

THE MESSENGER

May 2017, Volume 8 Number 2

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 Her email: revjamie@allsaintsnh.org

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,

As we delight in Easter joy, let me share with you one of my favorite Rumi poems:

There is some kiss we want
with our whole lives,
the touch of Spirit on the body.

Seawater begs the pearl
to break its shell.

And the lily, how passionately
it needs some wild Darling!

At night, I open the window
and ask the moon to come
and press its face against mine.
Breathe into me.

Close the language-door,
and open the love-window.
The moon won't use the door,
only the window.

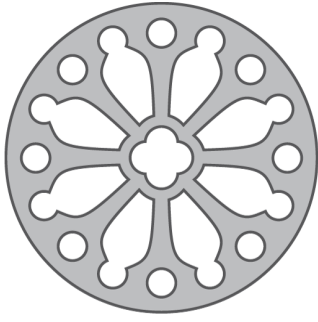
I've always loved this poem, but now I love it even more because the stanzas point to our own love-window at All Saints'. Over and over again, you tell me how important relationships are for you, how you take delight in each other's awakening, how you are taken away by the voices in the choir, challenged by a sermon, moved as the Eucharist is lifted up over the altar, stirred by a child's dream to succeed, confronted by social injustices, and inspired by morning prayers. Sometimes, I wish you could see yourselves from my window - what a privilege it is to see your hands in the soil of your ministries. All kisses of the Spirit Touch!

Mark Sunday, May 21 after church in your calendar as we will be sharing with you the insights and comments we received from you during our cottage meetings - so many wonderful reflections. We will be also mailing you at the same time a summary of your suggestions, (pie-charts included) with ideas about next steps for continuing to discuss God's dream for us.

One of the resounding themes was All Saints' as a welcoming church, where we can be ourselves, not judged, open to differing opinions, feeling safe, connected, joyful, and finding a haven, especially amid strife and turmoil, a place, where we can nurture our spirits.

With that in mind, I also invite you to try out a new ministry, as a welcome to yourself. Have you ever read in church before? Hosted a coffee hour? How about ushering and discovering what it's like to meet new folks coming to church for the first time? Our children in Sunday school love to hear about faith from their elders. So much to experience! I may be tapping your shoulder soon as the seawater begs the pearl to break its shell! Alleluia!

Blessings,



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Jamie+

Christian Education

"In any given moment, we have two options: to step forward into growth, or step backward into safety." ~ Abraham Maslow

Change is always difficult. No matter how much is guaranteed, no matter how many things are reliable, the fact remains that change is inevitable. No one likes it. Our only hope is that we can find some serenity in the midst of it and handle it all as graciously as possible. When faced with change, I look for the constant, the steady hub at the center of the wheel. For me, that hub has always been and continues to be the love of God. It's what holds my life together, with its spinning, its craziness and its perpetual activity.

Two jobs, two kids, fostering my spiritual life, a hobby farm, a husband who works nights, a large group of friends, sports teams, training for a half marathon, gardening, and so much more...the wheel keeps spinning. One challenge I routinely encounter is carving out time for self-reflection and quiet listening so I can hear God speaking to me. The fact is there are few things more important than waiting for that guidance.

For a while now, I have been wrestling with some big questions about my future ministry. God speaks to me, but I struggle to find the time to listen. My goal for two years now has been to discern where I am most useful to God. The answers which surface are varied, and caught up in the activity of a busy and growing church such as All Saints', there are so many wonderful opportunities to serve. However, as I seek clarity on where I belong, the need has arisen for more space to worship, to come to God's table as a woman before God, rather than as a person on staff.

My work and my place of worship are the same and recently, it has begun to strain my ability to be present during the liturgy. Where I am in my spiritual journey, I feel moved to give space, time and energy to discerning what road may lie ahead. With the support of my spiritual director, our rector Jamie, and our bishop Rob, it has become clear that it's time for me to pay fuller attention to what this road may look like.

Mainly for this reason, I will be leaving All Saints' Church this June. It is not a decision I have arrived at lightly; it comes with sadness but also immense gratitude. All Saints' has been more than just my church: it has been my community, one which has supported me in more ways than I can describe. From summer fairs to mountaintop prayer services, to Maine for weekend retreats, to Boston to serve the homeless, 30-hour fasts, countless Sunday school lessons, bake sales, service projects, lock-ins, Vacation Bible School and so much more: I cannot count the ways this home has lifted up my ministry and given my life meaning.

All Saints' has given me a place where I am held and cherished and listened to, where my views are heard and valued. It has been the foundation for my work in the diocese with our Bishop and my colleagues at other churches, and All Saints' stood behind me and beside me spiritually as I represented our church and our diocese at General Convention in Utah. So many doors have opened, so many insights reached. The blessings of this place are truly endless.

