

# THE MESSENGER

November 2013, Volume 4 Number 7

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](http://allsaintsnh.org) ❖ Office Email: [d.callahan.allsaints@gmail.com](mailto:d.callahan.allsaints@gmail.com)

Celeste Hemingson, *Interim Rector*

## *Our Mission (What we do)*

*All Saints' is committed to being a church community in which Christ's love is experienced and shared.*

## *Our Vision (Where we are going)*

*We wish to help people grow in their faith and trust in God. Our vision is to help people recognize their God-given talents and to use them to serve God and their neighbor.*

## ***A Message from Celeste...***

### *My patron saint, and how he earned that title*

Ever since I learned that people, especially Roman Catholics, often adopt a particular saint to admire, emulate and pray with, I have been more intentional about the saints who have meant the most to me. Most of them are not on any official calendar. I feel okay about that, because in Anglican theology, the "Communion of Saints" means "the whole family of God, the living and the dead...bound together by sacrament, prayer, and praise." (BCP p. 862)

So this year, as we prepare for our own "patronal feast" on November 3, I would like to tell you about my patron saint, Admiral James Stockdale.

Admiral Stockdale was by all accounts a great patriot and public servant. A naval aviator and a recipient of the Medal of Honor, Admiral Stockdale was the senior Navy POW in the Vietnam War. In his seven years of captivity, he resisted torture and inspired the other American prisoners to do the same. He developed and preserved morale and unity among all of his fellow captives.

But I didn't learn any of this about Admiral Stockdale until *after* I adopted him as my patron saint. What brought him to my attention was his willingness to come out of retirement to serve as Ross Perot's running mate in the presidential election in 1992. I will always remember his words when he introduced himself on television in the vice-presidential debate that year. "I know what you're all wondering," he began. "Who am I and what am I doing here?" When I looked at him that evening I said to myself, "I'll bet he's wondering the same thing!"

Since that night, I have learned that answering those two questions is the work of a lifetime. "*Who am I and what am I doing here?*" Sometimes, these days, I find myself asking them when I have walked upstairs and entered a new room! But most seriously, I ask them in prayer.

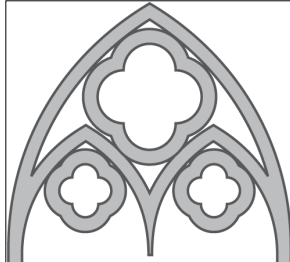
I commend these questions to *you*, certainly as individuals, but more importantly as a congregation in transition, preparing to call a new Rector. I invite you to bring these questions to your prayer life - *Who are we and what are we doing here?* When you do, say a little prayer of thanks for James Stockdale, who had the courage to ask them while the whole nation was watching.

Your partner in pilgrimage,

*Celeste+*

### *In this issue...*

From Celeste.....	1
Christian Education.....	2
Community Meetings.....	2
Treasurer's Report.....	3
Celebrating the Saints.....	3
Book Note.....	4
Cartoon.....	4
Search for a New Rector...5	
The Search Committee.....	5
The SC, continued.....	6
8 @ 8 .....	7
Beautiful.....	7
Saints' Days.....	7
Giving Thanks.....	8
Thanksgiving Poem.....	8
Saintly News.....	8
View from the Bench.....	9
Juarez.....	9
Editor's Note.....	10


**THE MESSENGER**

Gail Anthony  
*Publisher, 924-3534*

Christine Howe  
*Editor, 924-6569*

Marilyn Weir  
*Assistant Editor  
924-3405*

Eleanor Erickson  
Janet Fiedler  
Steve Fowle  
Bev Kemp  
Alma Ruth  
Carl Wagner, Jr.  
Carl Wagner III  
Dotty Wagner  
Bob Weathers  
*Production*

**THE VESTRY**

Pam Everson  
*Senior Warden*

Deb DeCicco  
*Junior Warden*

Walter Manny  
*Clerk of the Vestry*

Warren Sponsler  
*Treasurer*

Gail Anthony  
Alan Everson  
*Assistant Treasurers*

William Chapman  
Paul Freeman  
John Koch  
Eric Masterson  
Cindy Naudascher  
Andy Peterson  
Elizabeth Tong  
Marilyn Weir  
Meghann Wuorinen  
*Vestry Members*

