

THE MESSENGER

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: diane@allsaintsnh.org

Jamie Hamilton, 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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Dear Parishioners,

“Everything exposed to the light becomes light.” Ephesians 5:13

“Come Lord Jesus.” Revelation 22:20

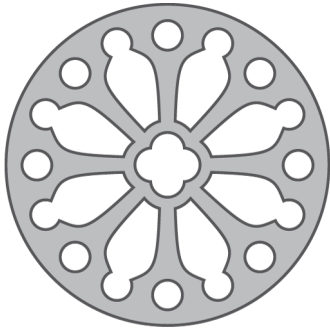
It's Advent.

I've been playing a game, thinking about words that start with "A" in honor of Advent: awake, alive, alert, attentive, asking, anointed... At the same time, words that I want to avoid surfaced quickly: anxiety, attachment, anger, arguments, agendas, addictions. Though it started out as a game, this exercise revealed something to me that is so naturally a part of who we are as humans: To wait and to prepare for Advent and to explore all the ways we can anticipate light, love and glory, also brings with it the "demon voices" that tempt us to avoid intentionality and discipline and convince us to armor ourselves with defenses, excuses and impatience.

Why is this? We get busy and distracted from the "one thing that matters" and we become vulnerable to our own insignificance. I remember, foolishly, thinking when I was first ordained, how easy it would be for me to "slip" into the church and pray every day. I mean it was right there! My office was steps away from the pews and the altar. But I got busy. In fact, setting time apart to pray and meditate became more difficult when I became a priest than it ever was before. Not fair! But it's the truth.

Fortunately, despite all our inadequacies, Advent is a Wake Up Call of Love. It's a blessed time when we can slow down even as our culture speeds up, and give ourselves permission to be in the present. We are blessed because through our journey in Advent, we will enjoy, as if we are viewing a double screen, the wait for the birth of the Baby Jesus and all the delight that brings to our children, while at the same time, the wait for the birth of the Living Christ which will sweep us all up into the Reign of the Glory of God.

Richard Rohr, one of my favorite spiritual guides, points out that when Jesus announces (all the time) the presence of what he calls the "kingdom" or the "reign" of God, he was inviting us to live in the "Big Picture," the fullness of God's banquet for us, and to "not get lost in momentary dramas, hurts or agendas...and to ask ourselves every day, 'In the light of eternity will this really matter?'"



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Advent matters because it's the season when we announce to each other and to the world the very stuff of our lives: God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that we may never perish, but have Life, everlasting.

With Advent Blessings,

Jamie+

Christian Education

Mental Furniture

On November 15, Jamie and I gathered with nine adult parishioners and eight children for a wonderful retreat. During a time of discussion, we shared our experiences with prayer and meditation, why it works for us, and what tools we've discovered along the way in developing a ritual prayer life. I heard much that I will take with me but two images in particular stand out. Both came from Ivy Vann, who, as we know, is a woman who practices what she preaches and models the obvious fruits of a faithful life. She said, "Regular prayer, even when we don't know if it's 'working', wears a space in us for God. It's like building furniture: we put it together a piece at a time and then when we need it, we can sit down in it and rest." How beautiful!

It made me reflect on the importance of the rituals we embed in our children and teens at All Saints'. It reminded me that even when we can't tell how much a Sunday School lesson might be sinking in, we know that we are planting with in our kids the seeds of the ancient stories that will blossom and inform their deepest identities. When we welcome them to assume the liturgical roles in church once a month, we are helping to build with them and in them the architecture of a faithful, prayerful life. At home recently, I heard Tommy singing the Hosanna to himself as he played with his toys. A joyful piece of mental furniture indeed! I love envisioning our children at All Saints' Church growing up, outfitted on the inside with all the "furniture" they need for a steady life of prayer and service.

I am so grateful for the priorities we have established in our church: children are welcomed and nurtured and teenagers are valued and encouraged to grow and serve those around them. I think of how great a space has been worn in me for God each year when we visit Boston to serve the homeless. I have seen that space grow in our teenagers as they huddle around each other during the healing prayer service at Teens Encounter Christ in Maine. Each young person who visited Juarez this summer opened that space inside for God to dwell- and then shared the wisdom that poured through at the pulpit and lectern in October's Interactive Eucharist. As the year comes to a close and a new one begins, I trust in the power of prayer and sacrament to keep working on that space in each of us, wearing it away gently, so God can grow ever bigger within us.

