

THE MESSENGER

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

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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.

Dear Parishioners,

*"May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things
give you the grace and power to perform them."*

Just after Bishop Rob said this ordination prayer, we presbyters surrounded All Saints' Curate, Sandi Albom, as she knelt at the center opening of the altar rail. The Rev. William Cruse, a classmate of Sandi's from the Episcopal Divinity School and cantor, began to call for the Spirit:

*"Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven, shine forth with your glorious light.
Come from the four winds, O Spirit, come breath of God;
disperse the shadows over us, renew and strengthen your people."*

As the congregation chanted continuously, "Veni Sancte Spiritus," we placed our hands on Sandi's head, arms, shoulders, neck, and back, rooted firmly in the ground and in the moment. A period of silent prayer followed. A long silence. Weighty.

For me, it was as if all the beautiful prayers, hymns, anthems, and litanies of this service and past services and future services, were now swirling around us in the still silence. Time knew no geography, and yet, like Mary, we were overshadowed by the Spirit, marking forever a "before and after." Our Bishop was centered in his authority; Sandi was kneeling and praying; and all of our hands pressed harder against her as we, all of us in the church, holding her close to our hearts, made her priest in God's church. Eons of years were held in that moment.

Vow making is precious and is always transforming. We are all changed after a service of making promises because in them we are drawn closer to each other, yet again, renewed as if on eagle's wings, as if we are starting life all over again, born again, from above, with new breath, new vigor, new flight. We awake to possibility and to the grace and beauty of our capacity within each other's lives to make a difference with our Yes.

And we also find time to party! We have a wonderful opportunity on Friday, May 4 to join together for a Caribbean dinner, to celebrate spring (let's hope), Sandi's ordination, the beauty of our church community, and the good news we are receiving from the early stages of our Capital Campaign. So much to be thankful for, in all the ways the swirling Spirit is forming us and loving us and calling us to be a people who believe in the Lord who gives us the grace and power to perform whatever things are put before us.

I look forward to sharing an evening together of good food and laughter and good news. Come one, come all!

Blessings,
Jamie+

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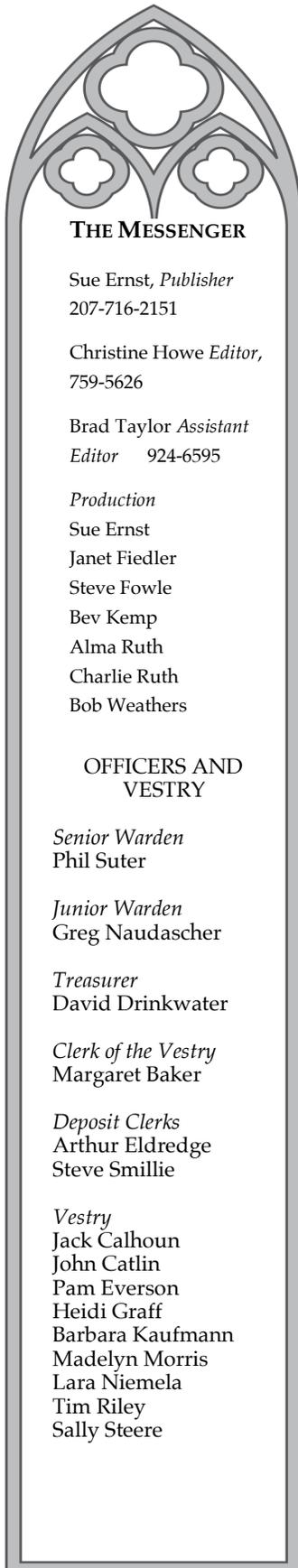
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Sandi's Column

Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them "Humankind" when they were created. Genesis 5:2 NRSV

I've been thinking quite a bit about blessings lately. I often receive communications, written or in person, with these or similar words, "Love and Blessings to you". These are powerful wishes that we extend to another soul. In his achingly beautiful volume of poetry, *To Bless the Space Between Us*, the late John O'Donohue writes, "A blessing evokes a privileged intimacy. It touches a tender membrane where the human heart cries out to its divine ground. In the ecstasy and the loneliness of one's life, there are certain times when a blessing is nearer to us than any other person or thing. A blessing is not a sentiment or a question; it is a gracious invocation where the human heart pleads with the divine heart."

