

# THE MESSENGER

November 2016, Volume 7 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: [diane@allsaintsnh.org](mailto:diane@allsaintsnh.org)

Jamie Hamilton, Rector Her email: [revjamie@allsaintsnh.org](mailto: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.*

**In this issue...**

From the  
Rector.....1

Christian Education.....2

Andy's  
Poem.....3

Saints'  
Days.....3

Book  
Note.....4

Saintly  
News.....4

Reflections.....

5

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing this letter within a week of returning from South Africa. With much gratitude, I thank you for holding my daughter, Cahaley, and me in your hearts and through your prayers. Indeed, your care and love sustained us in our travels.

Cahaley and I were welcomed into two wedding celebrations: the Zulu traditional wedding ceremony referred to as *Umembeso*, "the covering," and then the following day, the traditional Christian ceremony referred to as the "white wedding." I asked Nondumiso, the bride, if she needed both ceremonies to "feel" married. She responded quickly with, "Not at all. I will be married after the *Umembeso*."

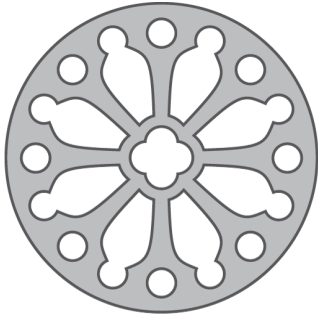
On that day, dressed in her traditional Zulu dress, the bride, is escorted out of her mother's home, surrounded by the members of her family, who are all singing, with ululation and dance as they "carry" her to the threshold of her new life. The groom, dressed in his Masai ceremonial attire, is surrounded by his family, who are all waiting outside the gate, and as soon as they catch sight of the procession, they begin to dance and sing. Meanwhile members of the village, (hundreds) dressed in their best, are walking from their own homes singing and dancing as they descend as witnesses of the "marriage" of these two families. I loved the feeling of being in the middle of such a wide convergence.



As the bride and groom settle into their place, which is off to the side and not the center of attention, the "covering" begins. This is the ceremonial giving of more than 30 blankets from the groom's family. Presented with song and dance, the blankets are draped over different members of the bride's family. Each covering took time as all entered into the joy of each gift. The covering reminded me of the ways we give to each other, with warmth and protection, for shelter and security and safekeeping, through birth and death, the symbolic blankets of our love and support.

The covering also reminded me of the ways we are loved by Christ. There was no officiant, no need of vows; the giving was at the heart of the ceremony in which a man and a woman were married through the bonds of family and village and protection. Jesus gives in the same way to us, his bride, the Church, as we are covered unconditionally by his blanket of love.

In anticipation of Advent, peace,



# THE MESSENGER

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

Jamie Hamilton, Rector Her email: [revjamie@allsaintsnh.org](mailto: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.*

*Jamie+*

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

From the

Rector.....1

Christian Education.....2

Andy's

Poem.....3

Saints'

Days.....3

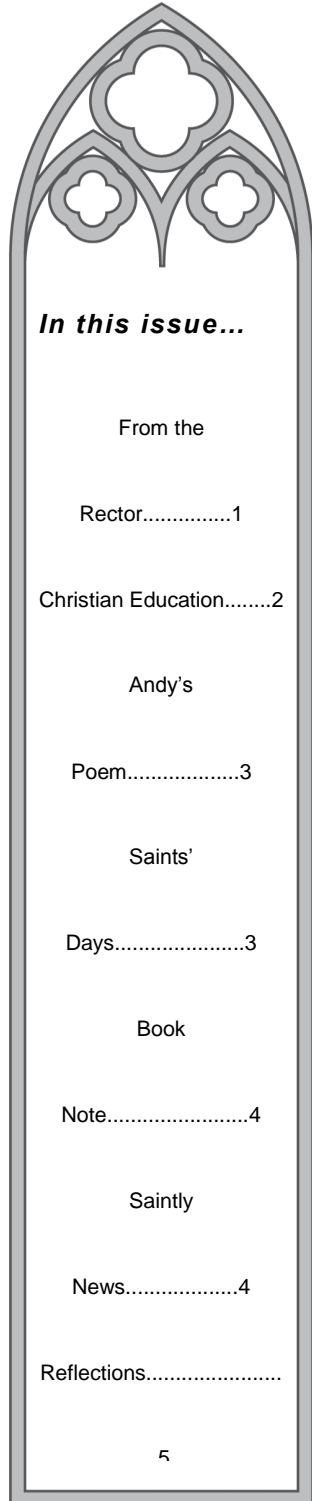
Book

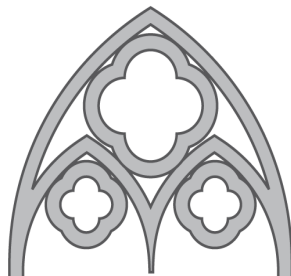
Note.....4

Saintly

News.....4

Reflections.....





