

THE MESSENGER

March 2014, Volume 4 Number 11

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...

According to Webster's dictionary, the word "penitential" means "a feeling of deep sadness because you have done something wrong."

When I was in Sunday school we were taught that Lent commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent at the beginning of his ministry, fasting in the wilderness, and being tempted by Satan. (Matthew 4:1-11, the Gospel assigned for the first Sunday in Lent.) A great deal of emphasis was placed on the fasting part of this, and the whole enterprise was then seen as a sort of penitential project by Our Lord. This never made a lot of sense to me, since it had been drummed into me that Jesus was without sin. So, why the need for penitence and self-punishment?

Marcus Borg, in his seminal book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, cleared away the weeds of convention for me, and ultimately brought me to Christ. Borg suggests that Jesus' retreat into the wilderness, immediately following his baptism, was similar to the "vision quest" that holy persons in many traditions have undertaken over many centuries to equip themselves for a spiritual ministry. Those of you who have read *Living on the Border of the Holy*, by L. William Countryman might understand this as a deliberate journey to that holy border.

Characteristics of a vision quest include isolation, fasting, and vulnerability. The purpose of these features is not for penance but rather to clear away the distractions and securities of the material world so that one may recognize our utter dependence on God, and then know him vividly and intimately. Jesus returned from his vision quest referring to God as "Abba," the equivalent of "Daddy."

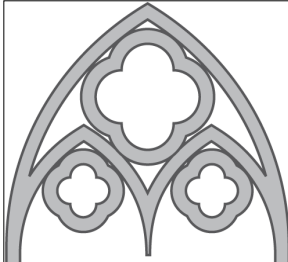
Ever since then I have seen Lent as a time to take on the spiritual discipline of Jesus in his time in the wilderness - if only in a diluted form. Fasting, self-denial, study and prayer all serve to quiet the hungers and distractions that get in the way of our relationship with God. Thus prepared, we may be able to behold Him, who is our friend and not a stranger.

Wishing you a holy Lent,

Celeste+

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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

THE VESTRY

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Senior Warden

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Christian Education

Conscious Expansion

It's hard to think about Easter, or Lent, or anything related to spring today. It just feels too distant. This morning I went out to try to find, feed and water our ducks and goats. Squeezing my way into their little shelters, I snaked through tiny spaces, cracks in doors that are frozen and snowed in position. I felt the snow pouring in through the top of my muck boots. I kicked my way through piles of snow, trying to find a bucket of hay buried in the drifts. My goofy dog bounded through the feet of snow in our backyard, occasionally disappearing beneath the white, and emerging, snowy and exuberant. As I trekked the paths we've dug through the many storms of this winter, the snow waist high on either side of me, I thought to myself, "40 days in a desert sounds pretty nice right now." This has been a long, hard winter and it is not over yet - many storms, feet of snow, freezing temperatures, and many sick children, sick bellies, and the list goes on. It's easy to feel "holed up." The last thing on my mind, if I'm truly honest, is trying to come up with something to give up for Lent.

And yet - more and more - the thought occurs to me that the path of spiritual growth is not supposed to be easy. Simple, perhaps, but never easy. Some days, faith does come gently, effortlessly, like sitting in a warm meadow, soaking up the summer sun. Other days, it feels more like trudging through a winter storm, carrying heavy buckets of sloshing water. What I often forget, whether I am in the meadow or the wasteland, is that I am not alone. Lent is a time this knowledge becomes even more valuable, as a spiritual heaviness follows close on my heels. Someone once told me, "If you can't feel God, remember it is never Him who has stepped away."

This year, I will do something new. Rather than restrict myself by abstaining from something, I will use Lent to consciously expand my awareness. I will bring my gaze to areas within and without that I have overlooked and thus missed God's presence. This may mean taking time to work on a personal inventory, inviting God to work in and among my weaknesses to strengthen me, or seeking to educate myself about instances of human suffering I am unaware of, or conversely, celebrating examples of triumph where God is accomplishing great things. Watching a TedTalk, reading several international blogs I've come across, taking more quiet time and meditation, each of these can help me expand my awareness, my compassion, and my gratitude. I need only hear about refugee children staggering alone across a Syrian desert to humbly accept with gratitude my short, wintry walk to the duck house.

