you to expect. Her voice is a contemporary urban voice, quick, sometimes caustic, sometimes marveling. There are mean streets, but also a seminary and a hospital in these pages. And a family.

Most of all, though, there is a congregation, a living collection of sundry folk who find

themselves receiving Christ's Body and Blood together and trying to live the life that experience challenges them to live. For in the end, this is a book brimming with love, of God and of God's

creatures, a song sung by one made to create canticles and teach them to others.

Cassius Webb

Vestry Views

At their May meeting, the Vestry heard an update on the Outreach Ministry, including plans for a major fundraising event to take place on September 6, and our hopes for being able to fund our outreach projects as part of our budgeting process.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the progress of the Vestry "dreamers" group's five-year vision-based budget and the Vestry "builders" group's plan to visit all parish families over the next two years in order to get to know you and hear your stories about your connection with God and All Saints' Church (see May 2014 *Messenger* "Vestry Views" article by Christy Meinke.)

The visiting program has now been named "Ears to Hear" (Matthew 11:15) and a copy of the invitation appears in this month's *Messenger*. Every parish family listed in the church directory will be contacted by a member of the Vestry and their parishioner partner at some point over the two-year period to invite you to



participate.

Please remember that these are informal conversations and at your convenience. We hope you will accept our invitation and we look forward to meeting with you soon!

Elizabeth Tong, Vestry Member

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 Search for Our New Rector

This is the first new news in several weeks, since our parish profile was posted online and our search officially launched by the Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson via ministry sharing channels. Hannah tells us that she and Bishop Rob have been receiving names and applications from "stellar" priests discerning the

possibility of a call to be our next rector. Before passing those files on to a search committee, the diocese asked us to conduct a practice Skype interview with a priest who is not applying for this position. We completed that exercise on May 20 and in the days that followed received and have begun to review applicants' files, prayerfully and carefully. We plan to begin interviewing in early June, first by Skype and later in person with a smaller number of candidates. We will provide updates when possible, but please understand the importance of confidentiality in this process and continue to keep all those in discernment in your prayers.

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

Join the Adventure

Sign up for Education for Ministry!

If you are thinking about taking the Education *for* Ministry course, summer is the time to sign up.

What is EfM? It is a great way to broaden your understanding of the Bible and the history of Christianity with the opportunity for group discussion. The course is a four-year program, which runs September through May, with meetings once a week.

Participants sign up for one year at a time. Year One covers the Old Testament; Year Two, the New Testament; Year Three, the history of Christianity; and Year Four, theology.

EfM is not an academic course. What is learned from the year lessons is incorporated into an environment where participants can explore personal beliefs and theology that helps to refine and strengthen faith. This is with the goal to be better ministers of Christianity for ourselves and in the world.

For new EfMers and continuing participants alike, now is the time for registration. It takes a few weeks to get the materials so we need to have everyone registered by mid-August. The first class for the 2014-2015 year will be Monday, Sept. 8.

To learn more about the course, contact Marilyn Weir or anyone who has participated in EfM.

Please contact Marilyn Weir at photos4u@galaxy.net or 924-3405.

The Acolyte Corps at All Saints'

One of the many behind-the-scenes ministries at All Saints' Church is the acolyte corps. This writer has a long history with the acolyte corps, beginning when he was just nine years old. The job of the acolytes is to assist the priest and lead the processions. This tradition goes back many centuries.

We see the acolytes at the altar every Sunday but how does that happen? First and foremost, we recruit young people (adults are also welcome) to be acolytes. They are then given training at a session held at the beginning of September. It has been our practice to combine this with a welcoming pizza party where the young people can socialize with one another. We appoint two experienced acolytes as head acolytes and they lead the teams scheduled for each Sunday. The head acolytes are distinguished by the blue ribbon on the cross they wear around their necks each Sunday. The head acolyte assigns tasks to each of their team members and act as mentors to the younger, less experienced, acolytes. The senior acolytes serve a two-year term.

I grew up in All Saints' Church and began serving as an acolyte at a young age, starting as a torchbearer. As I got older I was given more responsibilities. Now, I train acolytes in all aspects of the job so that can do whatever is necessary. There are things that younger, smaller acolytes might have trouble with such as lighting tall candles and carrying the gold processional cross, which is fairly heavy.

Here at All Saints', membership in the acolyte corps has ebbed and flowed over the years. During the 1970s, the corps dwindled to almost nothing because there were very few young people in the parish at the time. In the 1980s, I took over as acolyte trainer with the goal of building up the corps. I was successful and had a good group of young people serving. After ten years, I took a break and the corps carried on pretty well. About twelve years ago, I was asked to train the acolytes once again and it has been a privilege and a joy to run this ministry. Pat Row assists me and we have been blessed to have a terrific group of young people. This group is so good that I rarely have to give any directions to them on any given Sunday.