Some dates to note:

December 24, 4:30 PM: The Pageant of the Nativity featuring the children of All Saints' Church

January 24: Interactive Eucharist at the 10 AM service in the church

February 20-21: Thirty-Hour Fast in the Old Parish House (ages 11 and up are welcome to participate)

March 4-6: Middle and High School Retreat with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

THE MESSENGER

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John Goodhue
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Isabella (Boo)
Martin
Greg Naudascher
Andy Peterson

December Saints' Days

12/1	Bill Raymond Timothy Ryan	12/9	Hadley Bates	12/19	Sheridan Johnston
12/2	William Marot	12/10	Renee Charney	12/20	Carl Wagner, Jr. Sarah Kendall
12/3	Janet Fiedler	12/11	Max Scheinblum	12/25	Jesus of Nazareth
12/6	Hellyn Egan Christine Howe	12/12	John Calhoun	12/26	Finnian Brown
12/7	Lily Bell	12/15	Deb Rogers	12/27	Lois Walen Noah Harrington
12/8	Laurie Nelson	12/16	Catherine Cauthorne		Isak Harrington
12/9	Doris Covey Carleigh Brown	12/17	Michael Carter Caroline Sarles	12/30	Nicholas Ryan
		12/18	Barbara Wood		

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

All Saints' Church Vestry Report

The ASC Vestry met on Tuesday, November 17. Treasurer Christy Meinke reported that we are approximately \$44,000 short of meeting our pledges for 2015 but we anticipate that these will be completed by the end of the year. We have hired a part time bookkeeper to review and streamline our bookkeeping processes. This will free Diane Callahan to direct her attention to assisting Jamie and managing the office. Christy also presented a draft budget design for 2016 that begins the process of organizing the budget around ministry areas. The vestry discussed and will continue to review various ways of paying off the loan we have from the diocese for the Reynolds Hall pellet heating system, in order to take advantage of the match from the diocese.

Senior Warden Phil Suter brought forward a proposal for the establishment of a task force to explore the feasibility of purchasing the River Center property. The vestry approved this proposal with gratitude to Andy Peterson for his offer to represent ASC as a broker/buyer and to donate any gains from a sale to the church.

Greg Naudascher reported that Consecration Sunday was very successful in many ways. He received many favorable comments from parishioners on the presentation of the giving charts, the community aspect of filling out the pledge cards and enjoying the celebratory brunch together. As of this date, pledges received exceed those of 2014 at this time by 25 pledge units and \$20,000. Thank you to the committee that continues working toward the conclusion of this project and is considering ideas for the future.

Jamie reviewed the current projects on campus. The drainage from the hill to the road and through the neighbor's property is being cleaned out and improvements in the moisture in the lower level of the church have been noted already. The new lights in the church will be installed soon and information technology upgrades in the parlor and offices are being proposed. The Buildings and Grounds Ministry has been working hard on the many issues that come up on such a large campus and we continue to move toward a long-range plan for maintenance and improvements.

Jamie thanked the Vestry members who will rotate off at the end of January; Andy Peterson, Carl Wagner IV, Will Chapman and Deb DeCicco. She then brought forward the candidates for the 2016 Vestry: John Catlin, Lara Niemela and Barbara Kaufmann. Greg Naudascher has agreed to be a candidate for Junior Warden.

Jamie closed with this prayer from the *A New Zealand Prayer Book*:

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.
The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.
The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

Deb DeCicco, Junior Warden

Passing the Glass

Probably you recall all the work we did in repairing the lovely leaded glass windows of All Saints'. But almost none of us can recall that when All Saints was first built it had a completely different set of windows. Most of the original windows were replaced by new windows decades ago. The second generation windows include all of the tall ones, mostly with memorials at the bottom. Only a small number of original windows can still be found in the church. There are four small circle-pattern windows in the Sacristy, and four diamond-pattern windows in the former choir room in the basement.