This year, as it is every year, Lent is an opportunity for growth. I need only accept its challenges, and keep trekking along, with God at my side.

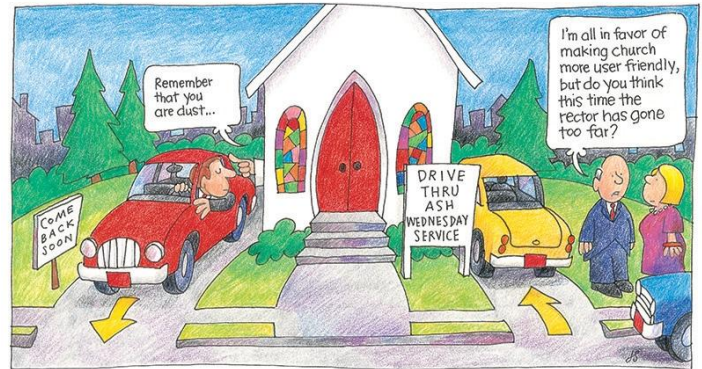
Becky Goodwin, Director of Christian Education

Alma's Poem

They said, Rabbi, where are you staying? He said, "Come and see." (John 1:38)

Phillip said to Nathanael "Come and see." (John 1:45)

Sunday mornings are always sweet
As believers in worship meet
The Holy Spirit who's never far
Will meet them where they are
Waiting for the service to begin
Listening for a favorite hymn
Enjoying how the choir sings
And the message the priest brings
The Lord is there for you and me
"Come and see."



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Saintly News

Congratulations to...

- ❖ Ivy Vann and Hugh Beyer in celebration of the marriage of their son Charles to Sarah Bell
- ❖ Peggy and Jim VanValkenburgh in celebration of the engagement of their son Christopher to Kaeleigh Barker
- ❖ Peggy and Jim VanValkenburgh in celebration of the engagement of their daughter Elizabeth to Jason Lee

Gloria Schultz

Treasurer's Report

As I begin my term as your new treasurer, I wish to thank Warren Sponsler for leaving me a wealth of information and for his assistance in making this a relatively smooth transition. There is a lot to learn about the Church finances and I have at this point, only seen the tip of the iceberg.

As you all know, we passed the 2014 budget at the Annual meeting in January. This budget is different from past years as it is based on actual pledges received rather than anticipating additional pledges coming in after the budget was passed. So far this year, January pledge payments are down from those of January last year. It is hoped that this is due to weather conditions keeping parishioners from attending services. On a positive note, we have received some prior year pledges in January that exceeded what was anticipated.

After our sexton left in January 2013, the Vestry solved this problem by dividing the job into parts. We engaged Tere Anderson to take on the maintenance of the buildings. John Kaufhold has taken on the snowplowing and Lawn Envy will do the landscaping and outside maintenance during the warmer months. Since all are contractors and not on salary we were able to recognize about \$1,000 per year savings.

Please remember that if you have not already sent in your pledge for this year, it is not too late to do so. Our budget is very lean and your donations are crucial to sustaining our Church and all the wonderful ministries in which this congregation is engaged.

Christina Meinke, Treasurer

Vestry Views

The new vestry completed its first retreat over Valentine weekend. Every one of us was there because we were able to include one member vacationing in Mexico via Skype! We began by exchanging chocolate hearts and learning about our various personalities and gifts. Renee Charney, an All Saints' member, donated her time and led a discussion on a group-oriented version of the Meyers-Briggs inventory.

Every year the Vestry recognizes the work of three retiring members and welcomes three new members. This year, all members of the parish were invited to consider Vestry membership and become part of a working team, representing our entire church family. It is important to remember that the Vestry is not a private club but rather a team of dedicated parish members seeking to represent the whole. Please know that Vestry meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend and audit the discussions.

