

# THE MESSENGER

March 2017, Volume 7 Number 11

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

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

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## **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.*



***In this issue...***

From the Rector.....1

Christian Education.....2

Cartoon.....3

Saintly News.....3

Alma's Poem.....3

Centro Victoria.....3

Book Note.....4

Saints' Days.....4

Sandi's Column.....5

Adult Education.....5

From the Vestry.....6

Andy's poem.....6

Wait.....7

Dear Parishioners,

As you are opening up the Messenger, we are also opening ourselves to Ash Wednesday, (March 1), and the liturgical season of Lent, a time for repentance, reflection, and renewal. I'm probably not supposed to have a favorite church season, but I must admit I love Lent. Lent invites us to enter into communion with each other and ourselves and God with rapt attention, as we prepare for the wondrous gift of Easter. Lent bids us to be as present as we can to our dear and grand and simple moments of living. I appreciate the intentionality of carving out time to be in prayer and in communion.

All hearts long for communion – to be close, to be intimate, to be open, and to be able to share with each other through words and actions our deepest selves.

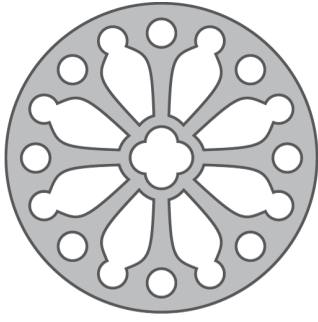
We want to belong, to be connected, to feel at home, to be safe and we can't do any of this on our own. Even cloistered monks need community. Despite some of our good Yankee "live free or die" strength, endurance and independence, we have not been created for self-sufficiency, but rather for interdependence and mutual support. This deep longing for communion is a precious gift from God and is the source of our faith, hope and love.

As part of our shared Lenten discipline, we are blessed to be able to come together through small cottage meetings spread over the month of March to speak with each other about the beauty and strength and possibilities for All Saints'. You have ideas, hopes, concerns, dreams and prayers about our community, our ministries, and our future.

We are making time, carving it out, to meet eye to eye and to share with each other how it is that All Saints' has become part of our lives. Please sign up (either after church or by calling Diane in the church office) for one of the cottage meetings so that you can share your insights and your experiences. We need you! We can't think of the next 100 years without you, each one of you.

And let's play during these meetings. Let's imagine if money were no object, what could we do? The world needs healthy communities to strengthen the ties that bind us. How is All Saints' a part of that cosmic pull? How are you a part of making a difference in a world that so desperately needs compassion, generosity and love. Why do we matter?

As I have shared with you from the moment I arrived as your Rector, God has a dream for All Saints'. Every morning is an opportunity to awake to its unfolding. We need each other to discover how we are to walk into God's beckoning and dreaming love for us.



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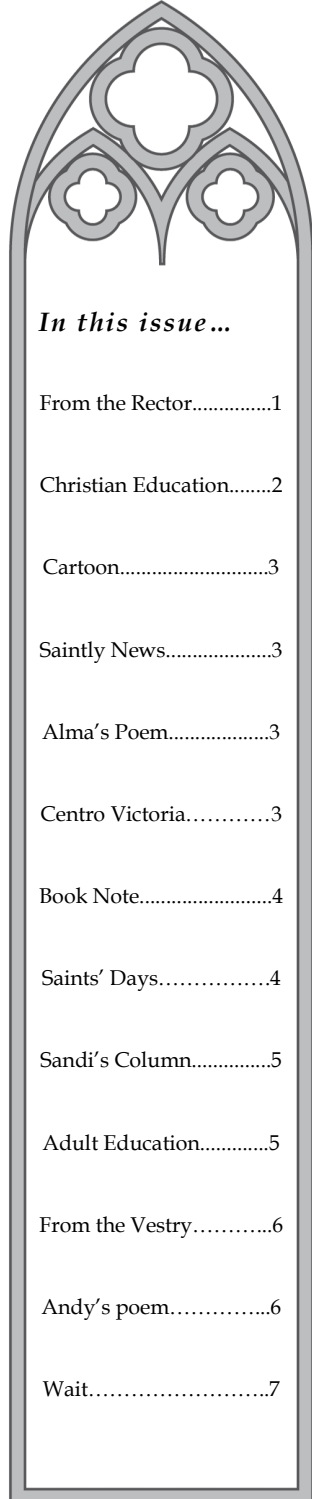
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From the Rector.....	1
Christian Education.....	2
Cartoon.....	3
Saintly News.....	3
Alma's Poem.....	3
Centro Victoria.....	3
Book Note.....	4
Saints' Days.....	4
Sandi's Column.....	5
Adult Education.....	5
From the Vestry.....	6
Andy's poem.....	6
Wait.....	7