## Christian Education

### *Gratitude Changes Everything*

I have a friend whom I've known for more than five years. I talk to her on almost a daily basis, and I consider her a great role model and a wise teacher. Of all the skills she has handed along to me over the years, the single greatest has been how to develop a capacity for gratitude. I would argue that gratitude does not come naturally, like some behaviors or attitudes. It has to be modeled, fostered and deepened. In this department, I consider myself a slow learner – it is so easy to fall back on a negative outlook. Each day, however, she will point out room for gratitude, even when it is just a tiny island in a sea of troubles. Sometimes, I can find her desire to point out areas of gratitude to be irritating – why can't I just complain about my dentist appointment without being reminded that I am lucky to have a dentist, to have insurance, to have teeth? Gentle reminders help make gratitude a habit, however, rather than something I accidentally stumble upon.

I know others like this friend who also have demonstrated what true gratitude is all about. Once I heard a woman speak about the death of her husband from brain cancer. They had four children and a beautiful life together. I expected her to talk about her heartache, her loss, the grief she felt for the future with him that she would miss out on. Instead, she spoke about how grateful she was for the caring hospice team, for family and friends who delivered meals, for the fact that all four of their children could join them in their final hours as a family. There was not a whisper of "poor me" to be found in what she spoke – perhaps she had felt it before, or had to confront it later. But in that moment, in front of the group who was listening to her, it simply wasn't there. I was stunned.

The thing about gratitude is this – it's an inside job, but it changes everything. Life itself does not change: the details remain the same but our orientation to life adjusts and the picture changes. We can choose to view life's blessings and challenges from a multitude of perspectives. Sometimes, a simple mental "step" to the left or right to view a situation differently shines light upon details within it that can be celebrated. For me, when I choose to embrace gratitude, even in the tiniest of ways, the challenges become easier to navigate. Occasionally, they even fade towards my peripheral vision and beyond, out of sight. In every moment of every day, no matter how difficult, there is just so much to cherish. Here is the other thing I've learned about gratitude – it is self-perpetuating, self-nourishing. The more I consciously look for what I can be grateful for on a given day, the more I am able to perceive layer upon layer of blessings. With great help from God and those around me to whom I look for guidance, the picture I choose to see becomes more vibrant with God's presence. And in the end, the awareness of God's presence and gratitude for that fact is enough to carry me through anything I encounter.

*Becky Goodwin, Director of Christian Education*

## Community Meetings Each Week at All Saints'

**Mondays:**

9-10:15 AM RSVP Senior Exercise, Reynolds Hall  
10 AM-noon Monadnock Area Food Bank Open  
7-8 PM Al-Anon meeting, OPH Room 1

**Tuesdays:**

10 AM-noon Monadnock Area Food Bank Open  
5:30 PM Community Soup Supper, Reynolds Hall  
7-8 PM AA meeting, OPH Room 1

**Wednesdays:**

10 AM-noon Quilters, OPH

**Thursdays:**

9-10:15 AM RSVP Senior Exercise, Reynolds Hall  
Noon-1 PM AA meeting, OPH Room 1  
1 PM-4 PM Serendipity Shop Open  
8-9 PM AA meeting, OPH Room

**Fridays:**

10 AM-4 PM Serendipity Shop Open  
7PM Open Meditation Group, OPH, Room 1

**Saturdays:**

10 AM-noon Serendipity Shop Open

## Treasurer's Report

As expected, from a financial standpoint, September was rather lackluster with not a great deal of activity. Even though our pledge donations for the month were about 15% less than expected, with the help of some of our prepaid pledge cash on hand, we finished the month in good shape. During slower periods, we often use prepaid cash to supplement our income. This is a great tool provided by those parishioners who choose to satisfy their entire pledge commitment at the beginning of the year. A special thank you to those who do. Expenses for the month were as expected, so we finished the month with a small surplus.