Enter Dr. and Mrs. Bob Weathers, who have looked after the remnants of the original windows since they were taken out. You will be amazed to learn that one of the original All Saints' windows, recently refurbished, is permanently in the entrance at the brand new Catholic Church on Route 101.

Bob has one last original All Saints' window, partly intact and partly in pieces,

and he would like to "pass the glass" on to others in our church.

So, please examine your feelings about whether or not All Saints should restore this window and put it on display. It is probable that the lead work itself could be completed by myself (Alan Everson) and John Catlin. However, several other volunteers would be needed - first to clean hundreds of pieces of glass (a big messy painful job) before they can be laid out for re-leading. Then, after leading, every strip of lead has to be reinforced, throughout both sides, with a putty-like goop, to strengthen the window - another big messy painful job. Please tell us your thoughts about whether this window should be saved now, or just stored some more. Also, please tell me (everson3@earthlink.net) if you would volunteer for some of the "dirty work"!

Photos of an original All Saints' window, on part of the Catholic Church, will be posted soon!

Alan Everson

Senior Focus

We are very blessed to live in an area that offers many wonderful activities, both indoors and out, for people of all ages. I have realized that one of the biggest kept secrets of our town is that there is an active Senior Program located at the Peterborough Community Center. I know that because just recently, I have had the good fortune to become the "Senior Programming Specialist" for the Town of Peterborough Recreation Department. I oversee many of the programs and activities that are offered for our senior population as well as looking forward to expanding this program.

I am sharing this with you at this time because I feel that many senior parishioners from All Saints', as well as other parishes, could benefit from this program. Each week we have a cribbage group that meets on Mondays and an arts and crafts group that meets on Wednesday afternoons.

We share lunch on Fridays, as well as socializing and playing different games. Each month an "Explore New England" trip is offered where we visit many exciting places and also enjoy some good conversation and laughs over lunch. I am planning to expand our current program with additional new and exciting activities and trips. I do hope that you will take advantage and learn more about what is happening at the Community Center. You never know, a new friendship or a new hobby might be waiting for you.

Gloria Schultz

If you would like any additional information about the Senior Program, please feel free to call Gloria Schultz at 924-9489. Hope to hear from you.

Being Mortal and Other Health Care Issues

All Saints' Health Ministry News

Being Mortal, Atul Gawande's book that was reviewed in last month's *Messenger*, will be the starting point for a series of important conversations that the All Saints' Health Ministry will sponsor on five Sundays starting January 3 in Reynolds Hall after coffee hour.

Eighty percent of Americans say they want to die at home, but eighty percent die in medical institutions. A chief reason for that upside-down statistic is that many have not reflected on their own end-of-life beliefs and desires, nor have they had conversations with their physicians and loved ones to make their thoughts clear. We intend to offer time, space and tools to help our Saints examine their own preferences and make them known to themselves and others.

Cassius Webb will lead the first session on January 3 as participants reflect on the ideas present in the Introduction and first four chapters of Gawande's book. Our rector, Jamie Hamilton, will continue the conversation with us on January 10 as we explore chapters 5-8 and the Epilogue of *Being Mortal*. Copies are available at the Toadstool and the library in both print and electronic versions.

On January 17, members of the All Saints' Health Ministry team will facilitate "My Gift of Grace," an activity in which participants answer a series of questions that will help them clarify their own thoughts on living and dying well.

These are conversations that are happening all across the country, and New Hampshire has become part of the *Honoring Care Decisions* program sponsored by Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital. Home Healthcare and Community Services (HCS) is a participant in that project, and HCS Palliative Care Social Worker Jennifer McCalley and Certified Advance Care Planning Facilitator Priscilla Reyns will come to Reynolds Hall on January 24 to lead us in a 90-minute session on specifics of care planning. If possible, it would be helpful for participants to invite their own health care agents to this event. Copies of "The NH Advance Care Planning Guide" from the NH Foundation for Healthy Communities will be available at no cost.

January 31 will be our All Saints' Annual Meeting in Reynolds Hall after the one service in the church at 9:30 AM.

Our final session will be on February 7 in Reynolds Hall. Jennifer McCalley and other Certified Advance Care Planning Facilitators, as well as physicians, nurses, lawyers and other willing parishioners will be here to help participants actually sit down and complete their own advance care directives.