As a result of this open nomination process, we have superb parish representation, dedicated to reaching out to our All Saints' church family in ways we hope will bring our community closer together. We are beginning 2014 with a plan for Vestry members to meet individually with all parish families. We want to engage everyone in the conversation about who we are and how we live our lives in this faith community. We want to know how we can better support our members and our church to grow together in ways that are relevant to each of us in our daily lives.

In this year of transition, we encourage each of you to talk with your elected representatives so that we all may continue to build a growing community where Christ's love is experienced and shared.

Pam Everson, Senior Warden

Book Note

Until last September, Jonathan Sacks bore the magnificent title "Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth." Since 2009, he has also been a Life Peer and thus a member of the House of Lords. As one might expect, a learned Orthodox Jew.

What one might not expect is a brilliant reasoner, a (sometimes) approving quoter of Nietzsche and Marx, a witty and pungent writer, and an impassioned defender of science. In *The Great Partnership: Science, Religion, and the Search for Meaning* (Schocken Books, New York, 2011,) he leads us on an adventure of discovery, the road studded with illuminating apothegms. ("Science takes things apart to see how they work; religion puts things together to see what they mean.") His general thesis is that science and religion, especially monotheistic religion, are both necessary to a humane modern society. He has no more patience for religious usurpation of science's domain than for scientists' pronouncements on religious questions. Both are missing the point. The pursuit of knowledge is a blessed human

endeavor, and both the scientist and the seeker for God are precious.

Rabbi Sacks had much contact with an older breed of atheists in his philosophical training, and clearly admires and respects them. He has the Jewish zest for a good argument, and points out that it is part of Jewish tradition to learn from your opponents. He detects in some more recent atheist writers a shrillness and irrationality that misunderstands religious thought and then rejects what it has misunderstood.

On the other hand, the fundamentalist mindset he sees as another misunderstanding: a refusal to allow interpretation and reason to come between scriptural text and present action. This, he points out, is a relatively recent departure from the tradition of all three Abrahamic faiths, which always tried to leave a space for God's Spirit between the utterance and the receiving of Divine Truth. He seems content to be himself, an English Orthodox Jew in his practice and belief (some of which will not coincide with yours), but without a

need to seek converts, which he points out is not a Jewish idea.

The Great Partnership, fortunately, is less dense and more engaging than this note. Rabbi Sacks, like any good teacher, repeats himself as needed, and gives us many nuggets from Christian as well as

Jewish, Muslim, agnostic and atheist sources, scientists, philosophers, and people of faith.

Wise, compassionate, far ranging, and personable, Jonathan Sacks is a joy to read.

Cassius Webb

Liturgy during Lent

As we begin the austere season of Lent, our liturgy will follow the penitential options in the Prayer Book, and also incorporate some practices that conform our minds to prayer.

On the first Sunday in Lent we will open all three worship services with The Great Litany, the first part of the Anglican liturgy to be written in English. Although the Great Litany is not particularly penitential, it is a ritual that honors the practice of prayer, especially supplicatory prayer.

At the 8 AM service the Prayer of Humble Access will be added for the Lenten season. Both services will begin with the Penitential Order on page 319 (Rite One) or 351 (Rite Two), followed by the Kyrie. Special intercessions, normally inserted at various points in the prayers of the people, will be read before the prayer begins, making the prayer more cohesive. At 10 AM the Eucharistic Prayer will be A or C.

We often see crosses veiled during Lent, a tradition that has always seemed odd to me, because after all, Lent is the time when we are called to be especially mindful of the Cross. Actually, crosses are veiled, not because of what they represent, but because they are often quite fancy, and thus are not appropriate for this austere season. This year our crucifixes and wooden crosses will not be veiled. However, most artwork in the church will be covered or removed.

In the next issue of *The Messenger*, I will describe changes in our Holy Week services, and the theological reasons for them.

I pray that during our holy Lent we may abide in God's presence and know His healing love.