Given the theme for this month's Messenger of "Preparing for Thanksgiving," I think it appropriate for me as your treasurer to remind everyone how thankful we should be here at All Saints'. Our parish is very fortunate that over the years those who came before us, as well as current members, have created a very solid financial foundation. I've mentioned many times how important parishioner financial contributions are to our continued success. However, we have other financial resources from which we can draw, depending on the circumstances. They include bequests and diocesan endowment funds that supplement our regular income. We have other funds that are restricted and specifically dedicated to special purposes like capital projects, music, outreach, and other endeavors. If emergencies

occur, we have several options available to us. One financial resource that we have been able to utilize recently is the loan program offered by the diocese. Because of our strong financial position, we were able to secure very attractive loans from the diocese to finance the two new boilers we recently installed as well as provide some energy enhancements that offer significant savings. Even though we continue to encounter hurdles that challenge us financially, both personally and as a parish, by working together over the years we have created a situation for which we can be very thankful.

Speaking of parishioner financial contributions, within the next few weeks you will be receiving the third quarter giving reports, which detail and summarize your individual contributions. As you review the report, please determine where you are today compared to your pledge. It is really important that we are all up-to-date. As you know, our yearly budget, to a great extent, is structured around our individual pledges. And to maintain our solid financial position, we need to make budget, each and every year. As we approach year's end, our ability to reach a successful financial conclusion will hinge, primarily, on reaching our budgeted income goal. That's where we all play a role. Please do what you can to get up-to-date. We're in a great position to finish on target.

*Warren E. Sponsler, Treasurer*



### Celebrating all the Saints

*But these also were godly men,  
whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten.*

*Ecclesiasticus 44:10*

This year, instead of having a separate All Souls' Day service to remember the "Faithful Departed," the unsung saints who have blessed our lives but have not been recorded in any church calendar, will be honored with all the saints on Sunday, November 3. The names you have submitted will be read out loud.

## Book Note

It isn't every day that you get to read books about (among other things) God by atheists who seem fond of the One they profess not to believe in. *Jews and Words*, by Amos Oz and Fania Oz-Salzberger (Yale University Press, 2012), is such a book.

An Israeli father and daughter, the father a world-renowned novelist, the daughter a professor of history, have produced this short but rich treatment of the relationship of Jews to words. It is not presented as a conversation, but the energy of two independent, informed, down-to-earth participants has produced a lively exploration into Jewish history, religion, literature, anthropology, ethics, and folkways. What reading this as a Jew is like, I can barely imagine; reading it as a Christian, with our (shall we say) complicated relationship to Jews through the ages, is a privilege and an illumination. And rollicking good fun, with a splendid Jewish grandmother joke.

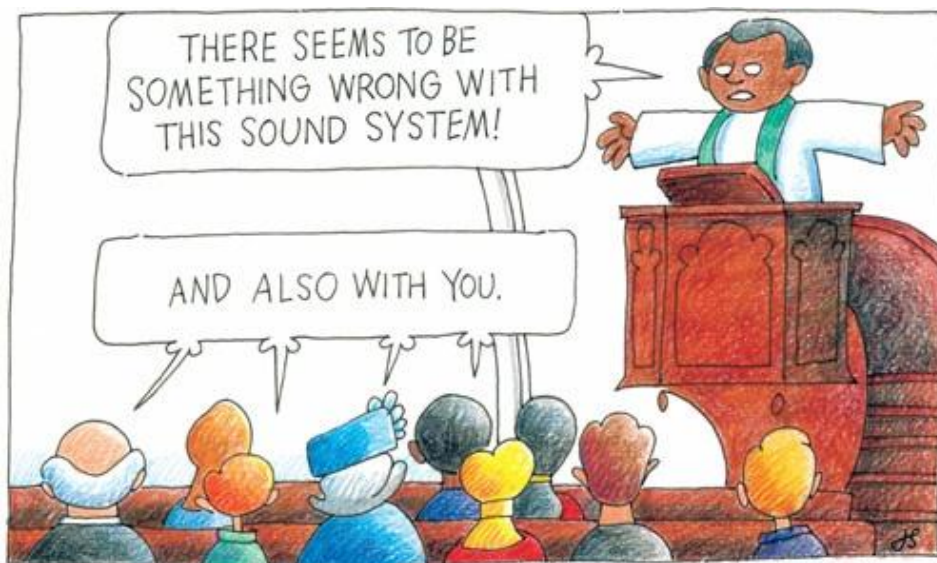
Jews, they assert, may or may not be tied by biology to the Patriarchs and to each other. They may once have been tribes; but what links them all forever is a particular relationship to words. Words of Torah, first; scriptural words. But then, there are all the layers of interpretation, with ceaseless argument, refinement, and rebellion, cross-questioning, reverence, and ridicule. No one is immune from criticism, not even God.

