



The Messenger

September 2019 | Volume X, Number 6

All Saints' Church • 51 Concord Street • Peterborough, NH 03458 • allsaintsnh.org

In this issue...

Jamie's Letter..... 1

Curate's Reflection.... 2

The Messenger Staff... 2

All Saints' Vestry..... 2

Acolyte Ministry
Open Call..... 3

Church School..... 3

Bill & Lois Wilson:
In Their Own Words
Staged Reading..... 3

Juarez, 2019
Patty Wheeler 4

September
Saints' Days..... 4

A Heartfelt Thank You
Robert..... 5

View from the Bench
Jeffrey Fuller 6

Book Note: *The
Souls of Black Folk*
Cassius Webb..... 7

Cartoon..... 8

October Submissions
Deadline..... 8

Vestry Update..... 9

Parish Financial
Update 9

Dear Parishioners,

Most people think church “business” slows down during the summer, and often this can be true, but not this year at All Saints’. We are having a very busy summer! As I write, Philip Mathewson’s team and their backhoes are busy building our parking lot; Peter Walker and his assistants are building and installing the wires for the solid state components of the organ; Gretchen Rae (with lots of safety belts) is climbing the bell tower to examine the needed work on the bells; and twenty-five children with their ten+ teacher volunteers are playing Spirit Tag in our front yard. All in one day! Rev. Sandi will tell you more about our very successful Spirit Camp, but I want to share one story.

Once a week, during the middle of the week, the All Saints’ Church (ASC) prayer team meets to pray. They keep those on our prayer list in their hearts, as well as pray for anyone’s special requests (those requests are placed in the little prayer box just inside the entrance of the church). We were so busy on the day the prayer team arrived, it was difficult to find a quiet place to pray. We decided that the front porch of the Rectory (with the wicker furniture) would be best. As the prayer team was settling into some meditative quiet, twenty-five children came running into our yard, full of enthusiasm and joy, with lots of laughing and jumping and cartwheels. I immediately thought we needed to find another place for our prayer team, and when I asked if they were ok with the noise, Nina Pollock said, “Are you kidding, this is music to our ears.” The next day at Spirit Camp, I opened with prayer by telling the children they were music to our ears! I think there are always places in our hearts that haven’t been discovered yet, and one of the ways we find the path to those new places that expand our hearts is within community. We were designed that way by God! We never can do it alone. It is one of the reasons I love worshipping with you, and envisioning together our future ministries, and all the ways we are blessed to make a difference in each other’s lives and in this community, and beyond.

I look forward to coming together on Homecoming Sunday, September 15th, for one service at 9:30am, followed by festivities, with a catered breakfast in Reynolds Hall. We have lots to celebrate.

The following Sunday, September 22nd, my dear friend and colleague, the Rev. Tracey Lind will preach at both the 8:00 and 10:00am services in the church, and then we will join her in Reynolds Hall for her forum entitled, “The Spirituality of Dementia.” In November of 2016, Tracey was diagnosed with FTD (Frontotemporal Degeneration). She will share with us her spiritual insights complicated by the early onset of dementia. As she says often, “Out of pain comes joy, out of brokenness comes wholeness, and out of death comes new life.” Indeed, she is traveling to new places in her heart through her witness to us. Please bring your friends and family as we share in the strength of her faith.

The Almighty is not finished with us yet, Alleluia!

Blessings,

Jamie+

The Messenger STAFF

Deb Waldo, *Editor*
(603) 654-7341

Brad Taylor,
Assistant Editor
(603) 924-6595

Margaret Baker,
Design & Layout

Production

Sue Ernst,
Print Coordinator
(207) 716-2151

John Adams

Sarafin Anderson

Gail Anthony

David Drinkwater

Betsy Fowle

Joan Jansen

VESTRY

Jack Calhoun,
Senior Warden

Greg Naudascher,
Junior Warden

David Drinkwater,
Treasurer

Margaret Baker,
Clerk of the Vestry

Arthur Eldredge
& Steve Smillie,
Deposit Clerks

Deborah DeCicco

Pam Everson

Heidi Graff

David Jette

Lora McClintock

Madelyn Morris

Tim Riley

Paige Spaulding

Sally Steere

CURATE'S REFLECTION

Rev. Sandi Albom

"Everytime I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray-a.

