

THE MESSENGER

June 2017, Volume 8 Number 3

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

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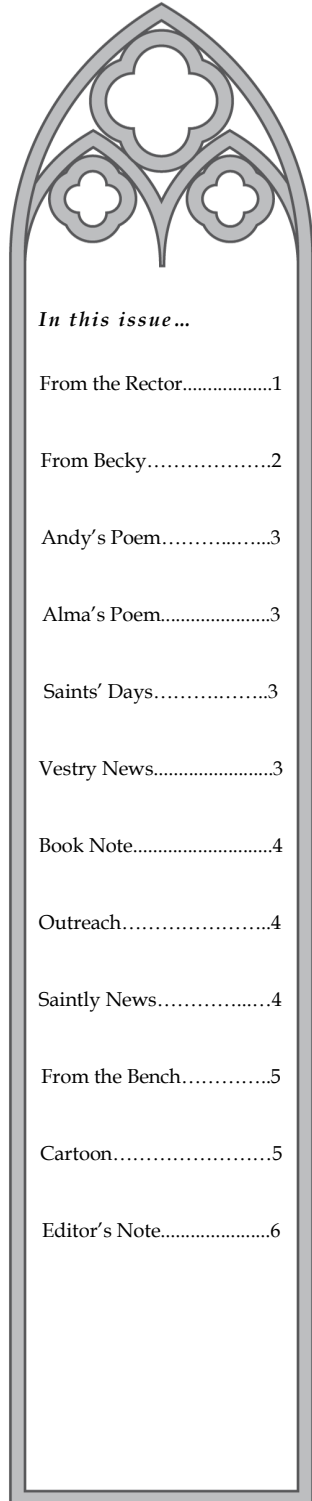
Jamie Hamilton, Rector Her email: revjamie@allsaintsnh.org

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,

I am writing to you just after returning from the Commencement Eucharist held at St. John's Memorial Chapel at the Episcopal Divinity School in celebration of our Intern Sandi Albom's and our Clerk of the Vestry, Philip Huckins' graduation. Steve Smillie and Ann Lammers joined me, and we brought all your good wishes with us as we prayed, sang, laughed and cried, charging the new graduates with the grace and courage to pursue their ministries.

As we gathered at the reception after the service, we all commented on how beautiful the different prayers were that came from supplemental sources beyond the Book of Common Prayer. We particularly enjoyed the lectors after each reading saying, "The Word of God, alive among us, Alleluia," with the congregation's response as, "Thanks be to God, Alleluia." We all agreed that you can never say Alleluia too much during Easter.

The celebrant used Eucharistic Prayer 3 from *Enriching our Worship* which sounds very familiar, yet not, as the words at the altar, sharing the same theological beliefs, are a bit different. One of my favorite alternatives is what is read right before the congregation sings the Sanctus: "Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so as the morning stars sing your praises, we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy."

Sometimes hearing something that we have memorized, something that rolls off our tongues in a rote way, but now in a new way, with new phrases and new images, helps us to enjoy the beauty of our faith and the intimacy of our relationship with the Living Christ, a fragrant offering, as if we are seeing for a first time.

As no surprise, the feedback we received from our Cottage Meetings reiterated All Saints' love for the opportunities offered to express and experience our different worship styles. We will continue our exploration this summer, together, from June 18 through September 3 with one 9 AM Sunday service, followed by lemonade on the lawn.

We have moved to one service during our past two summers, and this summer will look similar, with a twist. We will alternate between Rite I and Rite II in the church. We will have one Rite Now service, which will take place in Reynolds Hall on July 9, celebrating 25 years of this contemporary service. It will be a special service, and I invite all of you who have never experienced Rite Now in Reynolds Hall to come.

All the other summer church services will be held in the church. Rite I will stay constant, but during Rite II, we will introduce prayers from Iona, the New Zealand Prayer Book and *Enriching our Worship*. We will also use a free-standing altar, experiencing the celebrant facing the congregation and being closer to the pews.

