

The Messenger

September-October 2020 | Volume XI, Number 3

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

In this issue...

Jamie's Letter	1
Sandi's Corner	2
The Messenger Staff.....	2
All Saints' Vestry.....	2
From the Vestry	
<i>Deb DeCicco</i>	3
"To Serve"	
<i>John Kerrick</i>	3
News & Announcements:	
For Writing	
Out Loud	4
Pandemic	
Journal Entry	
<i>Ivy Freeman</i>	5
Saints' Days	6
Book Note	
<i>Cassius Webb</i>	7
Cartoon.....	8
The Messenger	
Next Submission	
Deadline:	
October 12.....	8
Alma's Poem	8

Dear Parishioners,

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of our own mind." He has a point, but I would challenge him by saying, "Actually, Mr. Emerson, I don't think you have it quite right. Because, you see, nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of our own *stories*." Our stories reveal who we are, how we came to be, what we hope for, and why we love what we love.

I have discovered that the more details we share in the telling of our own stories, the more others can relate, as they find themselves in the reflections of the storytellers. It is a bit counter-intuitive, but true. As we listen closely to others' stories, especially when they reveal the critical details, our own story comes alive, and together, tellers and receivers, we laugh and take delight or mourn and weep. Together, we remember times of insight, struggle, redemption, forgiveness, and love. And together, we feel the grandeur of God's grace and glory and surprise.

As a gift, as Christians, we are invited to tell our story within Jesus' story and to discover the depth of second century Bishop Irenaeus' insight when he said, "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." Indeed, with Jesus at our side, we can trust in humility, hope, abundance, and joy, even in the midst of tragedy and loss. We are alive in the present moment and our response is to be grateful, as we feel the mighty gentle hands of God holding us. Nothing is more real than this.

I know for myself that Jesus' presence in my life is helping me during this pandemic. Granted, some days are better than others, especially when I become overwhelmed by the unknowns. Frankly, I don't like not being in control, at least part of the day. And so, when I am caught up in fear or loss or confusion or doubt, I remember the way Jesus walked through the world — his story of surrender. Dear Lord, grant me a little bit of Jesus' faith and courage; guide me to make his story, my story as well.

During this time of pandemic, fall of 2020, let's tell each other our stories of how we are enduring the unknowns, finding new habits, discovering old friends, learning new things, and listening in deeper ways. I am learning that I am not the Luddite I thought I was. I am probably not going to have my own Instagram account soon, but I have learned how to Zoom, teach others to Zoom, record a video, transfer it to a YouTube channel, maneuver around iMovie, and produce an online church service. Go figure. In doing what I thought was impossible, I am trusting in other impossibilities. Like maybe our nation can end racism. Maybe we are discovering a new way to be a church. Maybe we are realizing the enduring truth of human's purpose, which is to care for each other and for the earth.

What a story that would be — love that knows no borders!

We are reaching out to you, asking for your stories, either by writing, (thank you Ivy Freeman for volunteering to be a collector of these stories), or through photographs and art, or through videos. So take heart. Your story matters and we can hardly wait to experience it.