May Lent lengthen all the ways your faith shapes you,

Blessings,

*Jamie+*

## Christian Education

### *On Temptation*

*"We gain the strength of the temptation we resist." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

There are many Lenten themes that surface for me around this time of year, and typically they have to do with sacrifice, mindfulness or cultivating a spiritual practice. This year I decided I would ruminate on something a little different. I am thinking about temptation – particularly Jesus' time in the desert and the various temptations he faced and resisted. It led me to think about the temptations I encounter in my own life. Certainly, I am tempted to overindulge in a variety of ways, to procrastinate, to disengage, to be impatient. But one temptation that comes around again and again is my failure to act out of the assumption that someone else will do it for me. This temptation exists in my family life, my work life, my political life and of course, in my church life. If any lesson can be learned from history, it is that small actions are meaningful, but only when they are taken. The greatest temptation is to believe that our choices and our presence in the world are without meaning. When it comes to our beautiful church home, this temptation can be consequential.

On a Friday night in February, I attended a deliberative session at the school in my town to discuss three warrant articles related to the school budget. Rumors were circulating that there would be a small but vocal minority attending to try to shoot down some budget increases needed to pay for repairs to the school building itself. It was at 7 o'clock on a Friday night. There were at least 100 temptations in my mind to skip it. After all, others would go, surely. Despite the warmth of my home on a cold winter night and the fact that Chuck works in the evening and I was going to have to bring both boys with me. I went anyway. I overcame my temptation. And I was very happy I did. I took part in a productive, healthy conversation with my friends and neighbors and my voice counted when the "aye's" carried the vote to move the Articles to a town ballot in March.

The lesson I learned here is that temptations don't have to dictate our choices. We have some enormous decisions ahead as a church community. They require attention, care and conversation. These choices will shape the future of who we are for generations to come. We mustn't give in to the belief that "someone else will do it for us." There is only one "us", and each has a part to play in the whole. Whether it's a 30-hour fast with the youth, a retreat, a volunteer opportunity at Vacation Bible School this summer, or the very important upcoming cottage meetings as part of our community discernment process, we must remember the importance of showing up and taking part. I was floored by the immediate and enthusiastic response of those to whom Jamie and I reached out about participating in the Lenten Reflections series. Almost every single one of you graciously agreed to lend your voice to the spiritual symphony coming to an inbox near you this coming Lent! We all love this church. Let's dig deep this Lent – let's not be tempted to wait for someone else. Future generations will thank us.

