



The Messenger

December/January 2020-2021 | Volume XI, Number 5

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

In this issue...

Jamie's Letter	1
Sandi's Corner.....	2
<i>The Messenger Staff</i>	2
All Saints' Vestry.....	2
From the Vestry <i>Heidi Graff</i>	3
News & Announcements: Ministry Updates to the Vestry.....	4
For Writing Out Loud: Suggestions for Our Pandemic Reflections <i>Ivy Freeman</i>	5
Alma's Poem.....	5
Pandemic Reflection <i>Paul Freeman</i>	6
Pandemic Reflection <i>Gretchen Rae</i>	7
View from the Bench <i>Jeff Fuller</i>	7
<i>The Messenger</i> February/March Issue Deadline: January 19.....	8
Book Note <i>Cassius Webb</i>	9
December 2020 & January 2021 Saints' Days	10

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to the blessed season of Advent, as we raise our hands to the heavens giving thanks for each precious moment, while we wait for the birth of the Living Lord. *Time* is such a strange thing within our COVID lives. I still need to check my calendar to remember what day it is, as I can't rely on years of past patterns, routines, or habits, and it's disorienting, as well as exhausting. I'm preaching in a mostly empty church through a recorded Wednesday service for Sunday's worship; we're saying goodbye to Rev. Sandi in a virtual platform; family and friend gatherings are no longer centered at a shared table; and my capacity to stay pastorally connected to you depends on solitary time in front of my MacBook Air, as I learn the intricacies of iMovie. So much of this is counter-intuitive, bewildering, and wearying.

Yet, Bishop Rob inspires us to look for the "shoot that shall come out from the stump of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of it" (Isaiah 11:1). God is with us in the stump. We pray in the wondering of where we are, how we got here, and where we are going. We embrace Jesus' story, a journey full of endings. And he was not afraid. We pray that we too will not be afraid.

"Do not call to mind the former things; pay no attention to the things of old.

Behold, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming.

Do you not see it?" ~ ISAIAH 43:18-19

In the shadows and in the shelter, in the exile of the wilderness, in a kind word and the rising star, in the sweet sounds of morning songbirds, and in our vivid stories of love and need, we are travelling with Jesus, a journey full of intimacy, advent waiting, and urgency... yet, with steps grounded in joy. We cannot forget that Jesus was full of laughter with light in his eyes. (So much like Archbishop Tutu, Presiding Bishop Curry, and the Dalai Lama), even amid cruelty, anxiety, and not knowing what will be next.

Jesus went about his business being present to the moments of our living. He turned water into wine, cooked breakfast on a beach, and stripped down to his underwear to wash feet. We are with Jesus in all these acts which are as real today as they were then. Jesus parties, cooks, and serves, even within the principalities of violence and death... and resurrection!

Even though our church is closed, our doors of faith are flung open. Here are some of the new things I see:

None of us will take for granted the capacity to give and receive a hug. We miss touch, yet we are finding creative ways to reach out. We are more sensitive to those who are isolated, as we pay closer attention to the needs of our community. We miss making a joyful noise to the Lord, yet we persist in finding new ways to sing and worship. We wear our intercessory prayers on our hearts. We share our tears of vulnerability more freely. We are filled with gratitude for the small miracles of a walk in the woods, homemade soup, and prayers on Zoom. Time, treasure, and talents take on new meaning as we commit to keeping our church family together despite the distance, the masks, the rising cases, and the fear.

We are walking with Jesus, and we are partying, cooking, and serving in new ways. We trust that God is shaping us in this Advent waiting, and this *Time* is strengthening our bonds as the people of God.

May you and your family have a safe, beautiful, and blessed Advent and Christmas.

With much hope,

Jamie+

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

A Farewell Message

In September of 2016, I reached out to Bishop Rob and the Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson asking if there might be a church in the diocese that would be willing to welcome a seminarian as an intern. Hannah+ offered me two parishes to consider, St. Matthew's in Goffstown and All Saints'. Both would have been good places to be. The Rev. Celeste Hemmingson was serving in Goffstown as interim rector at the time and would have been an amazing mentor, (as she is to me today), but at that time in my formation, I wanted to be in a church with a settled pastor. Hannah+ suggested I might consider All Saints' in Peterborough. She told me that if I was willing to drive an hour from where I lived in Hooksett, it would be well worth my time.