According to the Ozes (Ozim?), "Here is one astounding constant of Jewish history since (at least) Mishnaic times [about 200]: every boy was expected to go to school from the age of three to the age of thirteen" (p. 7). Not just the privileged; not just those who could afford it (the community made provision). In those years they studied Hebrew, so that they could read it and write it. Some presumably dropped out, but very few were illiterate. Not the girls, to be sure; this is frankly dealt with, largely in a chapter on "Vocal Women." But the assumption that Jews would always be dealing with texts seems unique.

This is not a valentine to Jewish culture. The authors are firm secularists, critical of ultra-Orthodox stridency and militarism and in interesting ways sympathetic to both Christian and Muslim cultures. In particular, they recognize English as a common language for today's Judaism alongside Hebrew.

I have read this complex essay once, and been dazzled. I shall read it again, and argue with it.

*Cassius Webb*



Copyright © 2002 The Church Pension Fund. All Rights Reserved.

## The Search for a New Rector

The Search Committee (SC) for a new Rector has begun its work of spiritual discernment and appreciates the continuing prayers of all concerned. With gratitude for the many gifted parishioners who allowed their names to be considered, and with the approval of the Vestry, SC co-chairs announced the list of members in early October. The committee joined the Vestry for a retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Center on October 5 and met with Canon Hannah Anderson on October 16. Next steps will be to make plans to gather input from members of the parish for the development of a parish profile. The biographical sketches below reflect the variety of gifts, experiences, ages, services attended and years in the parish that the SC represents.

Faithfully,

*Betsy Fowle and Rick Simpson, Co-Chairs, Search Committee for the next Rector of All Saints'*

## The Search Committee

### **Betsy Fowle, Co-Chair**

Betsy Fowle and her husband Steve had roots in the area and had occasionally worshipped at All Saints' for years before moving to Hancock full-time in 2008. She was a teacher and counselor in public and private schools and was active in various lay ministries before seminary and ordination in the Diocese of Connecticut in the early 1990s. She served as Curate and Associate Rector at Christ Church, Winnetka, Ill., and Rector of All Saints', South Hadley, Mass., and on various diocesan committees, including the Search and Nominating Committee for Bishop of Chicago, and in Western Massachusetts, Diocesan Council and Chair of the Commission on Ministry. Since retiring, Betsy has been involved at All Saints' in various ways, chairing the Outreach Ministry for a year and volunteering at the Serendipity Shop. She also serves as a supply priest. She and Steve have two sons, a daughter, and six grandchildren. They live with Chloe, a miniature dachshund mix.

### **Rick Simpson, Co-Chair**

Rick Simpson and his wife Jody have been members of All Saints' since moving to Hancock from Brookline, Mass. in 2006. He is a member of the Stewardship Ministry, sings in the choir and is a Eucharistic Minister. He has served one three-year term on the Vestry and a one-year term as clerk. Rick and Jody have three sons (one married, two engaged), one granddaughter, two dogs, one cat, and both are involved in various musical endeavors. Rick served his previous parish as Senior Warden, Treasurer, and in other capacities, including co-chair of the Search Committee. Rick is an independent management consultant.

### **John Catlin**

Born in Wisconsin, John moved to Boston in 1969 where he attended graduate school in Cambridge. John has been spending summers in Deering since 1982 and began attending All Saints' in 2001. John has been on the Reynolds Hall altar guild for the past five years and actively participates, with Ivy Vann, on the Tuesday Community Supper. He lives in Wilton with Deborah Waldo and her daughter Caroline. John is the father of Jesse and James Catlin and the stepfather of Lindsay and Ted Talbot. John has served in a previous parish as a member and chair of the Building & Grounds Committee and as the 4/5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School Teacher. He practices architecture from his new office in Keene.