*Becky Goodwin, Director of Christian Education*

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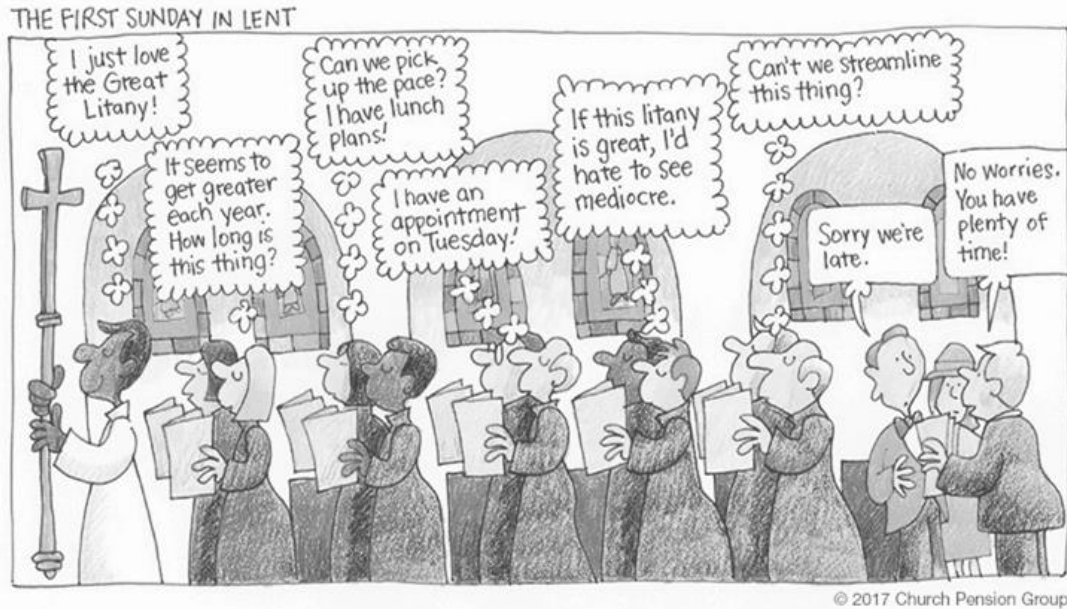
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Autumn Roberts



## Saintly News

### *Congratulations to:*

- ❖ Gerry Hallgrimson in celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

If you would like to share a special news item or a happy occasion with the parish, please email Gloria Schultz at [lojoemointheglen@gmail.com](mailto:lojoemointheglen@gmail.com) or call 924-9489.

## Alma's Poem

### *A Holy Lent*

Folks wonder what to give up  
Starting with food on which they sup  
Let's look at our behavior  
Does it glorify our Savior?  
So let's give up complaining  
Whether it's sunny or raining  
The neighbors habits aren't worse than ours  
Although we list their offenses by hours  
OK back to our theme  
Let's try to be better than we dream  
The Lord died for me and you  
So have we been true to the heavenly goal  
Of loving every human soul  
It's not easy I know  
But loving others helps us grow.

Love,

Alma

## *Centro Victoria*

*Pastor Joel and three students from Centro Victoria are coming to New Hampshire to visit us March 10-12*

There will be two events for you to attend. The first is Saturday, March 11 at 4 PM in Reynolds Hall. We are inviting folks from the area to come and listen to stories that the youth from Mexico and those from the Monadnock area who have traveled to Juarez tell about the bonds they have formed and how these bonds have changed their lives. Please spread the word about this powerful event to your friends, neighbors, and people at work. The March 11 regularly scheduled Rite Now service will be held following the discussion at 6 PM.

At our Sunday, March 12, services both at 8 and 10 AM, Pastor Joel will speak, telling us about himself, his call to save abandoned children, and how much our relationship has meant to Centro Victoria.

*Please mark your calendars for this weekend and pray for*

## Book Note

*Opening the Prayer Book*, by Jeffrey Lee, was published in 1999 by Cowley Publications as part of The New Church's Teaching Series. This series was intended to provide not just cradle Anglicans but inquirers from other traditions or none about the understandings and culture of the Episcopal Church, in all its variety. It is still an excellent collection of small volumes (200 pages or so), dealing with not just worship but also the Bible, history, doctrine, prayer, mission, ethics, and social witness.

Jeffrey Lee, then a parish priest in Wisconsin, now the Bishop of Chicago, sets out here the history and the logic of Episcopal worship. He begins by confronting an extraordinary fact: our tradition assumes that our worship will be based on the words of a single book, *The Book of Common Prayer*. When the first such book was published, in 1549 in the England of Edward VI, that was a novel idea. It not only combined all the usual services of the Church in one volume, complete with necessary directions for carrying them out; it also made this one book available not only to the clergy but to all literate lay persons as well, so that one could in theory enter any church in England on Sunday morning and participate in the service just as in one's own parish.

Participation was key. The services in that book and in its successors were modeled on what was known of the ancient and medieval worship of the Church, but they were also formed with the new Reformation sense of the priesthood of all believers and the need for all people to be able to take part in common worship.

