



The Messenger

Summer 2020 | Volume XI, Number 2

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

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Dear Parishioners,

*Our hope is not deceptive. The love of God has been poured into our hearts
by the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.* (Romans 5:5)

A friend asked me just the other day, "How long has your church been closed?" I knew she was asking out of concern and did not intend to hurt my feelings, but I was upset. "The church never closed; in fact, we are very open!" "Are you defying the governor's orders?"

You know those moments when, in the midst of COVID short-fuse irritability, anger, and frustration, you feel like screaming? Let's just say I had to take a breath, calm down, embrace the concern that was coming my way, and respond, "All Saints' is so much more than its buildings. Yes, our buildings are closed, but the church is very much alive."

All Saints' is very much alive, even in the midst of our "physical distancing" and our new existence in the virtual world. I don't know where God is taking you or me, or the Episcopal Church, or the US, or the nations, or the globe in this pandemic, but I do know that we need to strap up our seat belt of faith, for we are on the ride of our lives, which will have many sharp turns and is, understandably, frightening, alarming, confusing, even incomprehensible.

Where are we going? And, could God really be in the midst of all this?

The answer is Yes, and God will show us the way. God acts by Being, as a loving presence in the midst of our suffering and our confusion and our fear. We are being called, much like Jesus was, to empty ourselves into God's hands. We are to put aside normalcy, routines, safety, privilege, habits, and that easy unconscious belief that we are in control. Put all of our "regularity" aside, and put your trust in God. We are becoming something new.

Let's just face it; this "becoming new" is never easy.

Thank goodness we can say, "I'm a part of a church community, never alone; I can ask for help; and I'm a part of something that is bigger than myself." And indeed, we are staying connected to each other and to our community through our virtual worship services, through Saints Alive, through mailings, through video clips, through meal deliveries, through telephone calls, through Zoom meetings, through educational offerings, through our work with the Food Pantry, the Hungry Students Program, and the Avenue A Teen Center.

What can you do in the middle of a world that feels upside down? Pray, wait, listen, fast, and trust in the Holy Spirit. And even though this sounds counterintuitive in the middle of trying times, I suggest you try something new. Take a risk. Know that God is with you in your unease.

If you don't understand why there are protests in our city streets, join the weekly discussions we are having about race (Wednesday evenings). If want to know more about your faith, join the weekly discussion about theological reflection (Monday evenings) or the Bible Study (Thursday mornings). If you've never tried a Zoom worship service, join us at "Live @ Five" (Saturdays).

If you want to share a defining moment in your life, write it out and we'll distribute it (Saints' Alive). If you want to volunteer as a mentor for a teenager, call the church; we'll connect you with Avenue A.

Inspired by the insights of Julian of Norwich, a mystic from the 14th century, do this: trust in the deepness of your searching, continue in your labor, and hope for sweet abundance. And above all, "take this food and drink and carry it to God as your true worship."

Because in the end, that will make the difference.

With many blessings,

Jamie+

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CURATE'S CORNER

Rev. Sandi Albom

Greetings Dear Friends,

It's such a joy for me to reach out from my home to yours as we continue to care for ourselves and others. It is a struggle for me to find a single word that describes this time in our country — strange, disconcerting, hopeful (at times), restless, frightening, overdue.

Our ways of being with each other are challenged, not only by physical distance, or covering of faces. None seems more challenging to me than my occasional trips to the grocery store. Perhaps it's just my imagination, but it seems that I am looking at people's faces more intently. I know part of that is a heightened awareness of who is and is not wearing a face mask. There are mixed reactions that I experience. I'm often surprised at my sense of gratitude or resentment. (And frankly, I spend a fair amount of time in prayer asking God for forgiveness for giving in to my indulgence of judgement and condemnation.)

And, I also look to find the small wrinkles at the corners of eyes meeting mine that might indicate a smile, some spark of recognition that we are in this time together; an acknowledgement that there is caring in the action of protecting ourselves and others.

We are at a place when multiple intersecting circumstances have made way for a cacophony of voices to be loosed. I have immense gratitude for those people who are standing with signs and speaking out for justice, institutional and structural change. I was heartened when I listened recently to a young person speak eloquently to the "disease of racism that, at its core, is the denial of the divine spark within each human being." The growing partnership of all ages, races and creeds in this time gives me hope, and I thank God for their voices; may mine be joined with theirs.

So, where do we go from here? What is to keep us from allowing our present fervor for justice to succumb to fatigue, or to dissolve into slogans and memes on social media, as so many instances of outrage against injustice have done in our recent past here in the United States?