### **Judy Collier**

Judy is an Episcopalian by birth. She served on the vestry several years ago, is a lector and organizes Lenten Morning Prayer. Her father was in the Navy and the family moved around a lot. After she graduated from Oberlin College, she was a kindergarten teacher in Waltham, Mass. for five years and then joined the Air Force Dependent School System, teaching first grade to American children in France and Germany. Judy married Robert Millican and his four daughters in 1960, and later had a son. Dr. Millican died in 1984 and in 1987 she married Herbert Bixler and moved to Jaffrey. After his death, she married Abram Collier in 1997. They shared a life in Sharon and RiverMead until his

death in 2004. Through all these life experiences, All Saints' has been a strong and meaningful part of her life.

## **Joan Cunningham**

Joan moved to New England with her husband David and son Jackson from Austin, Texas in 2011. She was raised Lutheran and comes to ASC from that tradition along with involvement over the last ten years with a Christian community in Austin affiliated with contemplativeoutreach.org. She was received into the Episcopal Church last fall. Joan works with mission-driven organizations in vision casting and strategic and tactical planning, particularly in the areas of marketing/communications. She is currently the creative director for Staff Development for Educators. Joan's sense of wonder for the natural world is at the center of her personal interests and art. She has been on boards and committees of various nonprofits ranging from outreach in Uganda to advocacy for artists with disabilities, from dance and opera companies to small town governance.

## **Andrew Graff**

Moving from Martha's Vineyard, Mass. to Rindge in 2003, Andrew and his wife Heidi and their three daughters (Anna and Ellie, 13, and Megan, 11) have been attending All Saints' since 2004. Andrew served on the Vestry for three years and helps in various capacities with All Saints' youth activities and outreach ministries. He is the owner/founder of a wine import company, VinLozano Imports Inc., and he enjoys running, fly-fishing, food and travel (especially on free miles). The Graffs attend the 10 AM service in the stone church.

## **Christine Howe**

Chris has been a communicant of All Saints' since she moved here in 1987. She is editor of *The Messenger*, choir member, lector, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Diocesan Delegate and former EfM mentor and vestry member. Chris graduated from Wellesley College with an A.B. in religion and biblical history, earned graduate degrees in education and English literature and taught school for 38 years. She has been a registered nurse since 2009 and is a nurse with HCS Hospice. Chris is now taking a course to become a certified Parish Nurse. The mother of two daughters and grandmother of four, she and her cat Ribbon are avid Red Sox fans.

## **John Koch**

John Koch (pronounced "cook") was born and raised on a family farm in southern Ohio where he raised sheep and cattle with his eight siblings. He attended Miami University and graduated with a degree in economics and history. John then moved to New York City where he worked as a customer service manager for startup airline, People Express. His career with the Episcopal Church began in 1989 when he was called to be executive director of The Summit, the camp and conference center for the Diocese of North Carolina. After a 17-year tenure with The Summit, John moved on to be development director of The Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church in Chapel Hill, N.C. and then executive director of Beckwith Camp and Conference Center (Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast). Since September 2011, he has served as executive director of the Barbara C. Harris Center (Diocese of Massachusetts) in Greenfield.

## **Jack Lewis**

Jack and his wife Mary Liz have been members of All Saints' since they moved here from Summit, N. J. 11 years ago. Jack spent his work career in banking in New York City. He has been both a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and an usher at the 8 AM service since shortly after joining All Saints'. He has served as Junior Warden and Senior Warden of All Saints' and has served on its Finance and Strategic Planning committees. Mary Liz and Jack have two daughters, four grandchildren, aged seven to 17, and an eight year-old chocolate lab.