**THE  
MESSENGER**

Gail Anthony  
*Publisher, 924-3534*

Christine Howe  
*Editor, 759-5626*

Brad Taylor  
*Assistant Editor  
924-6595*

Janet Fiedler  
Steve Fowle  
Bev Kemp  
Alma Ruth  
Bob Weathers  
*Production*

**THE VESTRY**

Phil Suter  
*Senior Warden*  
Greg Naudascher  
*Junior Warden*  
Carter Judkins  
*Clerk of the Vestry*  
Christina Meinke  
*Treasurer*

Kelley Conley  
Arthur Eldredge  
Steve Smillie  
*Assistant  
Treasurers*

*Vestry Members*

John Catlin  
Joan Cunningham  
John Goodhue  
Beth Healy  
Barbara Kaufmann  
Isabella (Boo)  
Martin  
Lara Niemela  
Autumn Roberts  
Patricia Row

## Christian Education

### *In Thanksgiving for Surprises*

Many months ago, I stood at the pulpit and nervously shared my decision to enter formal discernment for ordained ministry. I was delighted at the messages of support and the many kind words that so many of you shared with me after that announcement and over the past months. I felt it was only fair to share an update with you about how that process unfolded and where I am in my journey today.

As someone who helped design the discernment process as a member of the Commission on Ministry (the body of lay and ordained volunteers who advises the Bishop on all candidates considering ordination,) I was very familiar with what lay ahead as I embarked upon my own process of discernment. Without going into too much detail about the process, I will say that it was incredibly rewarding spiritually, and allowed me to connect with a large number of gifted and devoted Christians across the state whose company I may not have made otherwise.

If asked at the outset how I envisioned the process would unfold, I will be fully honest and say I expected it would end in me proceeding towards ordination. At the time, it was the direction in which I firmly believed God was calling me. However, God is and forever will be, a God of surprises. No one is more surprised by this process than I am, which in many ways, reaffirms my conviction that it is in fact God who has spoken through this journey. Ultimately, despite a green light from the Bishop and others involved, I have decided not to proceed towards ordination at this time. I have to honor that still small voice inside which, at this time, is telling me not to move forward. I do not make this decision in a vacuum, but rather with the guidance, insight and in ongoing conversation with my Bishop, rector and many loving friends, family members and church colleagues. My network is large and wise and I am blessed by this daily.

Of course, I cannot help but ask myself, "What's next?" I think the spiritual journey for me always comes down to surrender and acceptance, even when the picture is fuzzy. Yesterday, I saw an old friend (we went to school together from kindergarten through college) who needless to say knows enough about me to have a very informed opinion about who I am. She also happens to be a doctor of psychology. She looked at me as we talked through this whole story and said, "Becky, you are practicing the spiritual art of tolerating ambiguity." I laughed because nothing could be more accurate! God has been intimately close to me throughout my discernment process, closer perhaps than ever before in my life, a fact that gives me great joy and comfort. I feel immense gratitude and frankly, a deep and profound sense of freedom that I am doing today what God asks of me, and the rest including whatever comes next, is none of my business. I thank every one of you who has expressed curiosity, asked questions, checked in with me about the process and whatever God has in store for me next, I assure you, All Saints' will be the first to hear about it! I continue to be grateful for the numerous ministry opportunities I have experienced throughout my life and can only trust that there will be more in the future.

*Becky Goodwin, Director of Christian Education*



## Clara of My Heart

Now sweet rain has come  
 And quenched the thirst  
 Of this parched earth  
 With cloud and thunder burst  
 As at eventide I rise  
 To step out and find  
 Before my eyes  
 Magical colors rising  
 Pink, orange, purple and red  
 Through the mist shining  
 As the sun goes to bed...

*For you've come to us in glory  
 You've come to us in peace  
 May your heart ever be gentle  
 May your wonder never cease!*

In your eyes so wise and ancient  
 All time becomes brand new  
 You are the one who's just begun  
 I am so in love with you.