Our readings from The Book of the Acts of the Apostles during the season of the Church after Easter and into Pentecost have taken us on the journey with the early Church and the followers of the Risen Jesus. Now is the time when they are at greatest risk to lose momentum, to lose heart. And yet, the God, the Spirit, is with them, bringing light, heat, energy to their mission to speak the Good News of Christ in all the world.

This Spirit is present in all history. In this moment, I pray we may have confidence we are being led, supported and inspired. I pray the message of God in Christ will provide the will and courage to empty our fear, resistance and doubt, and fill us with the heart and eyes and will of the Divine to do the work God has given us to do in all aspects of our lives, in our homes, our communities and our world.

I am praying these two collects from the *Book of Common Prayer* each day in the month of June. I invite you to pray them along with me.

Of the Holy Spirit (p. 251)

Almighty and most merciful God, grant that by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit we may be enlightened and strengthened for your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For Social Justice (p. 260)

Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Peace,

Sandi+

EfM: Education for Ministry

Explore and Learn

Education for Ministry (EfM) provides a comprehensive, experiential education in the foundations and message of our Christian faith. EfM invites people into small, mentored communities that help us to understand our lives and shape our actions as we deepen our faith.

Through study and theological reflection, we are able to be better ministers in our faith community and in the world as our baptismal vows ask us to do.

Sign up by early August!

Summer is the time for registration. It takes a few weeks to get the materials so we need to have everyone registered by early August. The first session for the 2020-2021 year will be September 14. The group meets weekly on Monday evenings through May.

To learn more about the course or to sign up, contact Marilyn Weir at 620-2840 or via email photos4u@galaxy.net.

A Time for Reflection

You are invited! Mondays during the summer
7 to 8 pm via Zoom

Join us on Monday evenings to share in an experience of theological reflection. This is an opportunity to contemplate our faith and how we live in and with Christ, and in the world.

During these reflections, we will create a sacred space through a brief worship, inviting God and Christ to be present as we open up to sharing and listening through *lectio divina* (the practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer) and through other pathways to contemplation. We will draw from different sources. One week it may be a passage of scripture, another week a piece of artwork, or music, or maybe a cartoon strip.

Come with us to listen to the Holy Spirit, go deeper, and share one of the ways we can be in community right now. We will meet **via Zoom on Mondays, 7 to 8 pm during the summer**. The invitation — including the link to connect to Zoom — will be sent each week via the Saints' Alive newsletter. Come on any Mondays that work for you.

Have a question? Contact Marilyn Weir at photos4u@galaxy.net or 603-620-2840.

Alma's Poem

**“I was glad when they
said to me, ‘Let us
go to the house of
the Lord.’ ”**

~ Psalm 122, v.1

“I’ll never miss church” — a holy vow
But we’re having to stay away for now.
We can be sure of one thing:
Although we miss the music and preaching
God is with us where we are.
He is watching us and is not far.
We know our prayers are heard;
We enjoy reading his holy word.
We’ll spend this time of solitude
Praying with a thankful attitude.

Alma Ruth

From the Vestry

Greg Naudascher, Jr. Warden



This year has been anything but ordinary! Never in our lifetimes have we collectively faced such a challenging situation. We have been living in the reality of the pandemic for several months. Covid-19 has changed the reality of every aspect of our lives. Much about our parish has been turned upside down. As we deal with the limitations of physical distancing and restrictions on our activities, we're all experiencing a deep sense of loss. We seek meaning, and we wonder what we can do. All Saints' Vestry is committed to discerning what is essential to sustain and strengthen our faith in God and to support our safety as we deal with this pandemic.

In March, Bishop Rob Hirschfeld of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire shared guiding principles to provide direction to New Hampshire Episcopalians, shaped first and foremost "by our love of God and our love for others" as we protect each other and our neighbors against additional waves of infection.

In May, Governor Sununu authorized Stay at Home 2.0 Places of Worship, a document which provides guidelines that must be followed in order for churches to resume in person worship services. Indeed, gathering together will not look the same as what we've experienced in the past. We must comply with the following guidelines:

- Only persons who register for the service will be allowed to attend the service.
- Physical distancing of at least six feet will be maintained at all times. Masks must be worn.
- Service will not include service leaflets, singing, passing of the peace; possibly no Eucharist.
- No close or physical contact among parishioners/clergy (no handshakes, embraces, or kisses).
- Nursery, childcare and in-person youth education must remain closed.
- No pre/post-service communal gatherings (i.e. coffee hours, lemonade on the lawn, etc.)