With many blessings and giving thanks for all the ways you reveal God's love,

Jamie+

Christian Education

Leaning into the Future

I suppose in all the many *Messenger* articles I've written, I never stopped to consider there would be a time when I'd be writing my last. And yet here we are! There is so much I would like to say. As I said in my last article, the biggest emotion I feel as I prepare to leave is gratitude. All Saints' has given me so much, and I carry it with me as I begin whatever adventure awaits next. I am reminded of something my sister-in-law Deanna returned to again and again with the Lady Grizzlies, her team of high school basketball players whom she coached to a state championship last year. Her mantra was, "leave a legacy."

What do I hope my legacy might be? But more important, what is the invitation and opportunity of that legacy that will be available for the families of All Saints' Church to pick up, grow, evolve, and further develop? This is the subject I'd most like to write about.

If I could have my wish, my legacy would be that I helped sustain for All Saints' Church the belief that children and teenagers are valued and respected and cherished. Their faith is real and complex and meaningful. They are capable of acts of tremendous compassion, courage and creativity. They are not "the future of the church." They are the church—right now. They are the church becoming its next evolution and our job as adults is to continue to grow alongside them and with them and for them. Growing in faith is best accomplished together, in community. All Saints' Church has been my tribe, so to speak, and to whatever extent I was able to share in the growth of those I worked with while I was here, I am moved and humbled.

After I am gone, I do hope that some of the activities the kids and teens most look forward to will continue. This will require your help. Over the summer, Vacation Bible School is planned for July 31-August 4, and will be hosted by Pastor Lena and Bronwin Southwick at the United Methodist Church next door. This program was a wonderful endeavor last year and my hope is that once again, families and volunteers will all participate in making it a memorable, fun-filled experience for children.

In the fall, families look forward to Homecoming Sunday on September 10, and the return of Sunday School classes. The youth group anticipates CityReach in Boston and of course, the Nativity Pageant is a highlight for many families. These are just a few examples of ways that the members of All Saints' can become involved to ensure that even without a Christian Education Director, opportunities will continue for children and teens. Their formation is crucial and we should be invested in making sure all members of our church have access to it.

I trust deeply in this church. I know many good things will happen in the future and I look forward to staying connected and seeing everything that will grow from here. Thank you all for walking with me for the past six years. I will carry you in my heart.

Becky Goodwin

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Closer than Breathing

Closer than my breathing
 Nearer still than hands or feet
 Before my eyes unseeing
 Come now and complete
 My heart in all its yearning
 My mind where thoughts increase
 Bring to my soul repentance
 Then all my fears release
 Bring a symphony of birdsong
 A halo of fresh dew
 A simple clean spring morning
 For this faith to renew
 Closer than our breathing
 Miraculous yet true
 Hear it in a whisper
 I am loved and so are you.

Andy Peterson

Alma's Poem

Growing in Faith

Everything's in bloom
 Absolutely there's no room
 For thoughts of gloom and doom
 There's a message in the trees
 Drinking sunshine in their leaves
 They are letting us know
 Like them we can't grow
 Without warmth and light
 Thoughts loving and bright
 In God's word abide
 It's our best guide

Love, *Alma*

June Saints' Days

6/2	John T. Adams James Sarles	6/13	Henry Marlar Miles Marlar Patricia Szydlo Lorenzo Van Horn	6/21	Diana Mundy
6/3	Judy Heddy Ian Sistare	6/15	Meghann Wuorinen	6/22	Joy Boothby Virginia Peterson Evelyn Ritchie
6/5	Charlie Ruth	6/16	Shelley Hulbert Laura Phillips	6/24	David Levesque
6/8	Libby Fuller Andrew Graff John Lewtas	6/17	Dodie Finlayson	6/25	Deborah Waldo
6/9	Heather Tourgee	6/19	Sharon MacCartney	6/26	Isabella Rose Messa
6/12	Jean Peters	6/19	Eric Masterson	6/28	Christina Gatto
6/13	Calvin Marlar	6/19	Jonathan Miner	6/30	Benjamin Frehner Jonah Goodwin

Vestry News

The May 10 vestry meeting focused primarily on the status of the ongoing Discernment & Feasibility Study. With the “cottage meetings” complete, a report out to the congregation was scheduled for Sunday, May 21st (which will have happened by the time you read this). Jack Calhoun and Greg Naudascher have done a masterful job of compiling the input from the cottage meetings, identifying themes that have emerged. The next phase of this process will begin in the summer, and carry through the fall, when vestry will review our consultant's recommendation about whether or not to carry the process further.