Everytime I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray."

This is the song that began our time together the week of August 12th through 16th at "Hero Central Summer Spirit Camp" (aka Vacation Bible School). The Holy Spirit was truly moving in our hearts that week. She was moving in our bodies and in our voices. The Spirit was alive and making herself known in a myriad of ways.

Twenty volunteers from All Saints' and Peterborough United Methodist Church (PUMC) supported the 19 to 22 children who joined us each day for a time to discover the ways in which we *are* the heroes and the ways in which we *know* the heroes (and she-roses) in our homes and communities. Through learning about the qualities of biblical heroes, (Heart, Courage, Wisdom, Hope and Power), the children could identify with the characteristics God gives to us that bring us together as we live into God's kingdom.

Each day a different group of people in our community was raised up to the children as local heroes with visits from teachers and police, and field trips to Peterborough Fire and Rescue and Peterborough Library. On the final day we celebrated the volunteers and the children as our heroes, and we invited parents, grandparents and siblings to join us in celebration.

What began as a group of volunteers from two neighboring faith communities who only knew of each other from afar, became a closely-knit family, dedicated to bringing the love of God to the children, ages 4 to 11, who came from 6 different Monadnock towns. Of the 22 registered kids, only 7 came from All Saints' and PUMC. Most saw our signs out on Concord Street or came from community programs in Peterborough, Jaffrey and surrounding communities.

I am continually amazed by the ways in which God works in us. It was such a blessing to all involved to welcome these young ones and to watch them play, hear their voices raised in laughter and song and prayer. One of my favorite moments was when we first walked onto the All Saints' campus and the children excitedly asked if they could "see inside the castle". The expressions of wonder and awe on their faces were priceless as they entered the sanctuary.

Reflecting on this very special week, I was reminded of just how privileged I am to serve God in our All Saints' community. I am challenged and stretched and molded in the fire and wind of the Spirit, and I am very grateful. One of the greatest gifts of all is the friendship and collegial relationship that has developed between PUMC Pastor Kathleene Card and me. The growing bond between our two parishes, as we share in youth and children's ministries, Bible Study and formation programs, is truly Spirit inspired.

I'm looking forward to a new Church School year and to all our beautiful worship in "The Castle". **Shameless plug – ADULTS, we need Teachers and Volunteers for Church School and for our Acolyte ministry.** (See the notice on page 3.)

Yours in Christ,

Sandi+

Acolyte Ministry: Calling all Youth & ADULTS

Acolytes are people who assist in the worship service, lighting and extinguishing the candles at the altar, serving as Torch Bearers as we enter and leave the church, and as Torch Bearers for the gospel procession. Acolytes over the age of 16 may also serve as Lay Eucharistic Ministers with approval from the Diocese.

When you serve God by serving as an acolyte, carrying a flame into the sanctuary to light candles at God's altar, you are symbolically bringing the light of Christ's Spirit into the worshipping community. Acolytes typically serve every 3-4 weeks, depending on availability and need.

- **YOUTH, 10 years of age and older, are eligible to serve as acolytes.**
- **ADULTS and TEENS are also invited to serve as acolytes and crucifers.**

For more information about this vital ministry, contact Rev. Sandi at revsandi@allsaintsnh.org, (603)303-2435 or Patricia Row at (603) 924-7887.

Church School is right around the corner!

Our Church School will be starting up again in September.

It is such a joy to be with our young people as they learn about God and what it means to be a member of Christ's Body in the world.

Do you have one Sunday every 4 to 6 weeks to volunteer as a teacher or assistant on Sundays during the 10:00am service? We would love to have you join in the fun!

To find out more, talk with Rev. Sandi at (603) 303-2435 or revsandi@allsaintsnh.org.