There is so much I could say, but I will keep it simple and just say thank you. I will hold each of you in my heart and in my prayers as I go from here. There is much work to be done and I look forward to listening to that still small voice and discovering the next adventure.

With great love and every blessing,

Becky

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Better Friends

If you would have a friend
 Be a friend
 So it is well said
 For how precious indeed
 Is friendship
 To our souls like daily bread

And though I have tried
 To become
 The best friend I can be
 Yet I know
 That you have been
 Even better friends to me.

Andu Dotorcon

THE RECTOR AND THE SEMINARIAN



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May Saints' Days

- 5/1 Dick Wilson
- 5/2 Judy Collier
- 5/3 Mary Lee Leedham
- 5/4 Ellen Avery
- Mary Gregory
- 5/6 Pat Row
- 5/8 Iona French
- David Dodge
- 5/9 Jonathan Juarez
- 5/10 Augusten Dreher

- mas Warren
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- 5/16 Priscilla Bourgoine
- 5/19 Anne Webb
- 5/20 John Kerrick
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- Michael Scott
- Montana Schultz
- 5/27 Anne Peirce

- Clifford Jarest
- 5/28 Arthur Stevenson
- Lucy Beyer
- 5/31 Lorraine Bishop

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Tho

Bakers, Chefs and Servers Needed for Spelling Bee

Again, All Saints' will support The River Center in conducting their **final** Spelling Bee fundraiser. We are looking for volunteers to help bake and prepare hors d'oeuvres.

It is taking place on **Sunday, May 7 at the Peterborough Players, from 2-4 PM.**
 All Saints' response last year was amazing and all who attended were very impressed with our efforts. With your support, we hope to make this year's event another success.
All food can be dropped off Sunday morning at Reynolds Hall or at the Players after 10 AM on May 7.

In addition to the Chefs and Bakers, last year many of you came out to assist with the set-up, prep, serving and clean-up. We're hoping that you will join the fun again this year.

Your help will be welcomed with any or all parts of creating a great reception for this important fund raising event. If you can contribute sweet or savory snacks or join our "crew" anytime between noon and 4 PM the afternoon of Sunday, May 7, please contact

Cindy Naudascher
naudwood@gmail.com (e-mail preferred, if possible)
 570-242-0427 or 603-563-8180 (please leave message if no answer)

Book Note

Of all the undergraduate courses offered at Harvard, the two most popular are predictable introductions, to computer science and economics. The third is a lecture course: no slides, no special effects, taught by Michael Puett to a packed Sanders Theatre. It is on ancient Chinese philosophy, taught as though it mattered.

Fortunately, should you wonder how this could be so riveting, Professor Puett and Christine Gross-Loh have written a book: *The Path: What Chinese Philosophers can Teach Us About the Good Life*. Written with both grace and urgency, this small volume (or ebook) presents the work of philosophers from the period between 600 and 200 B. C., when new ideas of human consciousness and relationship to the world around us were springing up in far-flung parts of the Eurasian landmass. All the new ways of thinking seem to have been brought to birth in times of political turmoil, in China as in Greece. The old order was under threat, and sages tried to puzzle out why, and how people should adapt to the present crisis.

In China, there was first Confucius, whose teaching has often been caricatured as rigid reverence for order and hierarchy. Puett and Gross-Loh maintain that, in reality, Confucius was trying to imagine, and help others to imagine, better ways of living in community than the static aristocratic society of the late Zhou dynasty. Rituals, for Confucius, were temporary entries into an "as-if" world, different from the everyday, but opening the participants to new possibilities. Such rituals could include religious or patriotic rituals, but also conversations with family members. A slight alteration

in a predictable pattern could set a relationship on a new, more fruitful course. (When Episcopal clergy argue about liturgy, they are trying to accomplish something very similar.)

Confucius was followed by many others, such as Mencius, Laozi, the author(s) of the *Inward Training*, Zhuangzi, and Xunzi, each with a different contribution to the task of trying to help ordinary people find their way to a fruitful, helpful life. And none of them seems to have any patience with the idea that our task is to figure out who we "really" are and be faithful to that self, whatever the consequences. Instead, they concentrate on helping us deal with the world as we find it, including ourselves.

These insights had powerful influence over the world in which they developed, including the development of a meritocratic state to supplant the failed aristocracy through the development of universal civil service exams, centuries before they were conceivable in the rest of the world. But the authors argue passionately, I think successfully, that they hold great promise for us today, in a time of similar turbulence and anxiety.