A few years earlier I had served as a convention delegate from Grace Church in Manchester and I had traveled to All Saints' for a Southern Convocation meeting. It was on a Tuesday night, and all had been invited to share a meal at the Community Supper. I was so impressed, not only by the amazing soup, but by the easy familiarity and welcoming atmosphere of the gathered community. Celeste+ was here with you then. She gave us a tour of the church, and I was thoroughly enchanted! I came away from that night with such a positive feeling about All Saints' that I barely gave it a second thought before jumping at the opportunity to be with you all as your intern.

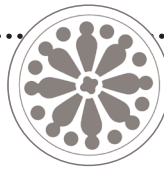
In my four years at All Saints' I continued to marvel at all the ways this congregation reaches out beyond the walls of the Stone Church and Reynolds Hall, and now beyond the very boundaries of the virtual world to be the Body of Christ in the greater Monadnock community. All of the ways I have witnessed you caring for each other, in actions large and small, is just extraordinary. And I will not be exaggerating one bit when I say that, even as I have been fortunate to have some truly talented mentors in my life, there has been no one as talented, wise, intuitive, compassionate, genuine and totally selfless as our rector, Jamie Hamilton. In all ways, dear ones, I have been so very blessed in abiding with you, and you with me.

By the time this newsletter is published, Bob and I will have taken our leave, and we will be in western Massachusetts with the community of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, East Longmeadow. Both here and there, we all will be in the midst of a blessed Advent that is unlike so many others we have experienced in the past. We may be parted from our loved ones in ways that leave us longing for other times when we could more freely embrace. But we know that even as we wait in darkness, the Light is growing in our hearts, God's presence draws near, and the blessed sweet anticipation of the coming of Emmanuel assures us that we will not, cannot, be separated from the love of God and the love we share with each other.

God bless you and keep you, dear people of All Saints', until we meet again —

Sandi+

From the Vestry



Heidi Graff, Vestry Member

Greetings from the Vestry! We just had our 7th Vestry meeting via Zoom! We have been meeting this way monthly since April, except in the month of August when we routinely take a break. I think I speak for the whole Vestry when I say I truly miss meeting in person, but I feel so grateful for the technology that allows us to continue to connect and tend to the business of the church.

Here is an update on our current work:

- We are currently seeking bids for the kitchen renovation. Stay tuned for an update on this exciting project!
- The Stewardship Committee is working to secure pledges for 2021. I hope you were able to view the uplifting Ingathering video *Our Stories of Faith*. If not, you can view it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDbIHUYUQcZE&feature=youtu.be> We are most grateful for your pledges as they allow us to budget effectively. If you have not yet made your pledge, we encourage you to do so by calling the church office. Thank you.
- We have recently added an item to our agenda called “Ministry Update”.
- In October we heard from Nina Pollock about the Prayer Ministry — a group of six individuals meets once a week to pray for the needs of our church community. Please contact the church office with your prayer requests.
- In November, Harriet DiCicco and Lynn Griffith provided an overview of Community Supper. While this ministry is on hiatus during the pandemic, there is great energy and enthusiasm for resuming this ministry of faith when it is safe to do so. There is also great excitement about the positive impact the kitchen renovations will have on preparing meals for up to 60 guests!
- In December, I will provide an update on the Pastoral Care Ministry. The members of this ministry are always eager to lend a helping hand in times of need and in times of joy. Please contact the church office if you are aware of any needs.
- Sandi has delivered Advent boxes to all our church families with young children. The boxes contain: an Advent devotional book; an Advent calendar; Thanksgiving color pages and activities and a Nativity shadow box theater.

We are brainstorming ways to make our Annual Meeting a meaningful virtual experience. We know it will surely be different from meeting in person, but we are all putting our heads together to devise the best plan that we can. Stay tuned for more information!