Celeste+

March Saints' Days

1	Ward Bryant	15	Joseph Davis	28	Marc Smith
4	Wayne Thomas	16	Edward Despres		Jonathan Sistare
6	Graham Parker		Ronia Foecking		Lara Niemela
8	Rody Falby	19	Dorothy Wagner	31	Ann Falby
9	Don Brezinski	20	Colin Sistare		Amy Miner
10	Joelle Martin	25	Corey Field		
10	Richard Benoit	28	Albert LaChance		

Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Wednesday, March 5

12 Noon and 7:30 PM, in the Church

Daily Morning Prayer, Starting March 6

7 AM, Monday-Friday, in the Lady Chapel

Putting English On It, Starting March 6

10:30 AM, Thursdays, in the Parlor, Old Parish House

Love Life Discussion Group, Starting March 11

6:30 PM, Tuesdays after Community Supper, in the Parlor, Old Parish House

Evensong, March 30

5 PM. in the Church

Putting English on It: A Thursday Morning Lenten Course

With all respect to the Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole, I suspect that many of you have never traced all the English DNA in our Episcopal genome. In this course we will discover who we are and how we got that way by looking back to our English roots. Along the way, we'll learn lots about Anglican theology, liturgy, and church governance. And we'll have a lot of fun. Find out what Henry VIII was really up to!

No books to read, lots of visuals, and plenty of Celeste's quirky and irreverent ideas.

As an added bonus, if you would like to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, this course is all you'll need to take. If you don't know about confirmation/reception, just ask Celeste. (Confirmation and reception at All Saints' will be on Sunday, September 7, when Bishop Rob Hirschfeld visits our parish.)

We'll meet in the Old Parish House parlor at 10:30 AM on Thursdays during Lent, beginning March 6. If you would like to join us, please call the church office.

Celeste+

P.S. I will offer the course again on six Wednesday evenings starting April 23.



This Lent you are invited to participate in a program called *Love Life: Living the Gospel of Love*. It is offered by the Brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (The Cowley Brothers,) an Episcopal monastic community in Cambridge. In a series of short, daily

videos, the Brothers delve deeply into the gospel that shapes their community life. They believe that spending time reading and thinking about the Gospel of John can help us all to live more abundantly: the life of love to which we are called. John's message of love can unlock our own hearts and transform the communities we are all part of.

Everyone who has access to a computer can participate. You can watch the videos at home or at work or at the library – on a computer, smart phone or tablet. If you wish, you may also join a parish discussion group to reflect on the messages in the videos and share your thoughts with each other.

The daily video series runs from Ash Wednesday, March 5, through to Palm Sunday, April 13. The weekly discussions will be held on Tuesday evenings following the Community Supper.

To subscribe to the video series, go to www.SSJE.org/lovelife.

Subscribers will be emailed each weekday morning with a mobile friendly video and provocative question. You can sign up now to start receiving the daily videos on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

A handout highlighting each week's theme will be available in the Sunday bulletin.

Winnie Skeates, Chair Adult Education Committee


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

The Search Committee wishes to thank all the parishioners who responded to the survey either on line or on paper. We have been studying the data and comments and using them to help inform the parish profile that we are in the process of creating. A sub-committee has been hard at work writing a draft of the text and laying it out with photographs and graphics. The whole committee will then review the draft and make suggestions, and we hope to have a final copy to send to the Bishop and Canon for Transition Ministry by early March. When they have approved it, we will share it with the vestry and ask for their approval. On a date to be determined as of this deadline, the Reverend Canon Hannah Anderson will want to meet with the Vestry and Search Committee to discuss the profile and next steps. She hopes to take our parish profile and other information about our search for a new rector to a ministry-sharing conference in late March, where she and transition officers from other dioceses share the openings they have and the names of clergy who may be interested in applying for those positions. It is difficult if not impossible to predict an exact timetable for many aspects of this process, but as we have said many times, we know and trust that it will all happen in God's time. Thanks for your input in forums, conversations and the survey and for your continued



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

Yes!