These are not religious insights: even Buddhism is mentioned only tangentially. But in this Easter season, I notice that they do all seem to develop from a sturdy, compassionate sense of hope, that the world can be made new. Hope, we can work with.

Cassius Web

The Sermon on the Mount: The Key to Success in Life

Our next Adult Education forum starts on Wednesday, May 7, at 7 PM in the Old Parish House. For four Wednesdays, we will read and discuss this seminal work by Emmet Fox. What did Jesus teach? How does it apply to our own lives? This will be a class in which folks can share their faith and their questions about Jesus' teaching through the Beatitudes and the Our Father.

If you haven't read the book, please join us for the discussions anyway.

Andy Peterson, Facilitator

The Other Side

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said,
'Doctor, I am afraid to die.
Tell me what lies on the other side.'
Very quietly, the doctor said, 'I don't know.'
'You don't know? You're, a God-fearing person,

and don't know what's on the other side?'
The doctor was holding the handle of the door;
On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining,
And as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room
And leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said,
 'Did you notice my dog?
 He's never been in this room before.
 He didn't know what was inside.
 He knew nothing except that his master was here,
 And when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.
 I know little of what is on the other side of death,

But I do know one thing...
 I know my Master is there and that is enough.'

Contributed by Pat Row, found on the Internet

An EfM Invitation for You

If you're reading this, you, yes, *you*, are invited to join the EfM (Education for Ministry), which meets every Monday night, from 6:30-8:30 PM, from September-May. Current participants confirm that the EfM experience is like no other. But, what exactly is EfM, and what can you expect?

"You can't do Christianity in isolation. To talk deeply about theological issues requires an intimate and committed group that helps you define and expand your view," said one participant.

The name, "Education for Ministry" sometimes confuses people, but rest assured; EfM isn't a course that attempts to recruit seminarians. It's not a Bible Study and it's not a social group, either. Rather, EfM first acknowledges that *all* baptized believers (that's you) are called to serve in some form or fashion. EfM offers a program to help discern those gifts and to find a home for them by grounding participants in sacred stories and theology.

"It is a privilege to hear what others feel, think, and believe," said another.

"EfM enables community," added a participant.

Although EfM is a four-year, seminar-style course that through study, prayer, and reflection explores Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and Theology and Ethics, participants only commit to one year at a time.

EfM is neither new nor home-grown. Founded in 1975, housed at the University of the South School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee, having nurtured more than 80,000 participants, and graduated 37,000 alumnae in the US, Germany, Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Bahamas, Hong Kong, Italy and Switzerland, the EfM Seminar is also offered right here at All Saint's Church in Peterborough, NH.

"I wish I'd done this earlier. It has great value to me," concluded a participant.

Is EfM for you? EfM is currently recruiting for fall 2017. Check out the website here: <http://efm.sewanee.edu/about-efm/about-efm>, drop-in on Mondays at 6:30 PM, or contact EfM mentor, Marilyn Weir at photos4u@galaxy.net.

Molly Badwary, EfM Participant

Sandi's Column

Love has come again like wheat that springeth green! John MacLeod Campbell Crum

It seems as if we have gone from brown to green overnight; and I have a thorough case of garden fever! This would normally be the time of year that I would clean the perennial gardens, thin out the Shasta daisies, put cages around the peonies, and mulch the beds. It's funny that I didn't fully consider how very different condominium living would be when I was reveling in the fact that Bob and I didn't have to shovel snow this winter. I didn't suffer one bit of remorse as we enjoyed the fireplace, while the flakes fell and others did the cleanup. But now that everything around me is coming to a newness of life in blossom and bloom, I feel a sense of loss, perhaps even regret, at letting go of my established and well-loved gardens.

When we decided to move, I knew I would need to have space to dig around. And we do, so don't feel too sorry for me. I think it's just that I miss the anticipation of each plant I knew would be rising from the ground like an old friend just returning from a long time away.

Another perennial I look forward to in Easter season are the scriptures we encounter in the Acts of the Apostles. This is truly a time of the Spirit, and She is in full bloom in the growth of the fledgling "Jesus Movement." New shoots of

inspiration and confidence in spreading the Good News are rising in Peter and the other disciples. People are being baptized and communities of new believers will be planted. There is surely joy (and danger) in the work for the Apostles, and there are also certainly times of feeling great loss at the realization that Jesus is not physically with them. Their roots with Him run deep.

I think it must have been very different for Paul, who never knew the earthly human Jesus. His experience of the risen Christ gave him no sense of the shared history and ministry that the others carried with them. Paul's dramatic Christ encounter manifests in vital seedlings that will spread and take root in different and quite unlikely places from the original eleven Apostles.