One of the most intimate and moving sacramental privileges of a priest is to offer another person a blessing in the name of the Divine. A seminary professor once presented to me the most beautiful description of what it is to "bless". She said when we name someone or something *blessed* or *a blessing*, we are simply recognizing and raising up what is already present, the beauty and the sacred that is inherently there in all that God has created.

On the day of my ordination, and on the following Sunday, I offered this blessing at the end of the service:

*May the God of Abraham and Sarah,
And Jesus, our brother, born of our sister Mary,
And the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world,
As a mother broods over her children,
Bless you and keep you, this day and forever more.*

Within the Trinitarian nature of this beautiful blessing lays a three-fold special meaning for me. It calls forth the root of our Abrahamic faith; one that I share with my husband Bob, who is of Jewish heritage. On the day of ordination, we celebrated the Annunciation of Mary, from whose blessed womb God took full human nature and lived among us. And, I have always experienced the Holy Spirit as female in nature, and especially as nurturing and protective, as a mother.

As we live and move within this Easter season and into Pentecost, may we recognize the very divine nature of God in each person we encounter, and as we do, let us raise up and name each other a blessing.

In Christ's Love,

Sandi

Saintly News

Congratulations to...

- ❖ The Reverend Sandra Albom on her recent ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests.

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.

Book Note

Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) was one of those commanding women of medieval Western Europe whose power seems inexplicable (Joan of Arc is another). No doubt there were political and religious currents that enabled her to use her gifts, but her influence over church and state, not to mention countless individual souls, remains, in the end, mysterious.

Caterina Benincasa was certainly not destined to be the center of attention. The twenty-second of twenty-five children born to a prosperous Sienese dyer and his long-suffering wife, she seems to have been an imaginative and pious child, who had her first vision of Christ when she was five. Later, when her married older sister died, Catherine's parents wished her to marry her sister's widower, but she refused, fasting until they gave up. She saw her own vocation neither as a married woman nor as a nun, but she was eventually allowed to join a group of Dominican tertiaries (men and women who live under vows and under the supervision of an Order but live in "the world"). Thereafter, she lived with her family on sometimes strained terms, mostly keeping to herself at home in prayer and ecstasy, but also venturing forth to give food and clothing to those who needed it, and to care for the sick. She cared for her elderly mother until the latter's death.

Somehow, this odd youngster attracted a following, and also the respect of movers and shakers in her own town and in the neighboring city-states of Tuscany. She was often asked to make peace between warring factions or cities. Finally, the city of Florence commissioned her to negotiate a settlement with the Papal States of Central Italy, for which she had to travel to Avignon, where the current Pope resided. She was then twenty-eight.

Catherine began her embassy by corresponding with Gregory XI, adding him to an impressive list of eminent people who received and answered her letters. Eventually, she traveled to Avignon personally, met with Gregory and his advisors, and stayed six months. Gregory was receptive, but the male Florentines who were empowered to do the final negotiating first arrived very late and then disavowed Catherine's efforts.

But Catherine had bigger fish to fry. In 1376, the Papacy had been headquartered in Avignon for seventy-three years, having abandoned Rome as too tumultuous for comfort. In that time, the

papal court had become comfortable, efficient, and—French. Gregory was personally inclined to try to return the Holy See to Rome, the city of Peter, a focus of pilgrimage and the ancient center of the Western Church but had been dissuaded by his cardinals and by the French king. Catherine saw the return as a moral, religious, and political necessity for the witness of the Catholic Church to the world and worked on Gregory. How much her influence tipped the scales is debated; but in September the papacy left Avignon for Italy. Catherine returned home, though continuing to correspond with Gregory (who soon regretted his decision and was not slow to blame Catherine), and occasionally to work actively on his behalf and that of his successor, Urban VI, to whom she was steadfast in her support while trying to counsel him on anger management.

It could be said that few of Catherine's worldly projects had lasting success. Italy remained fractious, the Great Schism of the Church began in reaction to Urban, and Catherine's hopes for a new Crusade to unite the Church in a common venture fortunately went nowhere. But this insignificant person, in ordinary terms, whose family's standing declined over her lifetime, was not forgotten. She had spoken truth to power, in straightforward and winning words; and power, sometimes, had been forced to listen.