We hope you will join us in Reynolds Hall on these five Sundays to have these crucial conversations.

*Nina Pollock, RN; Madelyn Morris, RN; Liz Tong, RN; Chris Howe, RN; Jamie Hamilton, Rector
The Health Ministry Team*

Saintly News

Congratulations to...

Kathy and Phil Miner on the birth of their new granddaughter, Evelyn Riley. Her proud parents are Anna and Andrew Ritchie

Gloria Schultz

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

Saying Yes

A Discussion Course Led by Jamie

This past fall every Monday night for nine weeks, Dr. Albert LaChance reflected on his spiritual journey and the journeys of Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Fr. Thomas Berry as a way to awaken us to the Spirit, as a dynamic manifestation of the soul of the earth, the soul of the cosmos, and soul of the sacred as described in all scriptural traditions and cultures.

The members of this faithful group who came every week want to continue to discuss how we can make more manifest the "Cosmic Christ" through our own Episcopal faith and tradition. To that end, I am offering a book group to begin January 18 and running through February 29 (Leap Year), for seven Mondays (a holy number!) from 7-8 PM at the Rectory (or if we need more room, in the parlor.)

We will be using Fr. Richard Rohr's book, *Yes, And...*, which is available on Amazon or can be ordered through Toadstool for about \$25. This book of meditations is very accessible, yet comprises a profound study of how we transform ourselves within the image of Christ. What I particularly like about Rohr's meditations is that through them (again, let me repeat: they are very accessible) he builds up a theological and philosophical foundation of faith that relies not on dogma but on our experience. Yet, *Yes, And* is also about the beliefs that we hold very dear.

Here is Rohr's quick outline for each class:

January 18 *Methodology*: How do we know what we think we know? Scripture as validated by experience, and experience as validated by tradition, are good scales for one's spiritual worldview.

January 25 *Foundation*: Your image of God creates you or defeats you. There is an absolute connection between how you see God and how you see yourself and the whole universe.

February 1 *Frame*: There is only One Reality. Any distinction between natural and supernatural, sacred and profane, is a bogus one.

February 8 *Ecumenism*: Everything belongs, and no one needs to be scapegoated or excluded. Evil and illusion need to be named and exposed truthfully, and they die in exposure to the light.

February 15 *Transformation*: The separate self is the problem, whereas most religion and most people make the "shadow self" the problem. This leads to denial, pretending, and projecting instead of real transformation into the Divine.

February 22 *Process*: The path of descent is the path of transformation. Darkness, failure, relapse, death and woundedness are our primary teachers, rather than ideas or doctrines.

February 29 *Goal*: Reality is paradoxical and complementary. Non-dual thinking is the highest level of consciousness. Divine union, not private perfection, is the goal of all religion.

Come one, come all, wanderer, worshipper, wayfarer, alike. Invite your friends. We will have fun.

Jamie Hamilton, Rector

Book Note

Among the artists who spent several summers at the MacDowell Colony in the late 1930s was a young poet and novelist, a secular Jewish Communist New Yorker named Joy Davidman. She wrote her first novel there (*Anyia*).

In 1950, by then unhappily married and with two sons, she wrote a series of letters to C. S. Lewis which were sufficiently engaging and peppery that he enjoyed replying to them. Eventually, they met. Slightly more eventually, they were married – Lewis, in his sixties, for the first time. After several bouts of cancer and intervals of simple bliss, she died, and he wrote his most uncharacteristic and personal book, *A Grief Observed* (1961).

That this is just one relatively small eddy in the C. S. Lewis current in the mighty stream that is *The Fellowship: The Literary Lives of the Inklings: J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, Owen Barfield, Charles Williams*, by Philip Zaleski and Carol Zaleski (New York, 2015), gives you some idea of both the scope and the particular focus of the book.