Bill & Lois Wilson: In Their Own Words

7:00pm, September 27th, Reynolds Hall

B*ill & Lois Wilson: In Their Own Words*, a staged reading of letters and remembrances, tells the story of the respective co-founders of AA and Al-Anon and their deep and abiding love for each other. Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, in cooperation with Stepping Stones Foundation, will present this unique stage presentation on Friday, September 27th at 7:00pm in Reynolds Hall.

"Today was a hard one. The pressure was great. Thank heaven you will never know what real alcoholism is like." So wrote a despairing 34-year-old Bill Wilson to his devoted wife, Lois as they battled Bill's debilitating addiction to alcohol – just one of hundreds of personal letters Bill and Lois wrote to each other in a 60-year love story that helped give birth to the modern recovery movement.

Using only words written or recorded by Bill and Lois, four actors lead the audience through the couple's young love, hopeful early life together, descent into addiction and, ultimately, redemption and triumph as Bill connected with others to create the Twelve Steps that have shaped addiction

treatments for the past 80 years. Lois, as co-founder of Al-Anon Family Groups, helped countless loved ones of alcoholics. Historic visual images and music, including a recording of Bill W. playing the violin, will be an integral part of the stage presentation.

Stepping Stones, in Bedford Hills, NY, is the home that Bill and Lois occupied from 1941 to the end of their lives. The Stepping Stones Foundation maintains the home, its contents and archive, and offers guided tours and educational programming.

Bill & Lois Wilson: In Their Own Words was conceived by Annah Perch, former executive director of Stepping Stones, and compiled, edited and staged by our own Laurie Heffner Lewis. The Peterborough performances also feature familiar friends Meg Rogers as Young Lois, Jake H. Lewis as Young Bill, Christine Howe as Older Lois, and Lauron Lewis as Older Bill.

The September 27th performance is presented with permission from Stepping Stones Foundation. A free will offering will be taken to benefit Episcopal Recovery Ministries NH and Stepping Stones.

Juarez, 2019

Patti Wheeler

Our trip to Centro Victoria at the end of June marked the 15th year of our relationship with the children who live there. Within the organizational umbrella of Fe y Esperanza (Faith and Hope), we have seen the home for abandoned children grow from 1 building with 12 children to a campus of 5 buildings and 100 children. Four of the children have graduated high school and are pursuing higher education.

The growth of the community has been beautiful to watch but more beautiful has been the growth of the children. They and the youth and adults who accompany me continue to fill me with Faith and Hope!

This year, we had mostly repeat travelers. The one new traveler came to me on our last day and shyly asked: “Can I come back in November? and then again in June?”

What is it that compels us to return? This trip is not a vacation!

The compound in which we stay does not even get a 1-star rating. It is

hot – very hot. It is dry and dirty and the sewer system does not drain well and the smells let us know that :) It is also the face of deep poverty; so different from our homes in New Hampshire. And yet, we have been returning year after year. Jesus told us that in order to live, we must die to ourselves. I think that’s what happens when we go to Juarez. All of our “baggage” dies when we arrive. We are not the same people there, filled with our worries, our need to impress others, our ambitions. What’s left is just love.

We went to the wall this year. We stood in front of it. We didn’t say much. We all knew that there must be another solution and it is called “love.”



Palma

**“Let the children come unto me...
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

~ MATTHEW 19:14

Watching children at play makes us know

With joy and happiness they glow.

In innocence they give us their trust.

Don’t let them down; we must

Live as Jesus would have us do,

And we will feel the joy and happiness, too.

Alma Ruth

September Saints’ Days

Bradley Wuorinen	09/01	Nathaniel Manns	09/16
Shirley Wamser	09/10	Marilyn Weir	09/17
Lillian Carter	09/11	Kathy Boss	09/21
Susan Tavernier	09/11	Nora Ramey	09/23
Paul Finch	09/11	Elizabeth Tong	09/25
Donald Scott	09/12	Audrey White	09/28
Gardner Mundy	09/13	Patricia Wheeler	09/28
Jamie Hamilton	09/13	Sandi Albom	09/28
Carol LaChance	09/14	Ann Fitzgerald	09/29
Lynne Betz	09/15	Seth Coon	09/30
Isabel Badrawy	09/15		

Even Bionic Solutions Need Spiritual Intervention

A heartfelt thank you from Robert

“This being human is a guest house,” the Sufi poet Jalaluddin Rumi tells us. “Every morning a new arrival. A joy, a depression, a meanness, some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor. Welcome and entertain them all!”