After giving a brief history of the development of worship down to the present Episcopal Church, Lee explores the implications of the 1979 Prayer Book on the Church's theology and life: the emphasis on baptism, the hinges of daily "offices" and the Sunday Eucharist, the power of the recovered liturgies of Holy Week, the place of the three ordained ministries within the ministry of all believers. Still in process, it seems, is the reimagining of the liturgies of the milestones in our lives: marriage, sickness, death.

An engagingly written account of this singular volume and how it has influenced the life of the author as well as the church at large, this book ends by exploring the challenge of going forth into the world to live the life that our Prayer Book worship impels us toward. It remains timely, a word in season, as we continue to grapple with the vision our Book of Common Prayer sets forth.

*Cassius Webb*

## March Saints' Days

3/1	Ward Bryant	3/12	Richard Benoit	3/25	Corey Field
3/4	Wayne Thomas	3/14	Ava Van Horn	3/28	Albert Lachance
	Gloria Schultz	3/15	Joseph Davis		Lara Niemala
3/6	Graham Parker	3/16	Ed Despres		Jonathan Sistare
3/8	Rod Falby, jr		Ronia Foecking	3/28	Marc Smith
	Susan Ernst	3/19	Dotty Wagner	3/31	Ann Falby
3/11	Madelyn Morris	3/20	Colin Sistare		Amy Miner

*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](mailto:diane@allsaintsnh.org)*



## Sandi's Column

Back in September of 2016 I reached out to Canon Hannah Anderson and Bishop Rob to see if there might be a church where I could be of service for the next year. I was finishing up my academic work at Episcopal Divinity School and I wanted to continue learning in community here in my home diocese. To my surprise, Canon Hannah got back to me almost immediately with two options to think about. One parish was within a 30-minute drive from our home in Manchester (now Hooksett), the other was All Saints' Parish, about an hour's drive away.

Both churches had so much to offer as far as learning and participation. Both presented me with the opportunity to work with amazing clergy and lay mentors. One parish was in the midst of a clergy search, a process I had participated in to a very small degree in my home church. As many of you know from your own process at All Saints' Parish, the experience of searching and calling pastoral leadership requires that the community also look deep within itself for its own sense of call as the Body of Christ in the world, truly an exciting time for them.

At the same time, I was intrigued by the prospect of coming to All Saints'. I hadn't had the opportunity to meet Jamie, but I had heard much about her. I did have a few friends at All Saints' and they all had wonderful things to say about worshipping and being in this community. I was aware of your feeding ministries in the Food Pantry and the Community Supper, and I knew a bit about the long-term mission relationship with Centro Victoria. And although I never felt pushed in one direction or another, I sensed that both Canon Hannah and Bishop Rob wanted me to come to All Saints'.

I cannot tell you how happy I am that I listened to that small voice within. I feel as though I have fallen into exactly where I was supposed to be. What I have found here is a community that is alive, vital and willing to continue the process of discerning where and how God is calling you. I have been surprised over and over by the conversations I have had with so many of you. The parish is so engaged with the surrounding community and I can see evidence of your "Sunday morning" selves in the everyday of living as I get to know more about each of your lives.

It was amazing to witness the level of energy in the room during the annual meeting a few weeks ago. I've been to a lot of parish annual meetings over the years and All Saints' are the most engaged group of people I have ever seen! The Spirit was definitely moving through that room! Though we are now in the deep of winter, there is much going on beneath the frozen surface, gathering and forming, getting ready to spring forth from each of you in the upcoming Cottage Meetings. I believe it is no accident that this process is beginning its blooming in the season of Lent. A reflection I recently read called Lent "this joyful season", a time of letting go of our often competing "wants" so that we might be brought back to our deepest desires. I am so grateful to be here and I am looking forward to witnessing the discernment of this blessed community as you look toward where God is calling you in the near and not-so-near future here at All Saints' Parish.

Blessings,

*Sandi Albom*, Intern

## Adult Education

*The Gifts of Imperfection*

**Starting Wednesday March 15**

Our fifth Adult Education session will start Wednesday, March 15, at 7 PM. Many thanks to our intern Sandi Albom who will lead our discussion of the *New York Times* bestseller, *The Gifts of Imperfection*, by Dr. Brené Brown.