But all this busyness was, to Catherine, a fulfillment of her central work: to become a true Bride of Christ. She left behind, in addition to her extraordinary letters, a *Treatise of Divine Providence*, a dialogue between the soul and God. In it, she describes the ordinary work of prayer, but has Christ manifest Himself in others, who do His work in the world. It is at the same time brimming with love and tough-minded in its knowledge of human weakness and the necessity of ministry to your neighbor as the work of God. Apparently, she is a writer (or, usually, dictator) of beautiful Tuscan prose; but it is all in the service of One to whom her union was the most important thing in her life.

The *Treatise* and her letters are easily available in English from many sources. They are worth perusing: Catherine of Siena still speaks truth to power.

Cassius Webb

HERE FOR GOD...HERE FOR ALL...HERE FOR GOOD!

ALL SAINTS' CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF DINNER

Please join us on Friday, May 4, at 6:30 PM at Reynolds Hall for an evening focused on fellowship and enjoyment, as we formally kick off the public phase of our All Saints' Capital Campaign.

Together we will...

- **share** fellowship over a festive Caribbean-themed meal prepared by chef extraordinaire, Ivy Vann and her team of assistants.
- **celebrate** with you the success of our efforts to-date, as the Capital Campaign team is working behind the scenes with early supporters of our campaign.
- **highlight** the next phase in May and June of the campaign, to invite everyone to help set the cornerstone for the next century of All Saints'.
- **answer** your questions.

This is the first of many opportunities to celebrate together our Capital Campaign for All Saints' 2nd century.

On a date following the Kick-off Dinner, each member of All Saints' will be contacted by a fellow parishioner, to set a time to visit and discuss your support of the campaign.

In order to plan for the dinner, we ask that you contact Gail Caron, at 603-924-3202 or admin@allsaintsnh.org. Child care may be requested when you RSVP.

The dinner will be the first of many opportunities to celebrate together our Capital Campaign for All Saints' 2nd century. We look forward to seeing you on Friday, May 4th.

With enthusiasm,
The Capital Campaign Committee

Alma's Poem

Sharing the Good News

Before I got this old
Many times I was told
Not to be too bold
To try bring into the fold
One who toward religion was cold
But hey-I'm bursting with joy
Like a kid with a new toy
Hawking my find like a newsboy
And want all to know what I enjoy
We are called to share
What we've learned through prayer
To the downtrodden show care
Their burdens help them bear
So I speak to any who'll hear

Love, *Alma*

The Woman Behind Reynolds Hall

(Ed Note: This article was first published in The Messenger in September 2010. Some parishioners have asked us to reprint this fascinating article.)

She was large-boned and had almost crippled feet, for which she wore special shoes the local children called "space shoes." She wore plain house dresses that made her look like a policewoman. But her pediatric patients adored her. And she was the first woman to serve on All Saints' Vestry.

Margaret R. Reynolds, for whom Reynolds Hall is named, was a pioneer. Born in 1897 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, she graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School with a specialty in pediatrics. Though she began her practice on Long Island, she and her nurse assistant, Sue Elliot, moved to Peterborough in 1945, where she bought a house on Windy Row, locating her medical office over the garage.

She was not warmly welcomed by the local family practitioners, who at first refused to refer patients to her. The medical staff at the Monadnock Community Hospital, which did not want her at the hospital, shunned her, though they reluctantly agreed she could come up and show young mothers how to put diapers on their babies.

But a few families did accept her. Robert and Marylou Weathers' children were early patients of Dr. Reynolds, as were the children of Dorothy and Walter Peterson. When one of the Weathers' children suffered from projectile vomiting, Margaret prescribed Phenobarbital, with the result that a rumor circulated in town that people shouldn't send their kids to Dr. Reynolds "because she'll just drug them."

Gradually, however, other local physicians began to recognize her expertise and to refer pediatric cases to her.

Sometimes called "the great white mother," she saw patients seven days of the week, starting at 7 AM. She told parents to call her if they had any questions and if the situation warranted it, she would ask to see the child right away. Parents had to follow her advice, however, or she would make her displeasure obvious. And if an appointment was for 1 PM, one had to be there on time or be sent home to reschedule.