The full text of the State of New Hampshire document "Safer at Home 2.0 Places of Worship" is available by clicking this [link](#).

Since the onset of Covid-19, the members of the Vestry and the clergy have continued to meet virtually and under the Bishop's direction have formed a Special Committee to plan for the safe opening of our buildings, as we discern the possibility of gathering together in-person. The Bishop has just released his "3.0" new version of "Following the Good Shepherd On The Path Ahead," and it is available by clicking this [link](#). He is allowing each congregations' leadership to

discern the way forward for their church, with many precautions. ***For instance, if you are 65 or older or have any underlying health issues you should not attend in-person gatherings until there is a vaccine, as your safety cannot be protected, no matter how well we follow the guidelines.*** We need to trust that the Holy Spirit will show us the way.

Recently, you received a brief online survey via *ASaP Updates*, a first step in our planning process. Thank you for your responses, as they will help us in discerning your wishes. As the Bishop reminds us — we need to take our time as these protocols are difficult to implement, and we also need to be mindful of our guiding principles so that all will be done under the rubric of love.

One of our first steps will be to open Reynolds Hall for the continuation of AA meetings. And now that we can film from the church building, we will be exploring additional online video service opportunities. We continue to serve God and the Body of Christ through prayer:

God of Yesterday,
we knew you then;
your promises; your words;
your walking among us.
But yesterday is gone.
And so, today, we are in need of change.
Change
and change us.
Help us to see life now
not through yesterday's stories
but through today's.
Amen.

~ Padraig O'Tuama

On behalf of the All Saints' Vestry,

Greg Naudascher, Jr. Warden

Saints' Days

June

Jane Scheerer	06/01
James Sarles	06/02
Samuel Ian Sistare	06/03
Judy Heddy	06/03
Meg Kearney	06/03
Charles Ruth	06/05
John Lewtas	06/08
Elizabeth Fuller	06/08
J. Andrew Graff	06/08
Heather Tourgee	06/09
Gail Bumgardner	06/09
Marguerite Roberts	06/12
Miles Marlar	06/13
Lorenzo VanHorn	06/13
Henry Marlar	06/13
Calvin Marlar	06/13
Laurie Lewis	06/15
Meghann Wuorinen	06/15
Shelley Hulbert	06/16
Laura Phillips	06/16
Dodie Finlayson	06/17
Sharon MacCartney	06/19
Eric Masterson	06/19
Jonathan Miner	06/19
Bonnie Achterhof	06/20
Diana Mundy	06/21
Evelyn Ritchie	06/22
Jody Simpson	06/22
Ann Lammers	06/23
David W. Levesque	06/24
Ian Ramey	06/24
Deborah Waldo	06/25
Russ Gebhart	06/26
Christina Gatto	06/28
Jonah Goodwin	06/30

July

Ashton Bates	07/02
Ewen Finser	07/02
Amedine Bella	07/05
Tracy Wagoner	07/06
Karl Betz	07/08
Frank Manley	07/08
Robert Weathers	07/10
Beth Healy	07/10
Robert Kiely	07/10
Philip Miner	07/11
Barbara Eckert	07/12
Nancy Drogy	07/12
Louisa Birch	07/14
Sylvia Dunn	07/15
Harry Pollock	07/16
Samuel Abbott III	07/16
Linn Perkins	07/16
Addie Catlin	07/17
Lauron Lewis	07/17
Thomas James	07/18
Boo Martin	07/18
Carl Wagner III	07/19
Sydney Hutton	07/23
Peter De Vinne	07/23
Kristen Ramey	07/24
Cynthia Englehardt	07/24
Lora McClintock	07/28
Sam Scheinblum	07/30
Lois Estabrook	07/31

Happy
Birthday!

August

Olivia Krommes	08/02
Bernd Foecking	08/03
Grantland R. Jarest	08/04
Betsy Chatman	08/05
Marilynn Hill	08/05
Ivy Vann	08/07
Barbara Clinkenbeard	08/10
Kathryn Dodge	08/11
Alan Everson	08/11
Sinan Badrawy	08/11
Edward Novotny	08/12
Mary Liz Lewis	08/12
Winnie Skeates	08/13
Jack Lewis	08/13
Lily Juarez-Rivas	08/13
Linda Lapham	08/14
Peter Row	08/15
Jay Hale	08/16
Eloise Catlin	08/16
Alistair Armstrong	08/16
Anthony Gatto	08/18
Eleonore Bayles	08/19
Haley Spitzfaden	08/19
Ellie Peterson	08/20
Liam McCarroll	08/22
Dorris Richmond	08/23
Dee Thomas	08/23
Mark Lapham	08/23
Swift Corwin	08/27
Arthur Eldredge	08/27
Sally Steere	08/29
Evan Wagner	08/31
Emily Knarr	08/31

COVID-19 Doesn't Stop the Summer Kids' Snack Bag Program

While the operations at the Peterborough Food Pantry may look different, one thing hasn't changed — our commitment to keeping kids supplied with healthy snacks during these difficult times is still going strong!