It's not easy being human. But, have you ever considered how our inherent imperfections are really a gift? Dr. Brené Brown, a researcher and thought leader on the subjects of shame and resilience has. She poses a question that may be familiar in some way to all of us: *How do we cultivate the courage, compassion, and connection that we need to embrace our imperfections and to recognize that we are enough – that we are worthy of love, belonging and joy?*

Take time this Lent to explore and engage in the concept of *Wholeheartedness*. Join us as we discuss Brown's *Ten Guideposts toward living a Wholehearted Life* and consider how those might fit with our own understanding of how we are called to live as followers of Jesus.

We will meet four Wednesdays from 7-8 PM – March 15-April 5, in the Old Parish House Parlor.

You are welcome to attend one or all four evenings and please bring a friend.

Beth Healy

## From the Vestry

Your vestry is the elected leadership of our All Saints' Church Community. As many of you know, church vestries function much like the boards of directors of lay corporations. For example, the All Saints' vestry is primarily responsible for raising the funds required to continuously support the work of our church community and makes all decisions related to managing our revenues and expenses. However, there are two critically important differences between lay Boards and church Vestries.

Lay boards are primarily driven by financial goals and make decisions based on what they wish to offer in goods or services to clients or buyers. Vestries operate within a community of faith and determine church direction based on what "feeds" and supports all members of the immediate and larger church community. Lay organizations rely primarily on the recommendations and opinions of board members to inform and reach final board decisions. Our All Saints' vestry regularly invites the thoughts and opinions of our church membership before making key decisions concerning the current and future life of our parish.

Late last fall, I was asked to consider rejoining the All Saints' vestry. Now officially on the vestry, I am excited to work with your other elected representatives who make decisions by consensus and invite collaborative thinking from all members of our church community. Along with Jamie and your vestry, I would encourage each of you to attend one of the discernment meetings currently being offered to the parish at large. This is an opportunity for Jamie and the vestry to listen to what you have to say and collect your thoughts. We want and need your input. You are invited to make your voice heard and fully participate in the life and direction of our faith community!

Pam Everson, Vestry Member

## Wait

(Ed. Note: Bishop Rob shared this poem at the February vestry meeting.  
The whole poem is available online at  
<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/wait>)

Wait, for now.  
Distrust everything, if you have to.  
But trust the hours. Haven't they  
carried you everywhere, up to now?  
Personal events will become interesting again.  
Hair will become interesting.  
Pain will become interesting.  
Buds that open out of season will become lovely again.  
Second-hand gloves will become lovely again,  
their memories are what give them  
the need for other hands. And the desolation  
of lovers is the same: that enormous emptiness  
carved out of such tiny beings as we are  
asks to be filled; the need  
for the new love is faithfulness to the old.

Galway Kinnell

## Perfect Stranger

*"See the face of Christ in those who need your love"*

*Rev. Lewis Stone*

You are a perfect stranger  
For whatever could be so strange  
As perfect love  
Here from above  
My world to rearrange?  
I passed by you so quickly  
In haste so self-assured  
But in your eye I find  
A place beyond my mind  
Will back there I be lured?  
Here in the quiet of dark morning  
The clocks tick off the time  
Could my heart be renewed  
And see what is true  
Within your love sublime?  
How perfectly strange and wondrous  
That in a stranger's eyes we'd find  
A beautiful friend  
Who'll be there 'til the end  
And in all that's left behind!

*Andy Peterson*



## View from the Bench

### *Of Deprecations and Obsecrations*

*[This may be the only opportunity you'll ever have to use these words.]*

On the first day in Lent, at the Ash Wednesday Liturgy, the priest “invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent.” In response, we receive the imposition of ashes – as “a mark of our mortal nature,” the Book of Common Prayer says.

At all of our liturgies during Lent there are ceremonial changes intended to focus us on our mortality and our need for repentance and forgiveness: the procession is in silence; the Eucharist begins with the Penitential Order – our confession of sin and absolution are moved from their usual position after the prayers of the people to the very beginning of liturgy; we sing *Kyrie eleison* instead of *Gloria in excelsis*. At All Saints’, it has been the choir’s tradition to sing Gregorian settings of the psalms rather than traditional composed Anglican chants during Lent and Holy Week. Our Lenten hymns tend to be of a more somber mood or penitential nature, and we omit the response “Alleluia” wherever it occurs. Perhaps the most dramatic ceremonial change is the recitation of The Great Litany on the first Sunday in Lent. (Many have joked that this custom, the very recitation of The Great Litany, is itself the ultimate penitential act.)