It occurs to me as I place pansies in new window boxes, that the Holy Spirit plants seeds in who and where She will. The Good News of the risen Christ is blooming all around us and within us. Share it with someone! Invite them to All Saints' for Sunday worship or Tuesday night Community Supper. May the seeds of our garden spread far and wide!

Blessings,

Sandi Albom, Intern

Update from the Pantry Outreach Ministry

The Peterborough Food Pantry sends its greetings and heartfelt "thanks" for your continued assistance in serving the food insecure in our communities. Since the merger of the two pantries in October 2016, the Peterborough Food Pantry has increased volunteer staffing and hours to accommodate the additional influx of clients needing their services. The Peterborough Food Pantry serves 13 area communities and currently feeds over 300 households per month at an estimated retail value of \$15,000 in groceries each month. In addition, the pantry provides a Hungry Students Program and a Peterborough Resident Emergency Aid Program as part of its umbrella of services. They have been open six days a week since October, having added Saturday to their schedule to better serve the clients who were utilizing All Saints' pantry on that day.

After seven months and continued advertising of the new open hours, the board members recently decided to discontinue Saturday hours because of lack of customer visits. As of May 2017, the pantry hours will be Monday-Friday from 9 AM -12 noon. Considering the All Saints' pantry was open for two hours, three days a week, this seems reasonable because those customers using the Saturday hours were families who also regularly came during the week days.

As you may have read in the *Saints Alive* weekly online communications or the *At-a-Glance* announcements in the weekly church service bulletins, All Saints' has been attempting to identify itself as the "healthy food church" offering health-conscious options when shopping for the pantry to add to the nutritional options offered. Items with less sugar, less salt or fewer refined processed ingredients and added chemicals are so appreciated. Organic and gluten free foods are needed. Many individuals needing assistance are chronically ill and have many dietary restrictions they are trying to comply with medically. Poverty does not allow them many choices. We request your continued attention to providing items that speak to our partnership and mission to provide nutritional value options to our brothers and sisters. As we plan our gardens may we be mindful of the Christian principle to share some of our first fruits (and veggies!) with our neighbors that they may share in the harvest and glean some benefit from our abundance.

We invite you to visit the pantry, located at 25 Elm St., speak with the volunteers, and consider how you might add your gifts and talents to this outreach ministry. You will feel the warmth of the gratitude of those served and the volunteers who depend on our generosity to supply the needs.

In support of the Peterborough Food Pantry and in celebration of Spring and healthy choices, please consider partaking in the **Monadnock Hunger Walk on Saturday, May 6!** Grab your family and your friends and take a walk to end hunger. There are flyers and sponsor/walker forms for the walk on display in each of our church buildings.

If you have any questions about the food pantry or the walk, please contact me at madelynmorris57@gmail.com or 307-254-4753.

Madelyn Morris, Vestry Liaison

From the Vestry

This is an exciting time to be a vestry member. I have served on the Altar Guild and Buildings and Grounds Ministry for more than five years. That's a good vantage point from which to gauge the 'vital signs' of our parish – I'd say ours are stable and strong.

The cottage meetings have been completed. Over 100 parishioners attended. The vestry will be sharing what parishioners said they love about All Saints' and what common ideas and areas of interests have been found. From this information, projects, programs and estimated costs can be determined.

The proposed new parking lot is a project that will require considerable cost to complete. Work continues on permits for the demolition of the building near the street and the long shed behind the small house. That small house will remain and will be sold. On-site work should begin by the middle or end of May. We should soon see more drawings of what the parking lot could look like. This project may well take years to complete.

At our April meeting, the vestry also discussed how we might present our ministries to new church members, as well as remind everyone about the many opportunities to serve in the weekly life of the church. We are always in need of new ushers, lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers and breakfast and coffee hour hosts. There are many other ways to serve, too. We talked about having a 'ministry fair' in the fall.

It's a pleasure for me to serve on the vestry!

Sally Steere, Vestry Member

Alle May God Amende

My English school days began with a reading from the Bible, a hymn and a prayer, followed by a word of admonition or uplift from the headmaster. In my teenage years, I played the piano at these morning assemblies, and the language of hymns still sticks to my ribs, as Mary McCarthy says of a Catholic education. In *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood*, she claims that her religious education was "like learning a language early; the effects are indelible." And so it is with the language of those hymns, played repeatedly, with their thundering chords, inescapable rhymes and simple tunes, overriding critical judgment but aiding memory.