The Inklings was a group of Christian (in one form or another) male writers who met in Oxford to smoke, drink, converse, read aloud work in progress, and absorb the often lively criticism of their peers. From the 1930s into the 1950s they met on Tuesday mornings in a room at the Eagle and Child pub in Oxford and on Thursday evenings

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usually in Lewis' rooms at Magdalen College. There was boisterousness, and there was intent listening. Tolkien and Lewis, both Oxford dons, were the pivotal points, assisted by Lewis' older brother Warren ("Warnie"), an Army major, devoted to his brother and the others, and himself a scholar of seventeenth-century France.

Williams only joined the group when his employer, the Oxford University Press, relocated from London to Oxford for the duration of World War II.

Barfield, a friend of Lewis' from their undergraduate days, came up from London when possible. And around these was a fluctuating group of a dozen or more scholars, playwrights, novelists, theologians, historians, and especially poets, who found comradeship and encouragement in these gatherings.

There are many biographies and critiques of the Inklings, individually and as a group, many by Americans. (In the 1940s and '50s, Lewis was immensely popular in the U. S. both for the Narnia books and for his Christian apologetics; Tolkien became a college favorite when *The Lord of the Rings* came out; and Barfield, always the least known of the four, became a subject of great interest in America after 1963, partly because of his friendship with Lewis.)

This book, though treating the members of the group with biographical attention, is particularly focused on their influences upon each others' thought, and on the academic and literary worlds they inhabited. Their friends, like Dorothy L. Sayers, appear in these pages, as do their adversaries, like I. A. Richards and D. H. Lawrence, and figures like T. S. Eliot, who was a bit of both.

Two things become clear: first, the Inklings were formidably productive people. They all had day jobs, except usually Warnie unless there was a war, and yet the thoughtful, skilled, original written work they put out is prodigious in extent. The Zaleskis subject it to thoughtful analysis, at the remove of half a century, and find much still exciting and useful.

Second, the influence of these people was by no means confined to a cozy circle of admirers. They were a force to be reckoned with, in Oxford, in academia, but also in the literary and artistic world, among children, among religious seekers, and in the world at large.

They were not necessarily saintly, in themselves or towards one another. Yet somehow, a bond of Christian community was forged in this rarefied setting, and it made a difference.

This is a large treatment, but not the last word. And its writing style is never dense or overly erudite (which cannot always be said of its subjects.) If you know admirers of Tolkien, or Lewis, or the others, and Christmas approaches, the *Toadstool*... I'm just saying.

Cassius Webb



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Some Have Entertained Angels

The month of December is an especially busy one this year. In addition to Christmas with all its attendant activities, All Saints' is celebrating the ordination to the priesthood of the Reverend Winnie Skeates on December 12 and hosting the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 20.

On these two occasions we are opening our doors to the wider community, and the hospitality we show to others is a reflection of who we are. Hosting two special receptions at such a busy time of year cannot be accomplished without the help of many. If you are able to help by donating a favorite sweet or savory snack, please let Libby Fuller (at jlesfuller@comcast.net or 924-0106) know.

As Hebrews encourages us: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Libby Fuller

Talitha Cumi

Damsel Arise
I say unto thee
Bring light into your eyes
That were only sleeping, I see

Take my hand and wake
Arise from your bed
That all joined here in love
May bring you out to be fed

Mark these years by the dozen
Grow in beauty...and wisdom too
Talitha Cumi...
For I love you!

Andy Peterson

Advent 2015

Advent is a joyous affair
With happy anticipation in the air
We find every year
As Christmas grows near
The Spirit that surrounds us
Takes hold and somehow grounds us.

Looking around I seem to find
That everyone is especially kind
Opening gifts on Christmas morn
While celebrating that Christ was born
Remember that the greatest gift is love
Sent with him from God above
And while we live here below
To others the same love to show.

Alma Ruth

Reminder

All the parking spaces near the Lady Chapel entrance are reserved for
handicapped parking only.

Please refrain from using any of these spaces unless you or a passenger
are handicapped.

View from the Bench

NOT SUCH AN OLD TRADITION

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

"It's always been our tradition." "It's a service as old as the Anglican Church itself." "Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without it."

My responses: "Not likely." "No, it's not." "Yes, it would."

But don't worry...the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be read and sung at 5 PM on the Sunday before Christmas as it has been for many years at All Saints'. There will be glorious carol settings sung by the choir; the voices of parishioners, their families and friends from across the Monadnock region singing favorite Christmas carols; and perhaps a stranger or two among us seeking a Christmas "moment."