I tend my winter garden, which I keep in a cool room. These are stalwart friends, transplanted in October into large pots and carried indoors for the cold weather. Do they dream of their past life – spring sunshine and soft rain – as they put up with my occasional attention? Perhaps they do, at first, as they droop a little and get over the shock. But, several months into it they are full of surprises. I went up a few weeks ago for my weekly visit and discovered they had been doing a lot more than dreaming. The parsley, who likes a lot to drink, was as green as ever; the geranium was working on new leaves; the mint was ready for a tea party; and the rosemary was in full bloom, covered with tiny blue flowers and reaching at the tips to glean all the pale winter sunshine offered! Clearly, they were all just fine, having adjusted nicely to a huge change in circumstances. They had all said, “Yes” to their new place in life.

I was a little taken back by this discovery, until I began to think about my own life and what saying “Yes” has meant at the times of great change for me. There have been several major changes through the years, some of which I have negotiated more gracefully than others. But that seems to be the point – times of change have the potential for Grace. The times when I have been aware of this gift are the times I have been able to see the Face of God in some way and say “Yes” with confidence. My summer plants appear to have drawn on some plant version of this faith that things were going to work out okay. Did they know intuitively what Dame Julian of Norwich knew, that “All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of thing will be well”? Perhaps. Would I have changed some parts of my life? Of course. But being graced with the certain knowledge that God is with me through it all, urging me to put out new leaves, reach for the sun, burst into bloom – this makes all things possible. Thanks be to God!

Elizabeth Hart

Juarez

Feeling empty? Consider a trip to Juarez!

It is guaranteed that you will be filled with blessings immeasurable. Paige Spaulding, three wonderful young adults (Emily Miner, Paul Kaufmann and Hayden James) and I are planning a trip during the last week of June. The cost of the trip is approximately \$1,000. Anyone interested, please contact me at patriciakwheeler@aol.com.

Several parishioners over the years have asked why we go in the summer. There are two main reasons: First, the children of Centro Victoria are out of school and they are the main reason for a visit. And second, winter nights get to freezing or below and there is no heating.

However, Paige and I do travel for a quick trip in the fall. We stay in El Paso, rent a car, and go over the border and play with the children on Friday and Saturday. We can easily offer this kind of a trip to anyone who would like to go to Juarez to come to know the children and the place better and not have to deal with the issues of the week-long trip in June (bare bones accommodations, work and the heat.) Paige and I will plan a trip in the fall of 2014 and the spring of 2015 and invite anyone interested in this shorter yet still wonderful trip. The cost is dependent on airfare.

Patty Wheeler

My Outreach Efforts

Pastor Joel and the kids at Centro Victoria rely on us and a few other donors in their area. That's it.

Folks from All Saints' might want to know how their donations to Juarez are used. Pastor Joel distributes the money wisely wherever the need is greatest such as flood repairs or doctor visits. Sometimes the funds are used to meet Juarez building requirements.

I have been sending vitamins for a while now but last year started sending food directly to the orphanage since during my last two visits, I have see kids walking away from the table hungry. I send bulk items via Amazon's “Subscribe and Save” program. When you sign up to send anything on a monthly basis, Amazon will ship it for free. The more you send, the more of a discount Amazon gives you.

At Centro Victoria the kids have cereal for breakfast and then do not eat again until dinner time. The schools in Mexico do not provide school lunch. I send granola bars, cheese crackers and fruit directly to Centro Victoria via El Paso (c/o Maria del Carmen Martinez Alvarado, 306 E Paisano Dr. PMB 768, El Paso, TX 79901-2722.)

I have the snack food sent every month automatically. It shows up on my credit card statement every month as an Amazon purchase but since it is sent to Centro Victoria it is

considered a charitable donation for tax purposes.

Here is a link:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/subscribe-and-save/details/>

It is my small way of giving to kids who have no programs in place to feed them during the school day. For the cost of two large cups of coffee, you could send a snack to school with a child from Centro Victoria.

Paige Spaulding

View from the Bench

Observing the Observance of Lent

Somber music in minor keys. Texts about sin and evil and despair and inadequacy and death.