Dr. Reynolds was especially adept in diagnosing and treating allergies, which the general practitioners of the time didn't know much about. Eventually, she ran the pediatric department of the hospital and all newborns were referred to her for hospital care. Ultimately, she became president of the hospital medical staff.

Dr. Reynolds was nominated to All Saints' Vestry by the Reverend Al Kershaw. She established and for years administered the Church Sunday School program. When Lewis Stone became rector of All Saints' in 1971, Dr. Reynolds assisted in establishing the Sunday School. Her hobby was making jewelry, and her pieces were so fine some of them became gifts to visiting bishops and clergy.

She was a parishioner at All Saints' for more than 30 years until her death in 1977 at 82. When she died, her only known relatives were two cousins who lived in Seattle, Washington, and Clearwater, Florida.

In her will, she bequeathed to the church her Windy Row residence and its contents, to be used for building construction, and not for general Church purposes. Her ashes were interred without a marker at her Windy Row home.

All Saints' sold the property in August 1980 and began adding to the building fund. By 1985, the Reynolds Fund had grown to roughly \$130,000, providing the financial underpinning for construction of a much-needed new parish hall.

In the spring of 1984, All Saints' established an architect committee and a building committee, retaining architect Richard M. Monahan, Jr. to design the building. Invitations to bid were sent out to six contractors. Monadnock Structures won the bid and began construction. On October 4, 1985, the Church took occupancy of the new structure. A unique feature of the building is the material used for the exterior walls, which, although it appears to be stucco, is actually reinforced fiberglass.

When the building opened, the Vestry of All Saints' Church voted to name the new structure in honor of Dr. Margaret Reynolds, in recognition of her achievements in Peterborough and of the major financial contribution she made to the church she loved.

Rod Falby

(Author's note: I am indebted to Bob Weathers, Dorothy Peterson, Lewis Stone, June Chandler, and Jean Peters for much of the information in this article.)

View from the Bench

I Will Sing with the Spirit and with the understanding

“Bless, O Lord, your servants who minister in your temple: Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts; and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” *The Choristers Prayer*

Each year, as the choir season draws to a close, we take a moment to recognize the dedication, talents, commitment and hard work of those who provide music for our liturgies. Most people do not realize that choir members individually commit 150 or more hours (4-5 hours each week) to rehearsals and services over the course of a choir season. Thanking the choir and its individual members is a fine thing to do; everybody likes to hear “Well done!” from time to time.

However, singing with the All Saints’ Choir is a ministry – it’s an offering of time and talent to God in service to this parish and to the community around us. But it’s a shared ministry: it is not the aggregate of individual volunteer acts, but a corporate endeavor to make a worthy sacrifice of praise to God in worship each week, a joint effort to create music that inspires and deepens faith.

So, this year, as a way of acknowledging the choir and other musicians who enrich our worship, I invite you to join them in celebrating their shared music ministry and the vital and beloved part it plays in parish life at All Saints’. June 10 is the choir’s final Sunday for our 2017-2018 season; you are encouraged to be present at All Saints’ at 5 PM for a Festival Choral Evensong celebrating music. A festive reception will follow in Reynolds Hall.

This year, June 10, is designated Music Sunday throughout the Anglican Communion by the Royal School of Church Music, with which our choir is affiliated. The motto of the RSCM is St. Paul’s admonition from Corinthians 14:15 – “I will sing with the spirit; and I will sing with the understanding also” – and that admonition provides the theme for the Evensong lessons and music. The choir will sing an introtit by contemporary English composer David Goodenough based on the ‘motto’ text, as well as the Evening Service in C by Charles Villiers Stanford (Magnificat and Nunc dimittis), and an anthem by American composer Howard Helvey, based Carl P. Daw’s “Prayer for Clergy and Musicians.” We will also sing a setting of the Evensong Preces and Responses I wrote some years ago for the All Saints’ Choir; it includes a provision for the congregation to join us in singing the suffrage responses. Hymns will include “When in our music God is glorified” and “How shall I sing that majesty,” and organ voluntaries by Herbert Howells and William Walton will precede and follow the service.