I don't really know how long Lessons and Carols has been our tradition here at All Saints', Peterborough: perhaps 25 years, but probably not much longer than that.

As far as liturgies go, it's not particularly old. In 1878 Edward Bensen, the Bishop of Truro, created the Lessons and Carols office we have come to know, allegedly to keep the men of surrounding communities out of the pubs on Christmas Eve. The service has continued at Truro Cathedral (with a few modifications) since 1880. By 1883, Bishop Bensen was the Archbishop of Canterbury; we may surmise that Lessons and Carols services were adopted at other cathedrals in the See of Canterbury as well. What is known for certain is that the choir at Kings College, Cambridge, presented Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, 1918, and it has continued in its familiar form there every Christmas Eve since.

In the United States, Twining Lynes, the first organist and choirmaster at nearby Groton School, introduced the Festival of Lessons and Carols there in 1928, after having heard it sung at Kings. It has been part of Groton's Christmas festivities ever since. The oldest Lessons and Carols service in an American parish church was sung at St. Thomas Church, Hanover, right here in the Diocese of New Hampshire, where it has been heard every Christmas since 1935.

Our celebration this year will feature familiar carols, some "old favorite" carol settings for the choir and some new ones as well. Among them are some interesting juxtapositions: English composer Elizabeth Poston's setting of "Jesus Christ, the apple tree," verses by an anonymous 18th c. New Hampshire poet; a setting of "Lo! how a rose e'er blooming" by 19th c. Jewish composer, Otto Goldschmidt (who was the husband of Swedish singer, Jenny Lind;) and the much-loved and famous "In the bleak midwinter," in the setting by 20th c. English composer Harold Darke. The choir will also sing a lullaby by Karl Jenkins, whose "Diamond Music," heard on commercial radio and on radio commercials in the 1990s, brought him recognition among American listeners. The choir will also sing a recent setting of the ancient Latin Christmas text, *O magnum mysterium*, by the young American composer Howard Helvey.

We say Lessons and Carols has always been our tradition because we cherish it – like children awaiting the sound of reindeer paws on the roof, we anticipate Lessons and Carols. We say Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without it because we love the way it makes us feel to gather with family and friends to sing and hear the Christmas story, and to gather afterward as a community to enjoy delectable holiday hors d'oeuvres and treats. Lessons and Carols is not as old as the Anglican Church itself, but it's older than the Episcopal Church any of us can remember – that's old enough.

Please plan now to attend **The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**, Sunday, December 20 at 5 PM and the reception that will follow in Reynolds Hall.

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster





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Editor's Note

Many of you watched on TV the Installation of The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry as 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church at the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul on November 1. I was lucky enough witness his remarkable sermon, the magnificence of the liturgy, the glorious music in person.

You probably had a better view than I did! But I got to talk with many other attendees, to smell the incense and be sprinkled with the water of the asperges - to feel the Spirit as it bonded us together into a huge Christian community. Truly, we were all "united in one body." Presiding Bishop Curry was clear in his call to us all: we are to go out into the world and serve.

We Saints get to attend another important ceremony on December 12 when our Winnie Skeates is ordained to the priesthood here at All Saints' Church. The service will be at 11 AM and it will be as magnificent, as glorious a celebration as the one on November 1 because the Spirit will be with us, uniting us and calling us to go out and serve

Goodness, there is a lot going on at All Saints'! As you read through this *Messenger*, you'll learn of opportunities to discuss your spiritual journey, to repair stained glass, to participate in senior activities, to prepare delicious food for important events and to contemplate your own thoughts about end-of-life preferences.

Cassius reviews a book many Saints will find compelling, *The Fellowship*, about C.S. Lewis, Tolkein and two others who were "the inklings."

Please be present for Lessons and Carols on December 20, as Jeff invites us all. Read and enjoy two poems this month, one by Alma and another by Andy. And celebrate with Saints as we honor birthdays and other important life events.

The deadline for the January *Messenger* is December 16. The theme will be "Beginning Anew." Please send your contributions to me at chow6569@gmail.com.

With much gratitude and great joy,