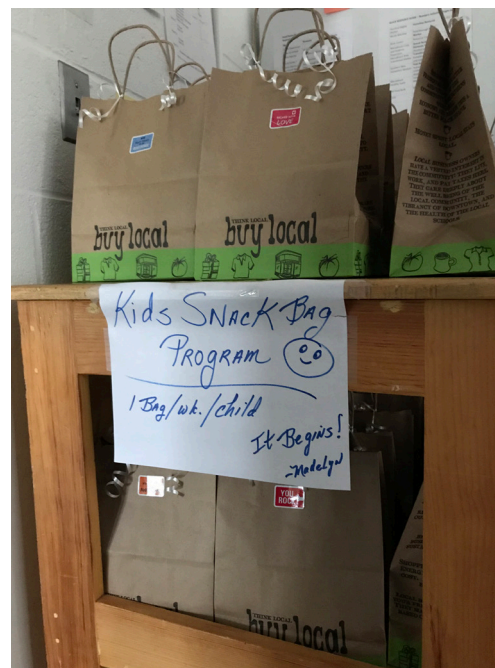
Bags are being made and supplied to our families with much appreciation and while purchasing snacks is still discouraged right now due to isolation techniques required, we encourage All Saints' members who want to support the ongoing effort to send monetary donations by mail to:

**The Peterborough Food Pantry
1 Grove Street
Peterborough, NH 03458**

Let them know you are supporting the **Hungry Students Program**.

Thank you and blessings to each of you this summer as we navigate these days ahead.

~ Madelyn Morris



Safe Church Training

Safe Church is the Episcopal Church's ongoing training to increase awareness of healthy practices and boundaries to enhance the physical, emotional and spiritual safety of our parishes and ministries.

Many of the regulations required for Safe Church have been changed, and are now mandated by the National Church. This was done as part of the 2018 General Convention, and the Bishop of New Hampshire wants the entire diocese in line with the National Church.

All clergy, staff, wardens, vestry, pastoral care volunteers and ALL who work with children and youth, are mandated to attend such training through online modules and participation in a community conversation via a Zoom call. Additional requirements to have a New Hampshire criminal background check and a Secure National background check are in effect for clergy, staff, wardens,

treasurer, pastoral care and all volunteers who work with children and youth.

We are nearly 100% in compliance with participating in the online modules and Zoom conference calls. Our next step is to initiate the criminal background checks.

In reviewing the records, it is clear that a majority of our members attending service and joining in the life of the parish, have participated in some form of Safe Church training over the past fifteen years. While the method of delivering the message has changed as technology has become available, the message remains the same: We are a community of Christians walking the way of love, keeping everyone in the community safe, knowing they are loved, accepted and that they belong.

If you receive a request from the Safe Church Committee, please respond in a timely manner. IT DOES MATTER!

Your Safe Church Committee,
Steve Smilie and Gail Caron

How Can I Keep from Singing?

As you are reading this, three full months have passed since we last gathered as a parish to celebrate the Eucharist. Thirteen Sundays since I looked out on the congregation from the organ bench at All Saints, Peterborough. Thirteen weeks since I have rehearsed and directed the All Saints' Choir.

I sat at the organ for a couple of hours today — practicing for and recording (midweek) the audio service to post on our website for the coming weekend. I am accustomed to spending hours at the organ console — alone — learning new music, bringing staples of my repertoire back to my fingers, adjusting an accompaniment so that I can play the right notes, turn pages, and conduct the choir simultaneously. But my time at the organ is different these days. And, to be sure, my view from the bench has changed.

You've no doubt seen the articles...going to church and group singing are among the riskiest behaviors during a viral pandemic. That's why services at All Saints' have been suspended, of course. The world seems to have 'boiled over' as thousands protest the loss of moral and ethical leadership in the face of our national history of systemic racism. I confess to feeling a certain wistfulness, or perhaps fear, or even anger, that things will never 'be the same' again. And yet...