Do plan ahead so that you can join us June 10 at 5 PM for Evensong on Music Sunday and at the festive reception that follows.

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster



Church School News

It's hard to believe that our church school year is winding down. It seems like September was not that far in the past. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our parents and children for being so faithful in coming to Church School each week to learn about how much our God loves us. We have walked along with Jesus and so many of God's people from the Bible. We have learned all about Communion and Baptism, and told the most amazing story in the world, the birth of our Lord Jesus, in our Christmas Pageant, and we triumphantly carried the Alleluia banner into church at Easter!

In these last few weeks we have some exciting events taking place. We hope you can join us!

April 29: Church School lesson

May 6: Church School lesson

May 13: No Church School - We will all go to the church service to witness a baptism!

May 20: Pentecost – Wear RED! We will be processing into church with the Alleluia Banner and red balloons! A Church School lesson will follow the procession.

Thank you Church School Teachers and Volunteers

We have such a wonderfully dedicated group of teachers and volunteers in our Church School – *Christy McCarroll, Patty Wheeler, Susan Sarles, John Kerrick, Cindy Naudascher, Max Scheinblum, Naomi Praul and Serafin Anderson*. We will honor and thank them on Sunday, June 3 at the 10 AM service. Please tell them how much you appreciate their service, and how they so joyfully share their creativity and faith with our youngsters.

The Grand Reopening of The Serendipity Shop

Spring is Here and the Dip is Back

In April 1963 The Serendipity Shop celebrated its Grand Opening. Fifty-five years later, we are celebrating the Grand Reopening of our beloved Serendipity Shop.

On January 13, flooding brought 18 inches of water into the store.

For three months contractors and volunteers have worked first to remove the damaged contents, safely place what could be salvaged into a storage pod and repair the interior. The journey has been long but we have finally reached a new beginning. A total repainting, installation of removable carpet squares, some new fixtures and tables have given the shop a fresh new look.

As customers lined up to shop and consign merchandise on April 19 there was an excitement in the air as comments were echoing across the store: "We're so glad you're back," "I kept checking every week to see when you would open," "It's been a long winter," "We have missed you," and "So glad you stayed!"

With many thanks to our dedicated volunteers, professional help from *Neatly Done* and Gretchen Rae, the All Saints' project coordinator, we are open again to serve our customers and the greater Peterborough community.

The shop continues to be staffed entirely by volunteers from area churches. All profits are given to a variety of local, state and national charities. New volunteers are always welcomed and if you are interested in making a commitment to working at least one day per month, please stop by or call the Serendipity Shop at 924-6794 on a Monday between 8:30 and noon when our crew is busy preparing merchandise for sale that week.

We welcome your involvement as a shopper, consignee, donator, or volunteer.

Cindy Naudascher, for "The Dip"



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Editor's Note

It's another cool spring day here in the neighborhood. I read recently, "You might think it's the end of April, but it's really the 96th of January." But, my mum always said every day is beautiful in its own way, no matter the weather, and I like to think that.

Another packed issue of *The Messenger* is here. Jamie writes of vow-making and renewal in our parish and in our lives. Sandi, whose ordination to the priesthood is noted in "Sainly News," remarks on recognizing the divine in each other.

Cassius writes this month of Catherine of Siena, who saw "the necessity of ministry to your neighbor as the work of God."

Alma's poem this month writes of sharing the good news. And we are reminded that Friday, May 4 at 6:30 PM in Reynolds Hall will be the Capital Campaign Kick-Off Dinner—a celebration for all of us to attend and enjoy.

We are reprinting an article from 2010 by Rod Falby, who tells us the story of Dr. Margaret Reynolds, whose generosity built the eponymous hall where we all love to gather.

In his "View from the Bench," Jeff writes about the music ministry here at All Saints' and invites everyone to the final Evensong of the year on Sunday, June 10 at 5 PM.

Sandi updates us on Church School events and thanks all the volunteers who make it possible. Cindy writes of the grand reopening of The Serendipity Shop.

The deadline for the June *Messenger* will be May 17. The theme will be "Faithful Stewardship." Send your contributions, comments and suggestions to me at chow6569@gmail.com.

With profound gratitude and great joy,

Christine