Heidi

Ministry Updates to the Vestry

As Heidi mentioned in her Vestry report, the Vestry is inviting leaders from our various ministries to share their experiences. The expectation is that as the Vestry learns about the work of our ministries, it will develop a fuller appreciation of the role of our ministries, how they animate the life of the parish and share our journey of faith.

Our Community Supper

On Tuesday, November 10th, Harriet DiCicco and Lynn Griffith joined the Vestry meeting to discuss Community Supper. Here are some highlights of their report to the Vestry.

Harriet and Lynn began by offering a broader view of how *Community Supper is a ministry of our faith*. They emphasized that the important word in this ministry is *Community*. Yes, the food is important and has to be nutritional and plentiful and good. Yes, physical and financial needs are being met for those who are food insecure. However, we are also dealing with hunger in a broader sense — offering food for the soul:

For those who are lonely,

For those who feel isolated,

For those who might feel marginalized and seen as ‘less than’ in our society.

Fourteen years ago when Ivy Vann started this ministry, she worked to create the intention of welcoming folks into our home, not serving an institutional meal. We uphold those traditions; while we involve approximately 12 volunteers each week and serve 45 to 60 meals, *Community Supper welcomes everyone to ‘our table’ and ‘our home.’*

The Goal: To increase our number of guests each week

Toward that end, new approaches are underway:

- **Different vehicles for publicizing** our supper
- **Flexibility in the menu** and varying the menu for holidays
- **Increasing interactions between guests** — extending the hours of the Supper with activities after supper such as cards, crafts for kids and guests, singalongs, Bingo. Perhaps serving coffee and tea to encourage guests to visit longer.
- Exploring how **guests and parishioners might like to participate** in the workings of the Supper — contributing soup recipes and centerpieces, or joining the team of volunteers.
- **Extending the calendar of the Supper** so that it includes more months of the year — school vacations, summer months.

Harriet and Lynn are missing this ministry and look forward to having it start up again!

Suggestions for Our Pandemic Reflections

Ivy Freeman

A hundred years from now will the All Saintsers who follow us be amused by our love affair with Zoom, to them an antiquated method of communication, compared to their holograms?

The pandemic reflections we share will be part of an All Saints' historical document bringing those future saints into our current situation in a way that no traditional history book can do. If you are wanting to write, but finding it difficult to get started, here are a few suggestions:

- How has Zoom helped you cope with the isolation of sheltering in place, brought church to you, enabled you to share in family events, birthdays, the Holidays, graduations, etc.?
- How have you been affected by wearing a mask, safe distancing, sheltering in place?
- With extra time at home how did you use that time? Did you find a new interest or skill? Read that book that's been calling to you? Sort through the box that's been sitting in the basement since you moved — (that's me!)?
- How did you spend Thanksgiving? Christmas? New Year's Eve?
- Have you surprised yourself in some way?
- Have you found more time for spiritual reading and prayer?
- Or perhaps followed online meditation with Richard Rohr or other spiritual guides?
- How has all of this impacted your spiritual life? Have you been challenged and has your faith been deepened by the challenges?

When Libby Fuller heard about this project she wrote to me. Some time ago Libby was tasked to write the history of All Saints' for the 100th anniversary of the founding of the church. Libby was excited about the possible insights into a period of time that included The Great Depression, the Flood of 1938, and WWII. There were vestry minutes to read through and church financial reports, but very little that spoke to the history of the time. Libby concluded with: "When trying to understand history it is so important to include the kinds of things people write about in journals, etc."

I am looking forward to reading all of your reflections! Send them to me at britsrus_745@msn.com.

If you would like to write your story about this time but have no access to a computer or for some other reason are unable to write, please ask a friend or family member to email me on your behalf.

Ivy

Alma's Poem

Come Near to God and He Will Come Near to You

~ JAMES 4:8

There's a lot in life that makes us fear
 But when knowing God is near
 Our fears will disappear.
 Scripture makes it clear
 To God we are very dear.
 His love is stronger than fear,
 So Christian, keep going on and persevere.

Alma

Pandemic Reflection

Paul Freeman, Parishioner

I wake up in the dark, it's 2:30am...

I reach for my phone, immediately finding the familiar colored state maps and the increasing counts. How can this be our reality?