We also discussed Becky Goodwin's departure from All Saints' (we're calling it a sabbatical), and the planning underway to cover the various Christian Education responsibilities Becky led so well - she is a tough act to follow. We thank her profoundly for her leadership, and wish her the very best in whatever God calls her to do in the future.

Finally, although not discussed in detail at the May meeting, the work on the parking lot project will continue throughout the summer. Stay tuned.

Phil Suter, Senior Warden

Book Note

Bishops do write books. Often, they are the product of the bishop's ordinary (in both senses) ministry. If the bishop is known to lead retreats or clergy days, the book may be a series of meditations that have been recently produced. Some of those are remarkably helpful; one has the feeling that many bishops wish that engaging in and leading others in meditative prayer were more of their life than seems possible.

But I can't remember reading a book by a (contemporary) bishop more pastorally alert, engaging, and radically challenging, than *Without Shame or Fear: From Adam to Christ* (Church Publishing, 2017), by the Bishop of New Hampshire, A. Robert Hirschfeld, alias "Rob-our-Bishop." And at the same time, this slim volume exemplifies what it espouses, as it brings into the light passages from his life and ministry clearly productive of both shame and fear, told here with an openness, a trust in the Spirit and the People of God, including the myriads with whom he has to deal, that seems to have conquered both shame and fear, at least for a time. This is a courageous book; I am not sure that "noble" is too strong.

On the whole, this series of meditations on scripture is written in clear, accessible prose. That does not mean that it is easy going; you have to be ready to go with Rob into dark, difficult places, hoping that he knows where he's going and how to get both of you out the other side. But, it turns out, he mostly does, and when he is bewildered you get to share in, and learn from, his bewilderment.

The scenes upon which the Bishop muses are: Adam and Eve in the garden; Noah's drunkenness; Sarah's laugh at the prediction of her bearing a child; David and Bathsheba; the healing of the man born blind in John 9; and the Passion of Christ (especially Maundy Thursday). His sense of these stories is often unexpected, takes odd turns, and keeps us involved. And then there is the connection, the scene from the author's life and its invitation to us to look at our own life, the life of those around us, the life of the world.

Shame is a universal experience; its complete absence is pathological. But I have rarely heard it considered in the context of the spiritual life of Christians, except as a defect or a roadblock. The artistic imagination has to be involved in bringing us out of the paralysis of shame and fear into the stirrings of life and growth. Through poetry and art, including the collect from the Book of Common Prayer from which the title is taken, Rob Hirschfeld gives us hints, clues, ways of enriching our understanding of spaces in our lives that we have hidden away, but which, in the Light of Christ, we can accept as sources of courage, compassion, joy, and hope.

Cassius Webb

Outreach Ministry

The Serendipity Shop ("The Dip"), was opened 50 years ago and is located in the lower level of Reynolds Hall. We are a consignment and thrift shop. Run by a group of dedicated volunteers, we serve the area community through our outreach efforts. We provide high quality clothing, housewares, and jewelry for very reasonable prices. Shop items are either consigned or donated. We are a resource for selected local and state charities as well as the greater community in times of need. We welcome you to stop by the shop during business hours: Thursday 1-4 PM, Friday 10 AM – 4PM, and Saturday from 10 AM to noon.

Libby Collins

Saintly News

Congratulations to:

- ❖ Sandi Albom and Philip Huckins for graduating from Episcopal Divinity School
- ❖ Ryan Betz for achieving a 4.0 GPA at University of Connecticut

If you would like to share a special news item or a happy occasion with the parish, please email Gloria Schultz at

gljoemointheglen@gmail.com or call 924-9489.