Litanies have been in liturgical use since the fifth century in the Western church. Litanies later emerged in the Eastern church as well. Historically, litanies were simply intercessory prayers with petitions said or sung by a leader, with fixed responses by the congregation. Several of the forms for the Prayers of the People (Rite II) in our 1979 Book of Common Prayer are structured as litanies. The Prayer Book includes a Litany for Ordinations and a Litany of Thanksgiving. The Great Litany was so named at the publication of the 1979 Prayer Book (it begins on p. 148) to distinguish it from the other litanies in the prayer book.

But why ‘Great’ Litany, as opposed to Lenten Litany or something else? There are several reasons perhaps, most notably that it was the first English language rite (published in 1544) prepared by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, who also crafted the first Book of Common Prayer. The (Great) Litany has been included in the Book of Common Prayer since 1549.

It is aptly named ‘Great’ Litany because of its elaborate structure. It begins with an invocation of the Trinity, followed by a series of *deprecations* in which we humbly pray for deliverance from ‘evil,’ ‘spiritual harm,’ and ‘natural calamities’ (the “from all...” petitions); those are followed by *obsecrations* through which we invoke the power of Christ’s incarnation, life, death and resurrection for deliverance (the “by the” and “by thine” petitions). Our response to all these has been “Good Lord, deliver us.” The (Great) Litany continues with a long string of general intercessions (“That it may please Thee” petitions), to which we repeatedly respond “We beseech thee to hear us, Good Lord,” and concludes with *Agnus Dei*, and then *Kyrie eleison*, which becomes the opening *Kyrie* of our celebration of the Eucharist.

The Prayer Book suggests that the Litany may be said or sung. At our 8 AM Sunday Eucharist, which is a ‘said’ service, the Litany will be read; at the 10 AM Eucharist, the Litany will be chanted. Much of the language of The Great Litany sounds archaic to our modern ears, constructed with deprecations and obsecrations and rich in particularly literal, definitely unscientific imagery as it is. Still, the power of The Great Litany, through its seemingly endless musical repetitions, to focus us on our own mortality and our need for repentance and forgiveness is real. But it is not penance.

*Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist & Choirmaster*





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## Editor's Note

This issue is the last in Volume VII! Next month begins our eighth year of publishing *The Messenger* in monthly newsletter format. Thanks to all of you, writers, publishers, contributors and readers...and thanks be to God for our vital and vibrant church community.

Our All Saints' community is the subject of many articles this month. Jamie leads off in her letter about discerning our direction for our next 100 years.

Becky writes about the importance of showing up. Sainly News and Saints' Days remind us of some celebrations. We look forward to March 11, when our community is honored with the presence of Pastor Joel and three children from Ventro Victoria.

In his Book Note, Cassius reviews Jeffrey Lee's book about the *Book of Common Prayer* and reminds us that participation was key! Sandi remarks on the vitality of the All Saints's Community and Pam talks about vestry and the importance of our upcoming "cottage" meetings.

Alma and Andy both contribute poems and we've including the first stanza of a poem by Galway Kinnell that Bishop Rob shared with vestry.

I need to mention the loss our community has suffered in the death of Bob Kipka. He was such an energetic and vital man. His joyful whistling preceded him and the spring in his step inspired us all. Bob was a faithful attender of 8 AM Eucharist and a regular participant in our 7 AM Lenten Morning Prayer services (which, by the way, begin on March 2 in the Lady Chapel.) Bob's intellectual curiosity knew no limits and he would often remark on one or another course he was taking at Keene State – not easy lecture courses, but serious studies of the likes of James Joyce or Shakespeare or Russian history. We will always miss Bob and rejoice in his life. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

The deadline for the April *Messenger* is March 15. The theme will be "Easter."

Please send your contributions to me at [chow6569@gmail.com](mailto:chow6569@gmail.com).

With much gratitude and great joy,

*Christine*