For a month this past Spring I was a “new arrival” in the All Saints’ Rectory as I recovered from total knee arthroplasty surgery. After years of struggling with pain and limited movement caused by bones-rubbing-on-bone I had decided, with Rev. Jamie’s encouragement, to go bionic.

I’m so glad I did.

I first met Jamie over 20 years ago at Phillips Exeter Academy. We’ve remained close through love of God, our families, social justice issues, interfaith work – and Red Sox baseball!

It has never mattered that she is Christian and I am Muslim. It only matters that we love our neighbors as ourselves; that we care for the least among us, that we serve our Beloved.

Some months ago, I am told, a parishioner said he was thankful for All Saints’ in part because there were Sundays when, as he was receiving the Eucharist, a Muslim might be next to him receiving a Blessing!

That exemplifies All Saints’ for me: an altar open to all, a sanctuary, a community. And being open to all it seemed right that when Jamie extended All Saints’ hospitality to me for post-surgery recovery, I would accept.

Where else would I go?

Little did I consider, however, how everyone would overwhelmingly pitch in to make my recovery a community – a family – effort.

“O men! Behold, We have created you all out of a male and a female, and have made you into nations and tribes, so that you might come to know one another.” (Qur’an 49:13)

We really came to know one another.

All Saints’ covered all bases; from helping me update my advanced healthcare directive to being present during the operation, to transportation, meals, chats, conversations, shopping, card-playing, prayer – and even medical guidance!

There are too many to name, but I would be derelict if I did not at least mention Tere, Carol, Sally, Paige, Nick, Madelyn, and Jack, all of whom went beyond the call of duty – including Bishop Rob who offered a blessing!

Technically, the replacement has been a complete success. I have more movement, and less discomfort, than I’ve had for years. I’m still not fully comfortable kneeling as I perform my daily prayers, but it’s getting better and the twinges I get while trying, although uncomfortable, remind me not to ever take any of God’s gifts for granted.

Rumi concludes *The Guest House*: “... meet them at the door laughing and invite them in. Be grateful for whatever comes because each has been sent as a guide from beyond.”

I’ve been met at the All Saints’ door laughing and invited in. I will be forever grateful.

Salamaat, Peace,

Robert Azzi

“... a parishioner said he was thankful for All Saints’ in part because there were Sundays when, as he was receiving the Eucharist, a Muslim might be next to him receiving a Blessing!”

~ ROBERT

Happy New Year!?

Now therefore be it resolved...

For any church musician (and many others I suspect), the real new year begins after Labor Day. As always when September rolls around, I will have spent some part of the summer reviewing, selecting, and occasionally ordering music for the liturgies of the coming season – beginning, of course, right after Labor Day. But that process is not a random one. It stems from my convictions about what makes a strong music program that reflects our rich Anglican heritage; feedback from parishioners, choir members and clergy; and my own “resolutions” for the new year. As we approach this “new year,” I would like to share the musical “resolutions” that have guided my music choices for the coming year.

1. I resolve to choose some old, some new, some borrowed (from other traditions), some “anew.”

- **Old:** During Epiphany season, we will hear organ and choral settings of the 7th c. text *Verbum supernum prodiens* and the 13th c. chant of the same name.
- **New:** At Lessons and Carols, we will hear *A Carol for our Times*, published in 2019, with words and music by Scottish composer David Blackwell.
- **Borrowed:** Look forward to anthems based on melodies in the Southern Harmony tradition, as well as settings of African-American spirituals.
- **Anew** (“anew” rhymed since “blue” didn’t make sense): Some music will reappear from previous seasons, such as Morten Lauridsen’s *O nata lux*, the Widor *Toccata (Symphonie V)* at Easter, and several pieces from the All Saints’ Choir’s 2001 recording, *Jubilate, Amen!*

2. I resolve to offer music that is not so much “impressive” as “leaves an impression.” This year’s musical offerings include Gerald Finzi’s *Welcome Sweet and Sacred Feast*, James Whitbourn’s *Give Us the Wings of Faith*, and J. S. Bach’s monumental chorale prelude *Num komm der Heiden Heiland*. Whether or not impressive, each will definitely leave an impression.