My wife says that she's noticed me singing to myself all the time. (Apparently my song repertoire is vast — I sing songs I didn't even know I knew as well as many she wishes I didn't know). I don't think I sing to myself all the time because I'm oblivious to all that's going on. I think it's something primal. As one of the verses of the now-famous post-Civil War hymn by Robert Lowry says:

*Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing,
It finds an echo in my soul —
How can I keep from singing?*

From time to time during these past weeks choir members have shared with each other YouTube videos and audio links, mostly choral music, that have touched or amused or amazed, that have made us emotional in some way in this difficult time apart. We're not singing together, so our primary contact has been virtual. I came across a meme (is everything on Pinterest?) that perhaps gives better insight (photo omitted):

*Sometimes it's not the song that makes you emotional.
It's the people and things that come to your mind when
you hear it.*

And so it is. I don't know when, or if, things will get back to 'normal.' But I do know this: I am grateful to have had the opportunity to make music with the dedicated members of the All Saints' Choir for so many years. I treasure each and every one of them as friends and as musicians. I celebrate the chance to have sounded the organ as the members of All Saints' Church raised their voices in song each week, astonished by their joyous singing and the sense of community that singing has brought to our parish. I am so grateful to live in a place where music has been part of the fabric of community life — I couldn't have asked for more.

I have written before about *Akenfield: Portrait of an English Village*, Robert Blythe's 1960s oral history project. The words of Fred Mitchell, one of the project subjects, were memorialized in choral settings by Stephen Sametz and many others. Fred's epitaph (which I hope will be mine someday) captures everything I have been thinking and feeling over these past weeks:

**The singing.
There was so much singing then.
Here I lie:
I have had pleasure enough;
I have had singing.**

E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India*

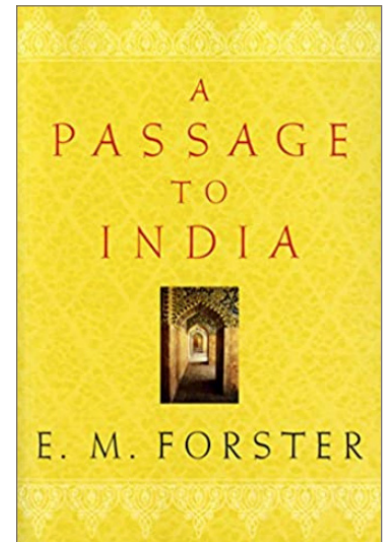
It may be time to renew, or make, an acquaintance with E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India*. Published to universal acclaim in 1924, it portrays the world, or rather worlds, of British India, as seen by educated Indian Muslims, English civil servants, and military officers of various ranks and backgrounds, their wives and daughters, prominent Hindus, ordinary Indians of various castes and occupations, and two English women who have taken “passage to India”, the one to visit her son, the other to decide whether to marry him.

How, you ask, can this possibly be timely? It tells a story set in a vanished time and exotic space; how can it be anything other than escapist reading for us in our present condition, however well written and amusing? It is indeed extraordinarily well written. One beautifully turned sentence follows another, lyrical, savage, philosophical, minutely detailed in turn. There is a story, certainly, which drives our interest, and there is wit, satire, a jaundiced eye at human foibles and obtuseness. With all its lightness of touch, this is one of the great novels.

But this is also a story of human tragedy, in particular the tragedy of race. To be sure the “races” involved are British and Indian, the colonial dynamics are different from the kidnapped-slave dynamics of our own history, but the fear, masked as indifference and hate, supported by the power of the state, of the rulers towards the ruled, are very clearly shown, and may be easier to grasp at one remove from our own situation. The parallel lives of

different societies occupying the same space leads to incomprehension, suspicion, misconstruing of motives, unintended slights, which slide very easily into raw tribal behavior, in which you are either one of Us or you are the Other, and no quarter will be given.

There is plenty of good will in this tale. Few if any characters are completely unsympathetic. The divisions, of race, religion, class, sex, are systemic: they are embedded within the society. The rulers have long ago discovered the possibilities of dividing and conquering; what eludes them is the knowledge of their own diminishment and despair. But in the details, as in the final product, this book contains both compassion and hope. In the messiness of the early twentieth-century British Raj, there can be glimpsed a passage to — India. Let us hope that we can find a passage to a United States of America in the challenge of our present time.





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Our Mission (What we do)

Our mission is to help people grow in their faith and trust in God by helping them recognize their God-given talents and to use them to serve God and their neighbor.

Our Vision (Where we are going)

Our vision is to be a community in which God's love is experienced and shared.



The Messenger

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© Cartoon by Rev. Jay Sidebotham and Church Pension Group

We are so pleased to be back with The Messenger!

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

The submission deadline for the September/October issue is:

Monday, August 10th