I have occasionally heard tongue-in-cheek quips following one or another of our Lenten services: a little joke about an anthem or hymn – “Well, that was a cheery little number” – or about the penitential excesses represented by ashes and crucifixes and veils – “I suppose we have to have Lent; otherwise we won’t remember to make reservations for Easter dinner.”

I know the quips are just one of the ways people acknowledge, in spite of themselves, that Lent *is* different from the rest of the church year. I’m not a theologian, but I think I can safely say that Lent represents one way for us to understand and experience Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness as he confronted hunger, evil, temptation, and loneliness. I suspect many of us are far more comfortable celebrating the joy and light of Easter than observing the darkness and sadness that preceded it. But it is difficult to comprehend light without knowing darkness.

The Eastern Orthodox Church refers to Lent as the season of “Bright Sadness.” It is this idea that prompted the selection of music the All Saints’ Choir will sing at Evensong on the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Two texts we will be singing, one as the introit at the beginning and the other as the anthem at the conclusion of the liturgy, illustrate to me how our observance of Lent, our ability to empathize with the deep despair Jesus must have experienced in the days leading up to his crucifixion, changes profoundly the way we are able to understand what resurrection means.

The introit text, set to music by young American composer Sumner Jenkins, was found on a basement wall in Cologne, Germany, written by someone hiding from the Gestapo:

*I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when feeling it not.
I believe in God even when God is silent.
I believe in the silence.*

The anthem text, set to music in 1984 by English composer Richard Scarth, is by the well-known hymn writer, Frederick Faber (1814-1863):

*My God, how wonderful thou art, thy majesty how bright,
How beautiful thy mercy seat in depths of burning light!
How wonderful, how beautiful, the sight of thee must be.
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power and awful purity!
Father of Jesus, love’s reward, what rapture will it be
Prostrate before thy throne to lie, and gaze on thee.*

As part of your observance of Lent this year, I urge you to invite family, friends and neighbors to join us at 5 PM on March 30, for our Lenten Evensong.

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster

Pastoral Care Ministry

New System for Pastoral Care Ministry Referrals

A new system has been devised for handling referrals for pastoral care. Please make requests directly to Celeste, Diane, or me, Liz Tong. This core group will be responsible for receiving referrals and communicating among each other to

make sure requests get to the right person/group and for ensuring that any initial and follow-up needs are met. We want to be especially respectful of a person's preference for confidentiality, so don't be surprised if we ask what information (for example diagnosis or hospital contact information) is okay to share and with whom (such as the entire congregation or the prayer group only.)

Liz Tong, Ministry Co-Leader



All Saints' Church
51 Concord Street
Peterborough NH 03458

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Editor's Note

One of my cousins on the Howe side has been gravely ill. She was hospitalized for a month in the same ICU where she had long been an RN, then she was in a step-down unit, then on a regular medical floor at the hospital where she lives in Durham, North Carolina, and now she's moved to a rehab facility to regain her strength.

Cindy, a layperson, is a member of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross, which is composed of Anglican women called to live individual lives under a rule of intercessory prayer, thanksgiving, and simplicity of life. Companions pray and act with intentional concern for three themes: the unity of all God's people, God's mission in the world, and social justice. Our own Sharon MacCartney and Vance Finch are also Companions.

The combination of good medical care and a bold faith helped my cousin while she was critically ill and now during what will be a long recovery. Outcomes aren't always the ones we had hoped

Lent begins on March 5 with Ash Wednesday and as you will see in this *Messenger*, our church is offering many ways for you to observe a Holy Lent in preparation for Glorious Easter. Consider Celeste's suggestion that we look at the spiritual disciplines of Lent as part of a "vision quest."

The Great Partnership, Cassius's recommendation this month, sounds amazing. Maybe we should have a discussion group to talk about **Book Notes** each month! Both Patty and Paige bring concrete suggestions for how we can help in our Outreach work in Juarez. And there's so much more...

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

With much gratitude and great joy,
Christine

P.S. Next month's issue will be the first in Volume VI! So far about 150 parishioners have