*By Papa in New Hampshire as your family first brought  
 you home on September 19, 2016*

*Andy Peterson*

## November Saints' Days

<b>11/1</b>	Anna Miner Ritchie		Kathy Miner	<b>11/11</b>	Sandy Ziele
<b>11/4</b>	Hugh Beyer		David Johnston	<b>11/12</b>	George King
	Daniel Frehner	<b>11/9</b>	Marguerite Krommes	<b>11/15</b>	Isaac Dylan Sistare
<b>11/8</b>	Benson Walen	<b>11/11</b>	Brad Taylor		Jacob Levesque
<b>11/16</b>	Katy Barnes		Caroline Manns		Evelyn Marot
<b>11/18</b>	Dan Keaveny	<b>11/21</b>	Nancy O'Neill	<b>11/27</b>	MaryLou Weathers
	Caitlin Scott	<b>11/23</b>	John Vance	<b>11/28</b>	Philip Huckins
<b>11/19</b>	Jack McLaughlin	<b>11/24</b>	Frances Beyer	<b>11/29</b>	Sean Russell Witt
<b>11/20</b>	Donna Abbott	<b>11/26</b>	Evelyn Schmitt		

*If your name is missing from our Saints' Days lists, PLEASE let us know so you can be remembered!  
 Just call or email the Church office: 924-3202 or [diane@allsaintsnh.org](mailto:diane@allsaintsnh.org)*

## Book Note

At All Saints', we have been privileged to participate in much informed and helpful discussion of Islam, another of the three Abrahamic faiths. In particular, we have been given our rector's moving testimony on how studying Islam and the Qur'an have deepened her own Christian faith. Many of us have an enriched sense of how Islam continues to inspire perhaps 23% of the world's population.

Every vision of the Divine, and how we are to stand before God, has inherent dangers, given fallible mortals in particular circumstances. It is certainly true of Judaism and Christianity in its myriad forms. And it is true of Islam.

*Heretic: Why Islam Needs a Reformation Now* (HarperCollins, 2015) is the troubling but not-easily-dismissed work of a Somali-born woman who spent much of her childhood and youth in Mecca and in Kenya, then escaped an arranged marriage by declaring herself a refugee in the Netherlands, went to University, eventually was elected to the Dutch Parliament, and now teaches at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Along the way, she lost her Muslim faith, and has written three other books: *Infidel*, *Nomad*, and *The Caged Virgin*.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali is a force to be reckoned with. That force might seem to be diminished by the fact that her criticism of the present state of Islam comes from outside, from one who has chosen to leave the *umma*. She admits the difficulty, but it seems that allegiance to Western values has not made it possible for her to be unconcerned with those who remain loyal believers.

Hirsi Ali suggests that in the early Mecca period, conciliation and peace were the tenor of the revelations to the Prophet, but in Medina the message became more warlike, absolutist, and political. When, in the

succeeding centuries, the warriors of Islam conquered North Africa, the Middle East, and Spain, this was seen as vindication of the Medina teachings.

Hirsi Ali does not deny the flowering of scientific, artistic, and philosophical culture as Islam settled into unchallenged dominance in those places. But the concept of the Qur'an and *hadith* as immune to interpretation or discussion, she says, eventually rigidified Islamic teaching, especially among the imams. What distresses her particularly is the sense that the life of ordinary Muslims throughout the world is increasingly challenged by extremists to roll back what there has been of liberty of conscience, speech, and behavior – most spectacularly for women. The recent imposition of religious Sharia law as the supreme law of sovereign states has had drastic consequences, not least the threat to non-Muslims, to questioners, to homosexuals, and to faithful Muslims who simply want to strike a different balance between their piety and the present world, which they see as a gift from God.

The author believes that the West, which already went through its Reformation and its aftermath, could do a great deal to assist those reforming Muslims who envision a different future than martyrdom. Not with troops, or drones, but with social media, with reformist publications, and certainly by curtailing the tolerance of intolerance within Western democracies.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali speaks not only to Muslims, but, also, with considerable knowledge and respect, to non-Muslims who wish to live in a peaceful world. Whether the program she sets forth is needed or possible remains to be seen. But no religion, not our own, not our neighbors', should be beyond scrutiny or beyond help.

*Cassius Webb.*

## Saintly News

### **Congratulations to:**

- ❖ Jennifer and Gardner Holland, daughter of Kirsten and Andy Peterson, on the birth of their new baby girl Clara Kirk Holland born September 17. Dorothy Peterson is the proud new great grandmother.
- ❖ MaryLou and Bob Weathers in celebration of their 68<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary this past September.
- ❖ Gerry Halgrimson for being featured in the October issue *Monadnock Shopper News*.

❖ Beth Krommes for the release of her new book *Before Morning*.

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](mailto:gljoemointheglen@gmail.com) or call 924-9489.

## Lenten Reflections

As we prepare for Advent, I am always reminded of Lent, as both seasons speak to anticipation for the Precious Life we are given in Christ.