3. I resolve to remember that not all composers are men. We will explore music this year by women composers – organ music by Cécile Chaminade, Margaret Sandresky, Jeanne Demessieux and June Nixon, as well as choral music by Cecilia MacDowell and Elizabeth Poston.

4. I resolve, since not all musical tastes are the same, to program some music that feels comfortable and some music that challenges. Music that will feel comfortable: John Rutter’s *Gaelic Blessing*, Thomas Tallis’ *If Ye Love Me*, and Percy Whitlock’s *Reflection on an Old French Air*. Music that will challenge: Jacques Charpentier’s *L’Ange à la Trompette* on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, Igor Stravinsky’s *Ave Maria*, and Francis Jackson’s *Scherzetto pastorale*.

5. I resolve to remember that hymns are the foundation of our shared musical experience. Martin Luther said, “as long as we live, there is never enough singing.” The challenge for me and for all of us is to build a shared hymn repertoire at All Saints’ that encourages strong congregational singing. With 720 hymns and 449 pieces of service music in our hymnal, and opportunity to sing only two or three hymns (occasionally more) at each of our 65+ Sundays and Holy Days each year, singing each hymn just once would require about four years. Since that would not even be appropriate, we repeat some hymns fairly regularly, we sing others less often, and we simply ignore a significant portion of them.

More than any other aspect of our shared musical experience, parishioners seem to care about hymns:

- **“Well, that hymn was really something.”** This is a mixed review – it may mean that it was challenging harmonically or rhythmically, came from an unfamiliar musical tradition, or something similar. I can only offer assurance that no hymn is chosen randomly; it either reflects the lessons of the day or the theme of the season, is the basis of other musical selections in the service, or is musically or historically significant.
- **“Why don’t we ever sing the good old hymns?”** We do. But the reality is that for some, their “old favorites” were sung on a day when they were not in attendance. For others, “old favorites” are hymns remembered from childhood or prep school days or from other denominational traditions and do not appear in *The Hymnal 1982* (sometimes not even in *The Hymnal 1940*).
- **“That hymn was certainly a dirge.”** It’s Lent; were you really anticipating a jaunty little melody?
- **“I didn’t know that hymn, so I just didn’t sing.”** Maybe once that is a reasonable option. But since we will be singing that hymn again at some point, instead of dropping out, why not simply follow the text, listen carefully to the tune, and try to sing along on a later verse? If standing silently was your version of ecclesiastical disobedience, an “I’ll show them” moment, there is bad news: no one noticed. Finally, if not singing stems from self-consciousness or lack of confidence, I’ll leave you (yet again) with the words of Kermit the Frog: “Don’t worry that it’s not good enough for anyone else to hear – just sing, sing a song!”

PLEASE NOTE: Choir rehearsals for the 2019-2020 season begin Thursday, September 5, 2019, at 7:00pm in Reynolds Hall, with the choir singing at the 10am service each Sunday beginning on Homecoming Sunday, September 15, 2019. If you’ve never sung with the All Saints’ Choir and think you might be interested, please contact the Choirmaster at jeff@allsaintsnh.org.

The Souls of Black Folk

W. E. B. Du Bois

The *Souls of Black Folk*, a series of essays by William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, was first published as a unit in 1903, when he was thirty-five, and already an established sociologist, writer, and community activist. He lived another sixty years, and died just before much of the landmark civil rights legislation began to bear fruit, though by that time he was a citizen of Ghana. But although he remained active on many fronts – political, social, and international – his reputation as a giant and controversial figure in American society rested in large part on this slim, eloquent, impassioned book of experience and reflection on what it was to be black in America four decades after Emancipation.