## **Sally Steere**

Sally has been a member of All Saints' since moving to Greenfield in 2002. She attended St. James' Church in Keene for more than 20 years when her family lived in Swanzey. She is a native of Glastonbury, Conn. and graduated from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in New York City. She is a recently retired RN. Sally and her husband Mike have two grown children, four grandchildren, two Labrador Retrievers and two cats. She is currently co-director of the Altar Guild, a member of the Building and Grounds Committee and an usher at the 10 AM stone church service. Sally enjoys gardening, counted cross-stitch needlework, walking with her dogs and cheering on the Red Sox.

## **Chris Tourgee**

Chris Tourgee lives with her husband and three children in Peterborough, along with two dogs, a cat, and the occasional exchange student. She and her family have been members of All Saints' since 1998. Chris has served on the vestry, been involved in Christian Education, the Juarez ministry, and a variety of other groups in the church. She works in Dublin at Yankee Publishing, and is involved in the Children and the Arts and her kids' various adventures. She spends lots of time watching soccer, field hockey and rugby.

## 8@8

It's time to start thinking about 8@8. What is 8@8 (Eight at Eight)? It's a fun way to meet other parishioners from a service other than the one you usually attend. You can participate either as a host or guest. Done on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the months January through April, the host provides the location and the main dish, while the guests bring something else to share: a side dish, desert, wine – whatever you wish. We try not to exceed eight persons per dinner party.

This year, you will be able to sign up online! At present, however, we are working to resolve a minor technical issue. You can, however, go to [www.allsaints-nh.org](http://www.allsaints-nh.org), and look for a listing '**8@8 sign-ups are open!**' (Two-thirds the way down the page – lower right). Click on the 'here' link, where you can download and print off the form in either 'WORD' or 'PDF' format. If you prefer to wait & try the Internet sign-up method, I will inform you through the regular Sunday services and the 'At-A-Glance' insert once the Internet issue is resolved. If you prefer the old-fashioned method, or don't have computer access, you can get forms in Reynolds Hall or contact me directly.

Either way, the sign-up deadline is December 8<sup>th</sup>, and I should have the schedules out by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Any further questions can be directed to me via the contact information below. I will be glad to assist you.

Steve Smillie, 8@8 Dinner Coordinator  
(603) 924-1638  
stevedrums27@comcast.net

## Beautiful

By Arp

More Beautiful

Than stars of stage and screen

Are the people we see

Everyday

For true love is inside us

Not a role we play

The most beautiful people

Aren't in magazines...

And no one needs us more

Than the people close at hand

No great deeds could ever exceed

Our need to understand

That what we have is so much

So much greater than what we want

And what we really need

Is to be free

And through all our wrongs

And confusion we see

That we're meant to be here for each other

I need you, maybe too

You need me

More Beautiful

Than stars of stage and screen

Are the people we see

Everyday

For true love is inside us

Not a role we play

The most beautiful people

Aren't in magazines, no way!

For when I see the truth

In the richness of these days

Don't be surprised

If I soon realize

How beautiful

You've been

## November Saints' Day

11/03	Anna Miner
11/04	Hugh Beyer
11/04	Daniel Frehner
11/07	Richard Cunningham
11/08	Benson Walen
11/08	Kathy Miner
11/08	David Johnston
11/09	Marguerite Krommes
11/11	Brad Taylor
11/12	George King
11/13	Sally Roberts
11/15	Isaac Dylan Sistare
11/15	Jacob Michael Levesque
11/16	Katy Barnes
11/18	Dan Keaveny
11/18	Caitlin Scott
11/19	Jack McLaughlin
11/20	Donna Abbott
11/21	Nancy O'Neill
11/23	John Vance
11/24	Frances Beyer
11/26	Evelyn Schmitt
11/26	Evelyn Marot



## Giving Thanks

There is a fairly standard format that comes to mind when most people think of giving thanks. Whether it is material possessions, personal attributes, family or some other thing, we all have much to be grateful for in our lives. Thanksgiving is an opportunity to express our appreciation for all the ways God has blessed us.

When I stop to think about it, I have many, many aspects of my life I can express gratitude for, far more than I at first realize. Caught up in the grind of trying to make ends meet, dealing with problems big and small and raising a rambunctious, strong-willed group of sons, it's easy for me to forget how much good is in my daily journey. I suspect that I am not the only member of All Saints' who suffers that particular lapse of memory either.