For this Lent, (starting with Ash Wednesday in February), I would like for us to create a booklet of Reflections written by parishioners and friends of parishioners. There are 40 days, and each day readings from Scripture are assigned. I am hoping that many of you (40!) will be interested in writing a reflection about your life experience that is inspired by the Scripture. During Lent, we will send through Saints' Alive, our daily reflection written by us! The reflection can be as simple as why you pray while you do dishes or as profound as how you discovered healing, as both experiences bring meaning into our lives.

More details will follow, but I write now to invite your participation. Please let me know if you would be interested. I also hope to involve people who may not come to church, but who have insights that we can all enjoy.

I hope you are excited by this as I am. I will be working with Beth Healy, Philip Huckins and Becky Goodwin as we work out the details.

In Christ,

Jamie+

## Gratitude on the Journey

*Blessed are you Eternal God, Creative Source of this world we are privileged to share. We breathe deeply the crispness of autumn air. We rejoice in the fanciful costumes in which you adorn your creation. As your Spirit releases the leaves to the ground, we will dance on the brilliant carpet, and we cannot help but to sing our songs to the wonder of our seasons with you revealed through Christ Jesus. Blessed are you, our Source, our Seasons, our Ruach. Blessed be God forever!*

I drive a lot. Sometimes it feels like I am in my car more than I am anywhere else. Since I began internship with you at All Saints', there have been a number of friends who have commented to me about the journey I take on Tuesdays and Sundays from our home in Manchester (soon to be Hooksett!) Almost to a person, they remark on either distance or road conditions. "How long does that take?" "Watch out for Temple Mountain in the winter!"

Perhaps I have been completely overtaken by the surprising brilliance of this autumn's colors, (despite the naysayer's predictions of a drought ravaged leaf season), but I am so very grateful for the gift of witnessing the leafy splendor that I barely notice the miles ticking away on my dashboard. I have very little cell phone reception from Amherst to Peterborough, so the conversations I normally have catching up with family and friends that make the time pass on my drives to seminary in Cambridge aren't an option. But I do have wonderful companions on the way. I am a devotee of the NPR podcasts of Krista Tippett's radio program *On Being*, *The TED Radio Hour* and *This American Life*. The privilege of hearing voices of faith, struggle and joy, enriches and nourishes my mind and soul in so many ways. And there are many times when the lack of voices is the best gift of all as space is opened for simply being on the journey.

Right now in our lectionary readings, Jesus and his companions are also on the road. There are people to meet, stories to tell, lessons to be learned and emotions to be shared. We know where the road will take them and how the journey may appear to end. But we have taken this journey with Him before and know that beyond the coming storm lies the promise of new life in Him.

So, the days will certainly turn colder and friends may warn of upcoming loss, and the winter holds its own beauty and dangers for travelers on the road. I am looking forward with gratitude to the winter journey from our new home in Hooksett to home at All Saints' parish!

Excerpted from "For the Traveler" – A Sunday Travel Poem by John O'Donohue

*May you travel in an awakened way,*

*Gathered wisely into your inner ground;  
That you may not waste the invitations  
Which wait along the way to transform you.*

*May you travel safely, arrive refreshed,  
And live your time away to its fullest;  
Return home more enriched, and free  
To balance the gift of days which call you.  
Amen*

*Sandi Albom, Intern*

## **Vestry Meeting on River Center**

***Wednesday, November 9***

All Parishioners Invited

It's been several months since All Saints' purchased the property adjacent to Reynolds Hall, with the primary purpose of securing the parking area behind the main building.

In the months since, the Vestry and Buildings & Grounds Committee, led by John Catlin, has been working on the next phase of discernment related to the purchase – what happens to the property now?

In its October meeting, the Vestry decided to hold an additional meeting – solely to discuss this question – and invites any interested parishioner to participate. The meeting will take place on **Wednesday, November 9 at 6:30 PM** in Reynolds Hall.

Among the things we hope to cover in our discussion are:

- **What are the management/financial implications of owning the property?**
  - What does it cost to carry the property monthly/annually, as is?
  - Can we afford to own the property “indefinitely?”
  - Has there been any interest in purchasing one or both of the buildings?
  - Could we pay off the loan with a fundraising effort?
- **What's going on with the property now?**
  - What's happening with the parking lot – now and in the future?
  - What's happening with the buildings now?
  - What will happen to the buildings over the winter?
- **How important is maintaining “control” of the property “forever?”**
  - Should “control” inform any decision to sell?
  - Is “control” possible without selling?
  - If the loan on the property were paid off, would we sell?

We look forward to your input on these questions. Thank you.