Our acolytes are scheduled to serve from the beginning September through Trinity Sunday and it has been my practice to give them the summer off. However, they are welcome to serve during the summer if they wish. I often serve during the summer and if there are other adults or young people who would like to help, let me know and I will gladly train as needed. It is a wonderful ministry and it is not difficult at all.

Arthur Eldredge

View from the Bench

The Golden Years

As horrifying as the thought is, this year marks my fiftieth as a church organist and choir director. I *did* start young – although I was a high schooler and not a six-year-old when I took my first paid position – but, rather than bemoan the reality that my golden years may be upon me, I'd rather reflect on my "golden years" on the bench. As a church musician, I've rarely been away from home for the weekend, only once for Christmas, and I've forfeited many a vacation week for lack of an available supply organist. But I wouldn't trade the time I've spent doing what I do for anything. Having played more than 5,000 Sunday services, I find the view from the bench as interesting as ever, although these days it takes progressive lenses to keep that view in focus.

Over my 50 years I've served a Midwestern suburban Presbyterian congregation, an Anglo-Catholic parish in a large industrial city, a German-speaking Lutheran congregation in post-riot Newark, a Methodist congregation in rural southern California, and affluent churches large and small in Far Hills and Short Hills, New Jersey and now Peterborough. The musical cultures varied greatly among them, but certain truths have transcended denomination and geography. So, in the spirit of Robert Fulghum's "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," I want to share some of what I have come to understand about making music in the church during my 50 years on the bench –

- ❖ Familiar hymns are apparently the ones we *never* sing.
- ❖ At least one individual in every choir expects to be recognized as the center of the universe.
- ❖ Excellence is a habit, not a reflection of talent or intellect.
- ❖ Children are capable of far more than we generally expect of them.
- ❖ Adults are capable of far more than we generally expect of them.
- ❖ Singing and making music creates bonds and a sense of community among people far beyond that in any other human endeavor.
- ❖ Far more adults regret not having sung in a choir in their younger years than adults who did regret having done so.
- ❖ "As ye sow, so shall ye reap," must refer to what our children's weddings and our own funerals reveal about us.
- ❖ For a church musician, there is no such thing as *too* organized.
- ❖ Practice may or may not make perfect... and perfection may or may not be a healthy or realistic goal... but regardless... *practice*.
- ❖ "There is no such thing as bad music" is a lie.
- ❖ A church organ deserves (and rarely receives) at least the same level of care and maintenance as the family car – if for no other reason than it cost 25 times more and has a life expectancy 10-20 times longer.

I recognize these truths are not universal in the same way Fulghum's were. If you are disappointed that the view from the bench hasn't provided any "juicy stories," I apologize. (I have plenty of stories, but I hate gossip.) But feel free to engage me in conversation about any of them over the summer.

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster



All Saints' Church
51 Concord Street
Peterborough NH 03458

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Editor's Note

"Singing and making music creates bonds and a sense of community among people far beyond that in any other human endeavor," says Jeff in "View from the Bench" this month. On August 27, 1957, my family moved to Leominster, Mass. A week later, I went to my first rehearsal for the Carol Choir at Pilgrim Congregational Church. I sat next to a blonde girl my age who wore the cutest shoes I had ever seen. She was friendly and funny and we sang together and then she walked part way home with me. That's how I met Vicki. Victoria, as she is now called, lives in D.C., and was the leader of the knitting retreat I just attended in Ireland.

My travelling companion, Miriam, is a woman I met 40 years ago when we each found ourselves living in South Carolina and going to All Saints', Florence. She's the mother of my goddaughter Maggie and they continue to sing in their Episcopal Church choir in Tulsa.

After our knitting retreat, Miriam and I traveled to Oxford to visit Catherine and Thomas McCosker for a few days. You all remember Catherine singing in our All Saints' choir while they lived in Peterborough.

A mile or two from our B&B in the village of Kennington, outside Oxford, was Iffley. I walked there along the Thames towpath and attended early morning communion and breakfast at the rectory at St. Mary's Church, the 12th C. Norman church that served as the model for our building.

Bonds...sense of community...church. How lovely.

The deadline for the July/ August *Messenger* is June 18. The theme will be "Basking in the Love of God." Please send your contributions to me at chow6569@gmail.com.

With much gratitude and great joy,

Christina