W. E. B. Du Bois was by no means a typical African American. He came not from the deep South or the new settlements in Northern cities, but from Great Barrington, Massachusetts, with a tiny Black population. The local Congregational church raised money to send him to college – Fisk University, founded shortly after the Civil War in Nashville, Tennessee. He eventually went on to Harvard and Berlin, was a founder of the NAACP as well as a scholar and teacher of international reputation.

It is often noted how contemporary the concerns expressed in this book seem; and the shock a white reader feels on being confronted with the everyday consciousness and struggle of fellow citizens is almost as great now as it was a century ago. But the writing, magnificent and intelligent as it is, satisfying for many to revel in, is probably a challenge for others. It takes careful reading, and is studded with biblical and literary allusions, not all of them English.

The range of topics is fascinating, and yet carefully organized to bring the reader from historical to educational and practical, thence to economic, cultural, and spiritual considerations. It is famous for Du Bois' dispute with the ideas and methods of Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute and the most famous African American of his day. Washington was willing to compromise with the post-Reconstruction Southern leadership and forego political and social integration, so long as Blacks could be allowed to be educated in manual skills and work habits, to be productive and disciplined members of society. Du Bois saw this as a fatal concession: "Negroes must insist continually, in season and out of season, that voting is

necessary to modern manhood, that color discrimination is barbarism, and that black boys need education as well as white boys." [Male language duly noted.]

But there is so much more here. The heroic struggles of the Freedmen's Bureau after the War, the courage of "New England school-ma'ams" who went South to teach small children and their grandparents, and all the idealism of early Reconstruction (sabotaged after a short interval) is a revelation. The meticulous descriptions of how the industrialization of the postwar South left most Black lives untouched; the use of the legal system to provide Black convict labor to replace slave labor; the perpetual indebtedness of most Black peasants (his word) in even prosperous farming areas, are social science at its most perceptive.

Above all, however, this is a humane book. Du Bois is realistic about the shortcomings of people of his own race, as of others, and puts them all in the context of the distortion produced by the slave system. The fear, the lack of predictability, the hate and doubt and destructiveness are all there. But so are nobility, intelligence, and hope, especially in the final chapters on religion and music.

There is still a long way to go, with many slips backward along the way. But this is a compelling treatment of how we got here and a wild and venturesome glimpse of a possible future.



All Saints' Church
51 Concord Street
Peterborough, NH 03458

Nonprofit Postage
PAID
Permit #46
Peterborough, NH
03458

Parish office: (603) 924-3202

Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am to 2pm

Office email: admin@allsaintsnh.org

Website: allsaintsnh.org

Rector: Rev. Jamie L. Hamilton, revjamie@allsaintsnh.org

Curate: Rev. Sandi Albom, revsandi@allsaintsnh.org

Organist & Choirmaster: Jeff Fuller, jeff@allsaintsnh.org

Ministries Coordinator: Gail Caron, admin@allsaintsnh.org

Project Coordinator: Gretchen Rae, gretchen@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.



The Messenger

September 2019 | Volume X, Number 6



Submissions are welcome!

We invite you to send articles, letters, poems or printable artwork to deborahwaldo18@gmail.com.

The next issue of *The Messenger* will be published in October.

The submission deadline is Monday, September 9.

Vestry Update

Deb DeCicco, ASC Vestry

The All Saints Church (ASC) Vestry meets monthly and considers and votes on a wide variety of church activities. This includes the many efforts of our parishioners and ministries. In the past few months we have authorized and applauded Andreas Tourgee, Jude Roberts and Max Scheinblum as new Lay Ministers. We have also nominated parishioner Katherine Danielle Boss for postulancy to the priesthood. We are honored to provide prayer, opportunities for ministry and financial support during her formation. With all of you, we applauded and prayed for the group that went to Juarez with Patty Wheeler. Congratulations to all!

You have been hearing details on the construction projects in All Saints Parish (*ASaP!*) and in Saints Alive, so we will not repeat those in this article. For over three years now, your prayers and generosity have been working together to create this welcoming, easy to access, beautiful parking lot!