When I sat down to write this article, however, I realized that there was another way I could interpret the word "Thanksgiving." It might also mean that I am thankful for the ability to give. It's an opportunity that doesn't come around as often for me as for some people; I have a number of demands on my time. When I can give, though, whether through resources, time or some other way, I am grateful. In this time of Thanksgiving, I think other members of All Saints' could look at it that way, too.

Why? Why be thankful for the opportunity to donate some part of ourselves? First of all, being able to give means that we have more and can afford to donate. We should all be thankful when we are in that position; there are many who are not.

Primarily, however, it all comes back to doing the work of God, and one of the best ways to do God's work is by helping other people. Picture the following scenario: a poor dairy farmer encounters a young man, a hungry young man. The farmer offers him a piece of cheese. The young man refuses, as he has no money and is not a beggar. The farmer, however, insists it is a blessing for him to give, and finally the young man takes the cheese. "For your sake," he adds. The farmer genuinely thanks him.

This scene, from *The Fiddler on the Roof*, illustrates that giving benefits the giver as much, if not more, than the person receiving the gift. Not in a material sense; the farmer was certainly no richer for having less of the cheese he could have otherwise sold. But the farmer came away from the interaction a better person. He helped a fellow human being by giving when it was needed.

The opportunity to give isn't always so overt. Giving can be a subtle thing with no acknowledgement. An empty food pantry bin in the back of the church doesn't speak or call attention to itself.

Giving doesn't necessarily have to be with material things, though. I am reminded of this when I see the various ways people at All Saints' devote their time and energy to others around them, whether it is through healing ministry, hosting coffee hour, altar guild, vestry, or even just showing up and being present.

One of the fundamental aspects of our faith as Christians is that God loves each and every one of us the same, regardless of our background or beliefs. Christ died on the Cross for our sins. The Holy Spirit moves in our lives. If the Holy Trinity is that invested in humanity, how can giving be anything but God's work? When you give, you are helping someone who is a recipient of God's boundless love through an expression of faith and devotion.

### Thanksgiving 2013

It's good to show gratitude  
And keep a thankful attitude  
I started to make a list  
Then I had to desist  
What would have been a grateful song  
Turned into one way too long  
Of course, the first was love of family  
Then scripture, music, poetry  
I could add many more  
But hesitate to be a bore  
Blessings pour down in showers  
Bringing many blissful hours  
For He is with me in all I do  
Lord, Bless your holy name  
And, thank you.

*Alma Ruth*

In this manner, giving becomes much more special. Let us be thankful we are able to give.

*Patrick Armstrong*

### Saintly News

*Congratulations to...*

- ❖ Charlie Beyer and Sarah Bell on their recent engagement

*Gloria Schultz*

## View from the Bench

*Thanksgiving: Can you 'Handel' the truth?*

As a prelude to the celebration of the Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day, I'll be playing an organ transcription of a work that has come to be associated with that holiday. That connection is based almost entirely on the first phrase of the English text of solo and choral versions of the piece – "Thanks be to Thee." The prelude will be listed as George Frideric Handel's *Arioso*.

For those of you who are history buffs, you know that history is sometimes embellished with a little legend and an occasional good story. (Remember the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth Plantation celebrated in 1621 by 53 pilgrims after their first harvest, in the company of 90 native Americans?) Music history is no different: I am still troubled by the reality that in my own lifetime I have had to accept the assertion of historical musicologists that Henry Purcell's *Trumpet Voluntary* is really Jeremiah Clarke's *Prince of Denmark's March*.

So what do we know about Handel's beautiful, soaring *Arioso*? We know that the text associated with it, *Dank sei Dir, Herr*, was written by German choral conductor Sigfrid Ochs (1858-1929), and is a song of thanksgiving for the safe delivery of a people to their "promised land." Isn't that perfect for Thanksgiving Day? If it had been written 250 years earlier, the Pilgrims could have appropriately sung it at their celebration (notwithstanding its German text). The natural connection to our 20<sup>th</sup> century Thanksgivings is quite understandable.