My school was founded in 1423 (motto: Alle May God Amende), long before most of the hymns were written, but the sound of young voices seemed to echo across years, as we prayed often for our founders and benefactors (their names are etched in my memory more surely than those of people I have known - John Barton, John Ruding, Dame Isabel Denton, King Edward VI of England...). Oddly, I was authorized to choose the hymns, not just play them. I exercised this power blithely, announcing a long hymn - all verses - to delay the start of classes, or eliminating stanzas when it seemed to me more desirable to get a start on the day. Wary of titters and nudges from the boys, I ruthlessly excised any stanza with language that might lend itself to *double entendre*. I was particularly fond of calling for voices to be raised for "those in peril on the sea," though we were an inland school. Hymns called us to work hard ("Come labor on/Who dare stand idle...?" "...Toiling far in life's broad duties..."), occasionally summoned an image of hell ("Death of death, and hell's destruction"), and frequently drew our attention to old age and death ("... the setting sun," "When all our years are sped"). But we sang enthusiastically, happy to raise a song of praise but undaunted by prophesy of endings.

Years later, I became the head of a boarding school in New England founded by the great nineteenth century evangelist Dwight L. Moody. He had cleverly partnered with Ira B. Sankey, who sang stirring hymns, accompanying himself on a portable organ, and the funds for the first buildings at the school were readily "sung up." By the time I arrived it had become a secular school with students of many faiths. Nonetheless, the school song was and still is "Jerusalem." Once again, students sang with vigor, this time their voices lifted up by a superb organ and organist; once again they agreed: "I will not cease from mental fight;" and once again they found a line ("Bring me my arrows of desire") they could imbue with teenage meaning.

It was this poem by Blake, set to music by Hubert Parry, that almost ended my lifelong attachment to hymns. I was at a reception in Seoul on behalf of the school, where I made a few remarks and was about to sit down when the host announced that I would sing "Jerusalem." Solo! Like most people, I have only sung "Jerusalem," or any other hymn, in a

choir or a congregation. In Seoul, a modest trio played the opening bars that I had heard thunder a hundred times from an organ, and I inescapably opened my mouth to sing, "And did those feet in ancient time/Walk upon England's mountains green?" "Jerusalem," sung by swaying crowds at the Last Night of the Proms in London, by raucous voices at sports events, by a thousand teenagers at school... And here I was, accompanied only by a restrained trio and a rapidly melting ice sculpture, singing alone.

Back in the safety of school, I reflected that one off-key solo could not dim my love for hymns (even for what Jeffery Fuller calls "humming hymns"). In particular, I love the words of the 17th and 18th century English poets Herbert, Milton, Smart, and Addison - especially his "divine poem" on gratitude: "When all thy mercies, O my God/My rising soul surveys..." which leads us to the wonderful phrase and notion of a cheerful heart:

Ten thousand thousand precious gifts/My daily thanks employ,
Nor is the least a cheerful heart /That tastes those gifts with joy.

And after a lifetime with young people, I see that the language and music of hymns does stick to their ribs. The students sing words that they rarely see or hear in any other context: "extol," "adore," "spangled," "diadem;" they repeat variations of praise; they are urged to persist; and they sing of death. And then they run off to class and sports. Years go by and their bonds are apparent as they sing Jerusalem at each others' weddings and, indeed, their memorial services. But first they have the experience that we have every week at All Saints, the joy of joining their voices with others, in prayer and praise. And whatever our failings - even musical ones - most deeply I remember: Alle May God Amende.

Jacqueline Smethurst



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Alma's Poem

Beloved

As God so loved us, we ought to
love one another. *1 John 4:11*

Remember "Show and Tell"?
Consider now the sequel:
You have a lesson spiritual?
Be careful not to oversell -
That leads to a fare-thee-well.
First SHOW God's love as a
marvel
Then the wonderful story TELL!

Love, *Alma*

Editor's Note

We had so many fabulous contributions to this month's *Messenger*, we ran out of room! I'm sharing this back page with Alma Ruth, for without her poem, our newsletter would not be complete.

Once again, so much is going on at All Saints', we have much to be grateful for. Jamie writes of how welcoming and safe our church is, and invites each of us to consider whether we have a calling to another or a new ministry.

Becky share important news and we all wish her Godspeed and good luck as she looks to future possibilities. Andy contributes a poem and also invites us to join him in a discussion of an important Emmet Fox book.

Cassius reviews *The Path*, based on a popular Harvard course. Pat contributes a comforting item. Molly writes beautifully about EfM, Sandi compares our work as Christians with gardening and Sally updates us on Vestry news. Jacqueline closes with a reflection on what hymns can mean to us and our children.

The deadline for the June *Messenger* is May 17. The theme will be "Growing in Faith."

Please send your contributions to me at