*Phil Suter, Senior Warden*

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN





## Caring For Our Austin Pipe Organ

All Saints' Church is blessed to have a fine Austin organ and, as we hear Jeff play the organ each Sunday, it is easy to not think about the care and maintenance such an instrument requires. Pipe organs are complex machines comprising of pipes, wind chests, many mechanical parts, and, in our case, electrical parts as well. Our organ was built in 1980 and now newer instruments have computer technology within the console allowing even greater flexibility for the organist.

So, what is involved in maintaining an organ such as ours? The most frequent part of maintaining an organ is regularly tuning it. Tuning an organ can be a very big job depending on the size of the instrument. Our organ can be tuned in a day, whereas a large instrument such as the organ at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City can take a week to tune completely.

It takes two people to tune our organ, the tuner in the pipe chamber and his assistant at the console. Our organ has approximately 1500 pipes and when it was first tuned by our present organ technician, it took 10 hours as it was badly out of tune. We have the organ tuned twice a year and it does take some skill and patience.

The tuner often is working in tight quarters in the pipe chamber and he deals with pipes ranging in size from 16 feet long to a few inches long. Some instruments larger than ours have pipes 32 feet in length.

Other parts of organ maintenance include correcting any action or console problems that may arise. Austin organs are known for their mechanical reliability. Our organ, now 36 years old has required very few repairs. The action within the wind chests has needed almost no attention, but as it ages the leather parts might wear and need attention.

The console of our organ is mechanically very complex. It is completely electromechanical, whereas modern consoles use solid-state electronics as well. We have had and continue to have issues with dirty electrical contacts. However, those issues are fairly easy to rectify. The technology in our console was invented 100 years ago and is considered somewhat dated these days, however, it does work and mostly quite well. Like any instrument, as it ages it will likely need more attention.

With continued good care and perhaps, some updating, our organ will enhance our worship for many decades to come. It is important to keep maintaining the organ properly as replacing an organ the size of our Austin would be very expensive.

One final note, if one is interested in seeing what goes into building an organ, I would recommend visiting C.B. Fisk organ builders of Gloucester, Massachusetts, when they have an open house or visiting their website, [www.cbfish.com](http://www.cbfish.com).

A video clip about building Opus 139, the Harvard University organ, is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrNKY0-HsQ4>

They have open houses when they are unveiling a new instrument and a visit would be well worth it.

*Arthur Eldredge*

## Alma's Poem

*The psalmist says it best*

**T**he heavens declare His righteousness  
**H**appy are those who delight in the Lord  
**A**scribe to the Lord the glory of his name  
**N**ow we join our voices in thanksgiving  
**K**now it is good to give thanks to the Lord  
**S**ing praises to His name

*Alma Ruth*



All Saints' Church  
51 Concord Street  
Peterborough NH 03458

Non Profit Postage Paid  
Permit #46  
Peterborough NH 03458

## Editor's Note

Many of my Facebook friends and I celebrate Gratitude Month by posting something for which we are grateful on each day of November. It's a fun and positive way to celebrate. Another of my favorite exercises is to do an alphabetic gratitude list at night before falling asleep ("A" is for All Saints', "B" is for BridgetAdams, "C" is for Christ's love...) and then trying to remember when I wake up how far I got in the alphabet the night before. I try not to repeat myself from night to night, helping me to remember the abundance and mercy in my life.

In her opening letter, Jamie writes with thankfulness of her trip to South Africa and tells us of "the covering," a celebration of love and community there. ("The covering" reminds me of our Prayer Shawl ministry.)

Becky tells us of surprises and acceptance in her life. Andy shares "Clara of My Heart," a poem that will make every parent and grandparent smile. And, fittingly, on the same page we have our Saints' Days listed, so we can celebrate many birthdays.

Cassius writes an intriguing Book Note this month as he reviews *Heretic* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, in which she calls for an Islamic Reformation.

Gloria brings us up to date with Sainly News and Jamie invites us to consider contributing to a compilation of Lenten Reflections written by us at All Saints'.

Sandi expresses Gratitude on the Journey, and ends with lines from a John O'Donohue poem, hoping that we travel safely and arrive refreshed.

Our Senior Warden, Phil, invites us to attend a special vestry meeting on **November 7 at 6 PM** to discuss what we should do with our newly acquired River Center property.

Arthur gives us some history of our amazing Austin organ and lets us in on some of what is involved with its care.

And Alma's poem reminds us to say "Thanks!"

The deadline for the December *Messenger* is November 16. The theme will be "Celebrating the Season." Please send your contributions to me at [chow6569@gmail.com](mailto:chow6569@gmail.com).

With much gratitude and great joy,

*Christine*