All of this begs the question, "Where was this beautiful Handelian work hiding for 125 years after Handel's death before Ochs wrote his text?" If you believe what you read on the Internet, some have asserted that *Dank sei Dir, Herr*, is a movement from Handel's *Messiah*. (I think not!!) Others have placed it in Handel's oratorio *Israel in Egypt*. That certainly seems a credible provenance given the text.

But as it turns out, the first known association of the text and the music was in a late 19<sup>th</sup> century performance of *Israel in Egypt*, conducted by none other than – you guessed it – Sigfrid Ochs. Ochs, a talented composer, was well known for his ability to mimic the style of other composers. It would appear that both the text and music are Ochs' work – masterfully rendered in Handelian style and inserted into his performance of Handel's oratorio.

Why? Ochs was best known for his humor and his work in comic opera, so perhaps it was a joke. Ochs was also one of the founders of the *Bach Neue-Ausgabe*, the second critical edition of Bach's complete works, including several "newly discovered" works. Perhaps he thought the world needed a newly "discovered" Handelian work. Who knows. There are musicologists who, all evidence to the contrary, still assert that the music for *Dank sei Dir, Herr*, is Handel's.

As for me, by habit I will be playing the *Arioso* by George Frideric Handel on Thanksgiving Day. I have a hunch that listeners will enjoy Handel more than Ochs. And I will take some comfort, musicological evidence notwithstanding, in knowing that when brides come down the aisle to Jeremiah Clarke's *The Prince of Denmark's March*, I'll be playing Henry Purcell's *Trumpet Tune*.

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster

## Juarez Trip Planned

Paige Spaulding and I will be traveling to Centro Victoria, in Juarez, Mexico, from November 15-17. We mostly miss the children and Pastor Joel and can't wait to be with them! But also, unfortunately, the horrible flooding that you all heard about in the Southwest of the U.S. also hit Centro Victoria. The orphanage is built on a hill and a house above them slid down the hill into their property. In addition, the roof on the newly built second floor to the girls' dorm broke and much of the walls and flooring now need replacing. On top of all of that, about a foot of mud was left everywhere and is

still being shoveled out. Please keep them and us in your prayers and if the Spirit so moves you during your prayers, please consider a donation that Paige and I can take with us to help with the repairs. Checks can be made out to All Saints' with Juarez in the memo line. God bless you all and thank you.

*Patty Wheeler*



All Saints' Church  
51 Concord Street  
Peterborough NH 03458

Non Profit Postage Paid  
Permit #46  
Peterborough NH 03458

## Editor's Note

November is "Gratitude Month!" Do you remember that in 2010 Addie and Ray McGuire, twins born very prematurely that May to friends of my family, were on our prayer list? A few weeks ago I saw Addie and Ray (and their younger brother Mikey) at a party. They were running around, jumping up and down in the bouncy hose, and talking a blue streak. Their mother and father, Beth and JP, say they have not the slightest doubt that it was not only the skill of physicians and nurses but the prayers of the faithful that saved their children. They continue to be grateful for our prayerful support.

Celeste's remarks about her patron saint Admiral Stockdale made me think of a retreat I did at the Society of Saint Margaret years ago. Our task was to recall our own saints and angels, those people who were there for us just at the right time when we needed a boost. Can you list yours? What a lovely exercise that is. I smile when I think of...my aunts Amy and Janet and Sylvia, and friends and teachers Joan and Sue and Mark and Bob

We had a lovely "Conversation on the *Book of Common Prayer*" on October 13 and are looking forward to a second one on January 12. The focus of that discussion will be all the different versions of the Eucharistic Prayer that are in our prayerbook.

This is an exciting time for All Saints' Church. As you will read, the Search Committee (SC) is up and running, prayerfully meeting and beginning the work to find our new rector. Although steered by the SC, this is an all-parish endeavor, and every one of us has an important contribution to make to the process. Please share your thoughts, needs and concerns!

The deadline for the December *Messenger* is November 20. The theme will be "*Great Expectations*." Please send your contributions to me at [chow6569@gmail.com](mailto:chow6569@gmail.com)

With much gratitude and great joy,

*Christine*