Blessings abound,

Jamie+

The Messenger STAFF

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

Brad Taylor,
Assistant Editor
(603) 924-6595

Margaret Baker,
Design & Layout

VESTRY

Jack Calhoun,
Senior Warden

Greg Naudascher,
Junior Warden

David Drinkwater,
Treasurer

Deb DeCicco

Heidi Graff

David Jette

John Kerrick

Lora McClintock

Nathaniel Peirce

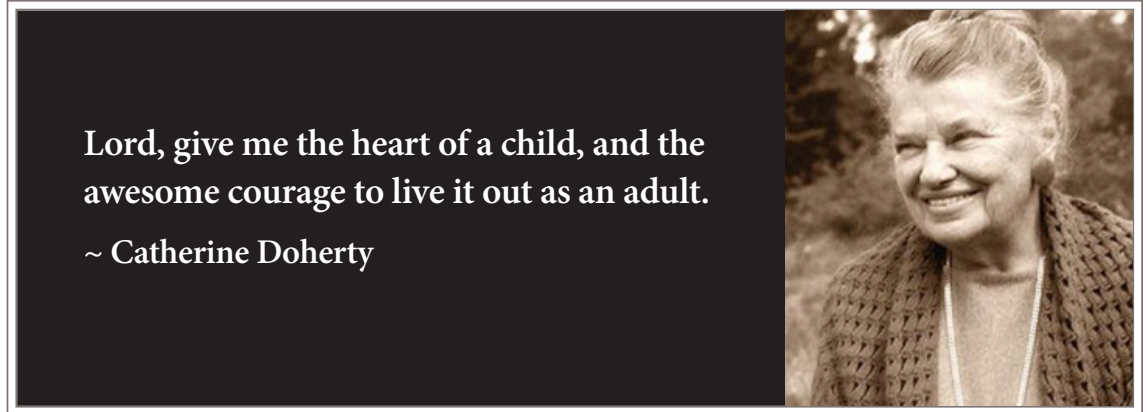
Nina Pollock

Tim Riley

Rick Simpson

SANDI'S CORNER

Rev. Sandi Albom



Catherine Doherty, Russian-Canadian Catholic social worker and founder of the Madonna House Apostolate, a Christian community of lay men, women and clergy, working and praying for peace.

Made for Kids

Lately, Jamie and I have become movie producers. Not quite what I thought I'd be doing as a priest. But I should have known better than to predict what God's plan might be at any given time. And it's been pretty interesting, even exciting and fulfilling to record services and reflections to share with you all. I imagine reaching out into your homes from the screen on your phone or computer. I imagine sitting there with you and your family.

I noticed today I was reviewing all of the videos we have stored on our All Saints' YouTube storage site that each one carries the designation "Made for Children," a label that assures that the content is safe for kids to view as well as adults. But perhaps we might think of that in the reverse.

You may have noticed that I have been reading children's books and posting the videos in *Saints' Alive*. This started as an outreach to families. And it's not unusual for our adult "kids" to express their appreciation for the stories too. At our Live@5 Intergenerational Service we read *What Is Given From The Heart*, by Patricia C. McKissack and April Harrison. On that particular Saturday we didn't have any children worshipping with us. The gathered "grown-ups" engaged in lively reflection on the story and Matthew's telling of the Feeding of the 5,000.

Imagination is not only the possession of the young.

To this day I can still delight in the wonderfully clever Ogden Nash poem, *The Tale of Custard the Dragon*. I have the original volume, now held together with layers of cellophane tape. Custard was a terrible coward, despite being a "really-o, truly-o, little pet dragon," and yet he saved the day from a vicious pirate attack. Courage comes in all forms. Funny how so many books "Made for Children" come with a meaning to which we can all relate.

Is there a book you enjoyed as a child that remains precious to you? Or perhaps one you read to the young people in your family that we might share in a series of video readings? If they speak to you, let them speak to others.

If you're interested in reading a story on video or you'd like to share a book to be read please reach out to me at revsandi@allsaintsnh.org.

As 12-year-old James Otis learns in our latest book reading, "*What is given from the heart, reaches the heart.*"

In Christ's Peace,

Sandi+

From the Vestry



Deb DeCicco

On January 26, we elected the Vestry for All Saints' Church (ASC). We had six weeks of winter services and clearing the drains at the crosswalk on Concord Street (thank you, **Jack!**) and since then, we've been busy working to continue the spiritual and business activities of All Saints' Church in this time of pandemic. Thank you to **Jamie, Sandi, Louise, Jeff and many more** for everything you have done to bring prayers, music, worship, and the knowledge that our campus is still being cared for and is still as lovely as ever. Jamie and all the New Hampshire Clergy meet with Bishop Rob weekly to discuss the many challenges presented at this time.

- Today, **Jamie and Sandi** are working with True North to bring the internet into the church so we can offer a virtual service from the church in the future. They are also exploring using iMovie to record the services for a more "alive" experience with more music, still pictures and different voices. We have established a working group on reopening services, inside, outside, even at Cathedral of the Pines.
- Special thanks to **Louise Howlett** for immediately switching to "Live at Five" for the Rite Now Service via Zoom and to **Sandi** for steadily continuing "Intergenerational Creative Worship."
- **Bible Study** continues on line on Thursdays and Jamie led "Be The Bridge" through All Saints' Café.
- **Marilyn Weir** is offering *EfM* in the Fall. We need three more people for the class to continue. If you are interested please email Marilyn at photos4u@galaxy.net or call the office.
- We've contracted with a consultant to advise us how best to renovate the **Reynolds Hall kitchen**, the next step in the Capital Campaign projects.
- We continue to work with the state, the town and the neighbors on the **drainage issues**.
- We negotiated a contract with **Froling Energy** to replace the faulty boiler in Reynolds Hall.
- **Heidi Graff** and the **Pastoral Care group** established the phone tree to check in on our parish family, bringing prayers, friendship, conversation, and food where needed.
- **David Drinkwater** and the **Finance Committee** applied for and received a Payroll Protection Plan loan/grant in order to continue to employ the ASC staff and they continue to monitor our finances to avoid future problems. Thank you for continuing to send your pledges!
- **Harriet DiCicco** and the **Community Supper team** moved quickly from in-person to curbside pickup during the months before closing for the summer.
- **Greg Naudascher** reports that the **Food Pantry** is going well with many donations both in kind and in cash from ASC, and **Madeline and Nick Morris** continue to lead the Hungry Kids Program.
- We established a relationship with **Avenue A** in Antrim with cash donations and mentoring for their teen program.
- We supported **Kathy Boss** on her path toward ordination.