Why is my throat scratchy? I feel like I have a bit of a sniffle. Could this be it? Am I just paranoid? Do I have Covid? I'll make Mum and Becky sick! We have tried so hard to do everything right! I am supposed to protect my family! I could end up on a ventilator. What's that like, struggling to breathe, it must be terrifying!?

I look back to my phone for distraction, but all that catches my eye are dire predictions. I try to imagine Americans wearing masks on the streets. Will people wear them? How will we react to millions sick and hundreds of thousands dead? Most of us have not faced a crisis like this in our lifetimes. Will we handle it well?

An interesting thing has happened...

Mum comes over Sunday mornings and we stream church together. I realized I was hearing readings and stories that I had not heard in years. I have tended to drop out of church when choir ends. Each summer telling myself I will go to church more, but then I let the warm days and long lists seduce me into staying home in our shortest New England season. But "going to church" wearing pajamas and drinking coffee has resulted in my best Pentecost attendance ever! The simplicity and easy access to church has increased my engagement with God.

I wake up in the dark, it's 3:30am...

I reach for my phone, immediately finding the familiar red and blue maps and the increasing counts. But this morning is different. I hesitate... I'm dreading what I might read, but I have to know what's next... who won the election?

It is so strange to see the church this way...

I am here to record Advent music. The church feels empty with the chairs stacked against the walls, but the chandeliers and stained-glass windows add color, highlighting the simple beauty of stone and timber, much like the unadorned, streamed services wrapped around our beautiful liturgy.

In the center of the Crossing three chairs face each other surrounding a tripod, Jeff's phone clasped at the top. I find

myself strangely comforted and grateful for the absence of empty rows of chairs facing a flower-less altar. The church is not in hibernation, it remains our center, and like us it has adapted. It remains our anchor, tethering us with digital lifelines. This gets me thinking about the early Christians, hidden from the population in small groups, desperately seeking the word of God and eager to share with each other. The fear of death is all around them with a government uninterested in protecting them.

When the pandemic began a Muslim friend of mine asked how our church was adapting to life in a pandemic. I told him how we were gathering on Zoom and streaming services into our homes. That the church had not been brought to its knees, but dispersed across our communities, thriving in adversity. He laughed at the irony of the "devil's work" backfiring. I have grown close to this man and learned much about his faith. I admire his humility and kindness, and as Bishop Curry teaches us, we share the simple truth: "Love is the Way."

Making lemonade...

Part of me enjoys the reduced social obligations and the need to stay home. I get Becky all to myself! Almost 6 years ago we moved to Lyndeborough; we got engaged on New Year's Day, 2015. But a series of family crises interfered with our plans and the effort to put together a wedding became overwhelming.

Isolating gave us ample opportunity to improve our relationship. Using virtual counseling, honesty, prayer and so much time alone we have grown closer, kinder and more creative in how we spend time with each other. We have decided to marry on New Year's Eve! A simple intimate service, mandated to a limit of 10 people, focused on the ceremony. We are choosing the last day of 2020 to close out the year with hope, a celebration of life, and a refusal to give in to fear.

I wake up in the dark, it's 4:30am...

I reach for my phone, immediately finding my prayer list and my kindle app. I think of my friend, Mohamed, praying before dawn every morning. I begin; "Our father..."

Paul

Pandemic Reflection

Gretchen Rae, ASC Projects Coordinator

It seems that whenever something substantial in my farm life happens, I feel as though my feelings go “soul-deep.” And, when something goes soul-deep for me, I feel alive as I find meaning in my life. The mixing of my thoughts and feelings during these times allows for an altered state of being, at least for a few days, and I am reminded of the gift of life.

Some of you know that I take in wild mustang horses and burros from the western states, and either I train them for myself or get them healthy to “rehome” them to new owners. Anyone who knows anything about animal care, especially horses, knows that this is never a cheap nor a light-hearted endeavor.