In March the Buildings and Grounds Ministry submitted their project recommendations for 2019. The vestry voted to approve most of those and some have already been accomplished. We approved a proposal written by Gretchen Rae for an LChip grant to renovate the “Storehouse” (shed) next to the Old Parish House (OPH). Thank you, Gretchen! And, as you’ve heard in the online updates in *ASaP!* we engaged LIEBSTUDIOS to conduct a Campus Facilities Assessment of the buildings and property to inform our decisions around the Capital Reserve Funds, all part of the Capital Campaign. We signed the contract for Walker Pipe Organ Company to fulfill that part of the Capital Campaign and their work should be completed by the end of the summer. The Vestry also approved the final payment on the loan with Bar Harbor Bank for the parking lot property.

On June 2, we were honored by Bishop Rob Hirschfeld’s visitation. In addition to preaching, Bishop Rob met with

the Vestry. We reviewed the Capital Campaign and the status of the resulting projects. Bishop Rob encouraged Rev. Jamie in her plans for her sabbatical and suggested that we all read *The Sabbath* by Abraham Joshua Heschel. Bishop Rob also reviewed his strategies to raise up new leaders in the NH Diocese by establishing three new initiatives:

- a school for ministry to encourage bi-vocational leaders;
- the Bishop’s Curates positions partially subsidized by the diocese to establish curates for churches;
- support for coaches for newly placed priests.

The Vestry has discussed: the creation of a year-round Stewardship Committee; work on the new website; and the SafeChurch training requirement for church leadership. We have also reviewed and applauded special upcoming events such as:

- **September 15th, Homecoming**
- **September 22nd, The Reverend Tracey Lind**, former dean of Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio preaching and then leading an adult forum on the inside story of living with dementia
- **September 27th, Bill and Lois, In Their Own Words**, a dramatic reading of the writings of Bill and Lois Wilson, founders of AA and Al-Anon, respectively.
- **October 6th, Brother David Vryhof**, Society of St. John the Evangelist, preaching and then leading an adult forum on the importance of Sabbath time for all of us

Your vestry sends our appreciation for ALL that you do, every day to make All Saints’ the vibrant, welcoming, worshipful place that we know and love. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Parish Financial Update

David Drinkwater, Treasurer, ASC Vestry

A week or two ago, those who made annual pledges received an updated report on their giving. In the summer months, when parishioners are away, All Saints' often finds that pledges and plate gifts lag monthly expectations, and such is the case again this year (by between 4% and 10% a month). Because actual pledges came in below our budget (which was based on the previous three years' commitments) – perhaps because of parishioners' generosity in contributing to the very successful capital campaign -- real pressure falls on operational finances, which are not funded by the capital campaign. But more on that in a moment: first, the current overall financial picture.

Because of your generosity in supporting the Capital Campaign, we have been able to pay off the parking lot loan, we have covered all campaign costs, and we have sufficient funds in hand to complete the parking lot, the upgrades to the All Saints' organ and several other smaller campaign projects. And Capital Campaign funds continue to come in on a regular basis. (Check to be sure that yours do, too!) We are more than fortunate to be in such a situation. Our deepest thanks to all.

Capital Campaign funds do indirectly affect other parish plans. As the Junior Warden has reported, the Vestry was able to hire LIEBSTUDIOS, at a very reasonable cost, to complete an assessment of parish buildings that will help us plan more judiciously, efficiently and economically for critical annual maintenance and long-term repair costs. This will ensure that our facilities are suitable for stronger ministries and that we achieve the improved accessibility envisioned in the campaign. The parish will be a better steward of its iconic buildings and ministries as a result.

Yet, income from the annual stewardship appeal is critical to our ability to fund all the *regular* necessities (paying staff – clerical and lay, maintaining the physical plant and grounds, funding music and worship) that make our experience at All Saints' as vibrant as it is. While weekly contributions through the plate are important, pledges enable us to predict and sustain cash flow on a more even basis. So, ensuring that your pledge is regularly paid helps immensely. If you are a regular contributor to the church and haven't pledged, please consider pledging. It is never too late in the year to pledge!

If you have questions, please contact Gail Caron at the All Saints' Office, or me. I am always happy to answer questions about our current financial strength and the projects it funds.

David Drinkwater

david@wingspanpartnerships.org