All of this and more with the help of your prayers, your participation and your pledges. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call any vestry member.

May God bless you now and always,

Deb DeCicco

All Saints' Vestry

To Serve

John Kerrick

FOR MANY YEARS, I have been on the Altar Guild for the Rite Now service. The various tasks before the service comprise a ritual that helps me prepare myself for the service and they serve as small acts of stewardship for the community. My involvement strengthens my commitment to the small group of us at the Rite Now service.

Though I know I am part of the larger All Saints community, I am not as mindful of that as I might be and can be a bit limited in my perspective. This year I am grateful for two reasons to be on the Vestry once again: I am able to understand and serve the larger interests of the parish, and I am able to serve alongside a very capable group of people dedicated to helping the parish flourish.

What a wonderful opportunity!

~ John

You're Invited...

For Writing Out Loud

Reflecting on Our Faith in These Times

Have you been writing and journaling during these past months? At the time she was researching All Saints' beginnings for an article she was writing to celebrate our centennial, Libby Fuller was disappointed to discover the surviving records did not include any personal reflections from the community. In this extraordinary time we are experiencing both as individuals and as a community of faith, we would like to invite you to share your thoughts, poems, and the reflections of your heart. The project will collect submissions with the aim of curating your offerings for the All Saints' community to share.

It is our hope that sharing your reflections will draw us close to each other in new ways. With your permission, we will share selections in *Saints' Alive* and *The Messenger* in the coming weeks and months.

This project is inspired by **Ivy Freeman** who has graciously volunteered to collect our offerings,

(*Thank you, Ivy!*). Ivy would also be delighted to spend time in conversation to gather your verbal reflections.

Should you feel so moved, you may also send in short 3-5 minute video offerings to Rev. Sandi Albom at revsandi@allsaintsnh.org. Or, contact Sandi if you would like assistance with video recording.

We invite your creative suggestions for what name we might call this endeavor. Please send your thoughts to Sandi at revsandi@allsaintsnh.org.

Please send your submissions of up to 700 words by email or first class mail, as follows:

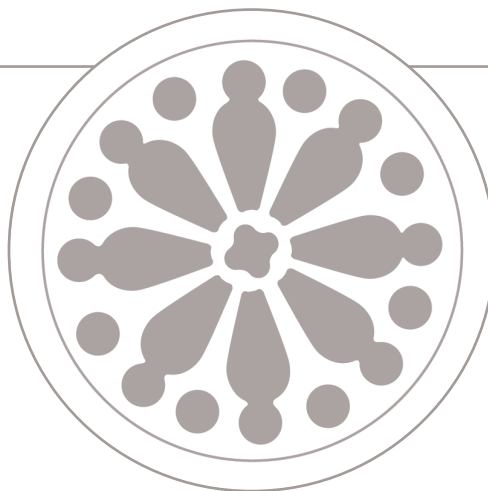
Via email in Word format

Ivy Freeman at britsrus_745@msn.com

Via first class mail

All Saints' Church, Rev. Sandi Albom,
51 Concord Street, Peterborough, NH 03458

We are looking forward to hearing from you!



We thank Ivy Freeman for being the first to submit a journal entry about her experiences during the pandemic.

August 20, 2020

Deborah's Visit

Ivy Freeman

Deborah is here today. On previous visits we have remained outside and followed CDC guidelines to wear face masks and keep to social distancing by staying six feet apart.

Today was too hot to be out on the deck, so after some discussion we came into the house while still conforming to CDC guidelines. We are both nervous about this. Six months of living with this pandemic of COVID-19 and we are still adjusting our lives trying to live safely. When I first learned of the virus I would find myself musing about going on a trip and getting away from it. Then I would remember, this is global. The whole planet is at risk; there is no safe physical place.