View from the Bench

Sing ye faithful, sing with gladness

I grew up in the church around the corner – whatever that happened to be wherever we happened to be living (we moved a lot). Over the years I attended Presbyterian, Methodist, Evangelical United Brethren and Baptist Sunday Schools.

My parents did not often attend church when I was young. My father's father was a bishop in the United Brethren in Christ; my mother's family had attended small fundamentalist country churches in the rural Midwest and South. Both had had very conservative religious upbringings, attending church several times each week. When they married just before WW II, they claimed simply to have had it with church.

It was not until I entered high school, when my father finally refused any further transfers from his employer, that my parents found their way to Glendale Church, part of a "holiness" denomination, socially conservative but theologically unfocused, an active family church with strong music and youth programs. (Today, Glendale is a community "megachurch.")

One might wonder how I've ended up spending nearly a half-century as an Episcopal Church musician. It's simple: singing, a fine pipe organ, and a girl.

Singing has always been part of my life: in public school and college, in the children's and adult church choirs, and in high school and college musical theatre. Singing seems to have been in my blood. Even in silence, I heard singing.

Glendale Church had a fine pipe organ that played a prominent role accompanying large choirs and robust congregational singing. As much as I loved the singing, I was totally enamored of the organ, absolutely intrigued by the array of buttons, knobs and levers on the console. I began organ study in high school, and by the end of my sophomore year when I could drive, I worked routinely as a substitute organist on Sundays across the Indianapolis metropolitan area.

This is where the girl comes in. My high school girlfriend attended a large Episcopal church in Indianapolis. Although I had substituted in a host of denominational settings (I was the church musician's equivalent of Ferdinand Magellan), I had never been inside an Episcopal church, much less attended a service. I don't recall why I went to church with my girlfriend, but my first "Episcopal" experience was an assault on the senses – the architecture, the magnificent vestments, the processions, the torches, the incense, the gold-leaf field of fleur-de-lis on the ceiling above the high altar. And, oh... the singing! The soaring voices of the choir of men and boys, the robust singing of the enormous congregation. I knew then that I would always be a church musician (probably in an Episcopal church, though I dared not say it aloud).

At the risk of stating the obvious, faith grows through a variety of experiences. Many would say it grows most especially through hearing – Holy Scripture read, psalms recited, prayers and collects from the Book of Common Prayer prayed together, inspired sermons preached, and beautiful music sung. But I would suggest that faith grows through singing as well. I don't mean hearing music sung...I mean singing.

It's not just that faith may grow when we are inspired by a hymn text or its musical setting as we sing, but in the very act of singing, we may actually find our faith. To paraphrase Anglican Bishop Geoffrey Rowell: aided by what we see and hear, we actually discover our faith through singing; the act of singing translates faith into life. May you continue to discover your faith through singing.

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster





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Editor's Note

In her opening letter, Jamie invites us to worship together in the church at 9 AM during the summer, from June 18 to September 3, with a special service in Reynolds Hall on July 9 to celebrate 25 years of the service we now call Rite Now. These summer services, with all of us together using a variety of liturgies and then sharing lemonade on the lawn, are a wonderful way to start each week during the warm weather.

I'm sure that I'm not the only one who is having trouble finding the words to express deep, deep gratitude for the life and work of Becky Goodwin. Her final Christian Ed article, like all the others she's written before, has some wonderful take-away lines: "(Our youth) are not 'the future of the church.' They are the church—right now." Blessings on your journey, dear Becky. Our love goes with you always.

Once again, both Andy and Alma have poems for us. Andy's message: I am loved and so are you, and Alma's speaks of how we grow in faith as God's love blooms in us.

We have lots of birthdays to celebrate this month, and Phil catches us up on vestry news.

Cassius reviews our own Bishop Rob's amazingly personal and helpful book, *Without Shame or Fear*. Libby reminds us of the good work of "The Dip" and Gloria helps us celebrate their achievements with some of our Saints.

Jeff's beautiful article is personal and inspirational. And the cartoon is about a dilemma perhaps familiar to some All Saints' parents.

The deadline for the July-August *Messenger* is June 21. The theme will be "Resting in the Arms of God."

Please send your contributions to me at chow6569@gmail.com.