Deborah and I had a really nice day. Paul joined us for lunch. I made sausage rolls for Deborah to take home for Jonathan. The day would have rounded out beautifully, had I been able to hug her.

I miss going to church. The restraints on large gatherings affects so much of what we can and cannot do. It was crushing to hear that we could not gather together in the church building. However, Jamie, Sandi and Jeff have put together a beautiful, videoed weekly service that we all can "attend." We're blessed to have such a talented Priest, Priest Associate, and Organist!

Watching the TV news tonight I hear that, as of today, more than 160,000 people have died from this virus and that is just here in our own country. I feel numb when I hear these numbers. I don't know what to do with them.

I am still adjusting to living in this rural setting, though I think I am doing better. I am now actually grateful for the safety of space. I think, though, of those living in crowded conditions in cities where choices are limited and it is impossible to maintain social distancing.

I miss church and the fullness of our lovely liturgy, but having soaked in it for eighty plus years it stays with me wherever I go. I want, though, to be sharing it again in community.

I am finding my relationship with God is changing during this enforced period of living in this location. There is no escape from its beauty!

Creation is a love letter.

I want to write about this sometime.

Ivy

“The day would have rounded out beautifully, had I been able to hug her.”

Saints' Days

September

Barbara Johnson	09/02
Paul Achterhof	09/04
Bradley Wuorinen	09/07
Shirley Wamser	09/10
Lillian Carter	09/11
Susan Tavernier	09/11
Gardner Mundy	09/13
Jamie Hamilton	09/13
Michelle Tourgee	09/14
Isabel Badrawy	09/15
Lynne Betz	09/15
Nathaniel Manns	09/16
Marilyn Weir	09/17
Kathy Boss	09/21
Wendy Pierrepont White	09/23
Nora Ramey	09/23
Gary Longman	09/25
Elizabeth Tong	09/25
Gordon Estabrook Jr.	09/26
Nina Pollock	09/27
Sandi Albom	09/28
Paul Finch	09/28
Patricia Wheeler	09/28
Audrey White	09/28
Ann Fitzgerald	09/29
Seth Coon	09/30

October

Ted McLaughlin	10/01
Otto McLaughlin	10/01
Berkley Bates	10/02
Bruce Larsen	10/02
Barbara Coffin	10/03
Daniel Scheerer	10/05
Judy Vance	10/06
Max McCarroll	10/09
Kaileigh Row	10/10
Fern Corwin	10/10
Connie Oliver	10/12
Alma Ruth	10/14
Ann Conway	10/14
William Ricaurte	10/15
Gail Novotny	10/16
Joseph Hale	10/17
Linda Walsh	10/18
Heidi Graff	10/18

🌿 If you don't see your name here, or if you see a name in error, please contact Gail Caron at (603) 924-3202 or admin@allsaintsnh.org.



Happy Birthday!

**To our Reverend Jamie and our Priest Associate Sandi
— we celebrate you and all that you bring
to our congregation and beyond!**

My Soul in Silence Waits: *Meditations on Psalm 62*

by Margaret Guenther

Living in this moment, fraught with not only coronavirus worry but also roiling dissatisfaction with our institutions, it is easy to forget the monumental changes that have occurred in our world since 2000. I recently came across this sentence:

Long after the bombing of the World Trade Center and reports of the plot to blow up the Lincoln Tunnel under the Hudson, I find that I try to blot those memories from my mind when I must be in similar places that are ideal targets for impersonal rage.

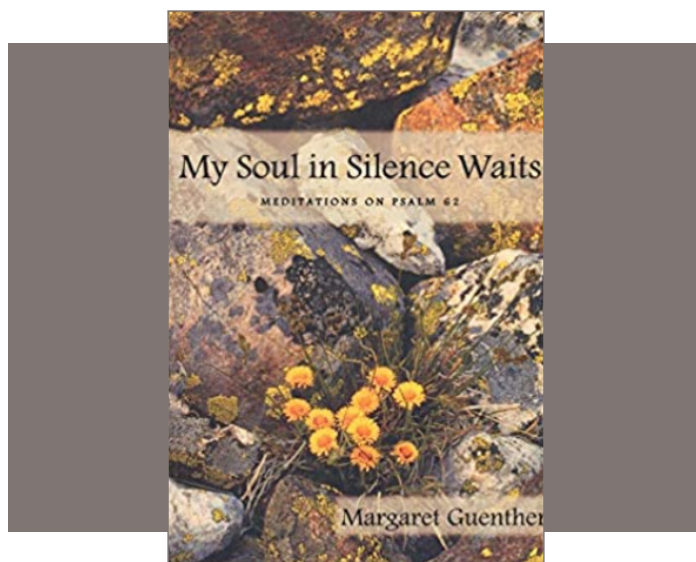
It is from *My Soul in Silence Waits: Meditations on Psalm 62* by Margaret Guenther, late director of the Center for Christian Spirituality at General Seminary (Cowley Publications, 2000; p.96). This is from a chapter on “Refuge,” which takes as its starting point the verses of the Psalm that read:

[God is] my stronghold, so that I shall not be greatly shaken. Put your trust in him always, O people, pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

The author describes our longing for security and the ultimate futility of our efforts to provide it for ourselves. All true: but what caught my attention was the reference to the World Trade Center in a book published in 2000.

Then I realized that she was referring to the 1993 detonation of a bomb in the garage *under* the WTC: Guenther had not yet experienced “9/11” and all that ensued from that epochal event, which undermined and transformed our sense of safety as Americans. And yet, though it may seem as though the world is utterly changed, this chapter, and this book, can still be read with profit for its wisdom, awareness of our eagerness to deceive ourselves, and relaxed but compelling summons to us to take our quiet, our meditation, our intentional presence with God where we can find it.

In fact, this book seems especially timely when our opportunities for worship together are severely limited, though our computer screens do their best to help out.



And so, the author invites us to make some retreat time, in whatever form it can take, using the ancient practice of ruminating on a psalm to explore our relationship to God, to other people, and to creation. The richness and variety of experience called forth in just Psalm 62 (“In God alone my soul in silence waits...”) is presented in a way that evokes, rather than exhausts, its meaning. And at the end of each chapter there are a few questions we can ponder to go more deeply into the mystery of our being and God’s love and care. There is even a chapter on “Enemies”, particularly helpful in praying with ancient poems, full-throated and unabashed in their assumption that they live in a hostile world and they know at least some of the forces and individuals who make it so!

This is a small (139 pages), attractively presented and easily read product of the Cloister Books imprint of Cowley Publications. Non-Episcopalians might be slightly mystified by some of the references to our liturgy, but this is a sane, interesting presentation of one of the jewels of Scripture. It will prove a Godsend in these cramped and bitter times.

Cassius



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

Priest Associate: Rev. Sandi Albom, revsandi@allsaintsnh.org

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

Ministries Coordinator: Gail Caron, admin@allsaintsnh.org

Projects 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.

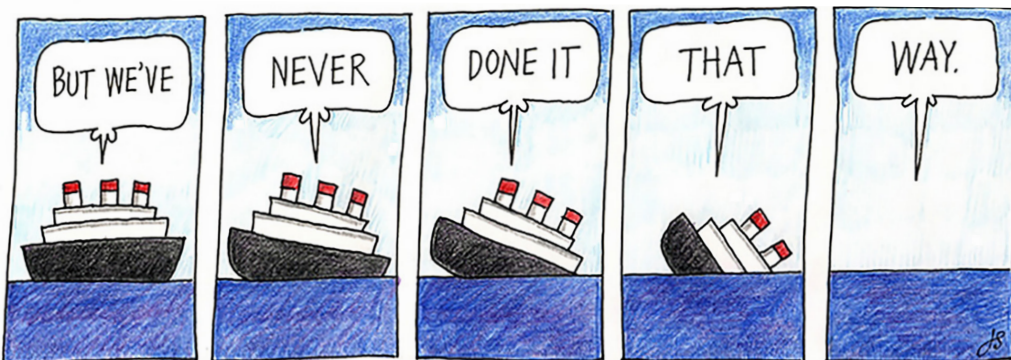
Our Vision (Where we are going)

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



The Messenger

September-October 2020 | Volume XI, Number 3



© Cartoon by Rev. Jay Sidebotham and Church Pension Group

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

The submission deadline for the next issue is Monday, October 12

Alma's Poem

"Wherefore comfort one another as ever you also do and build up one another."

~ Thessalonians 5:11

Yes, the Bible says it all;

Let's listen to the call.

Comfort those who feel cast down

For your smile may replace their frown.

Show you are with them in their sorrow

And believe in a happy tomorrow.

Show how much you care

And keep them in your prayers.

Love,

Alma