My little mustang pony Billy came to my farm one year ago last October. He was listed for free on Craig’s List, as a “wild, non-haltered, untouchable” pony who needed to find a new owner ASAP. Most horses in this predicament end up on an auction block for people with no wild horse experience, or worse, on a meat truck bound for slaughter in Canada or Mexico. There are hundreds if not thousands of these horses listed daily in this country, with a very tiny percent getting a second chance at a safe life.

Something about this little guy spoke to me; I couldn’t leave without him. He feared his own shadow and blew a snort to signal... stay away, yet there was a twinkle in his big, brown, kind eyes that spoke volumes to me. I didn’t know it at the

time, but this was Billy’s first move into my heart. I didn’t have barn space for him heading into winter, so I tasked myself to “gentling” him in 30 days to rehome him before snow fell.

Well, very long story short, my 30-day horse turned into my 365-day horse. Billy was a pony sized scaredy-cat. The wind couldn’t blow without him quaking. I knew at our first training session together, he was not going to be a horse to trust humans in 30 days. Just getting a halter on him became a 6-month journey. Yet honestly, Billy taught me in those 6 months to listen deeply for what another creature needs. He taught me to ask first, to listen for a response, and to wait for an answer, all done without words. I was constantly reminded to pay attention to my energy and my breathing and my movement. Whatever trust I was teaching him was far outweighed by his gifts to me.

So grateful was I when a perfect home for Billy recently landed in my lap. I trailered him north to Sebago Lake, Maine, and I said good-bye to my friend who taught me so much about myself- especially how to stay resilient and steady in crazy times and to breathe my way through frightening things. My little scaredy-cat pony walked off the trailer after a 3-hour ride, with his lead in my hand like he was heading the parade. We walked side-by-side to his new paddock, and as I turned to leave, I fell apart. I was so sad to be saying good-bye, yet so happy for our accomplishment. Neither one of us, no matter what, gave up on the other. A healing of sorts; animals do that to your soul.

Gretchen

VIEW FROM THE BENCH

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist & Choirmaster

It’s Not Too Late to Hear the Advent Lections — *Again or for the first time!*

A Service of Lessons and Carols for the Advent Season

Have you missed the opportunity to hear the Advent Lections? To mark the beginning of the season of Advent, members of the All Saints’ Choir along with the Clergy in the Parish presented a service of Advent Lessons and Carols based on the Great ‘O’ Antiphons. Posted to YouTube on November 29, The Advent Lections is still available and will be available to

watch until Christmas. Just go to the landing page of the All Saints’ website (allsaintsnh.org). A link to the YouTube video sits right below the rotating pictures at the top of the page. There is also a link to a service leaflet to help you follow along, and to provide you additional information and program notes. *Enjoy!*



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

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 to recognize their God-given talents and 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

December 2020/January 2021 | Volume XI, Number 5

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

The submission deadline for the February/March issue is January 19, 2021.



**Our Heartfelt Thanks
to Jeff and the Choir
for offering the musical gift
of the Advent Lections!**

Jesus of Arabia: Christ through Middle Eastern Eyes

Reverend Canon Andrew Thompson

Jesus of Arabia: Christ through Middle Eastern Eyes was written by the Reverend Canon Andrew Thompson, a priest of the Church of England who has spent most of his ministry in the Middle East, including the Gulf States, where it was first published in 2014 to provide better understanding between local Muslims and Christians. Recognising that it would benefit a wider audience, it was republished by Rowan & Littlefield with a new introduction by the author in 2018.

Now, Canon Thompson is an Englishman, and does not look through Middle Eastern eyes. Presumably his wife, Navina, does. And he has surrounded himself with others who do, and who are willing to share their perspectives on Jesus, not only from the vantage point of the Qur'an and other Islamic writings, but also from that of the ancient Churches of the East, and from contemporary experience. The results are fascinating and often unexpected.

The organisation of the book is in itself suggestive. The author has observed that there are four general impressions that Westerners have of the difference between Arabs and themselves. One is that of the family, with the related themes of hospitality and the sense of family or tribal honour. A second contrast is the function of religion in the life of the society and its members. The third is women and how they are treated. And the fourth is the rôle of language. The main part of the book is divided into these four sections, with three subsidiary themes in each. In the "family" section, for example, after a general overview in which the family of Jesus is discussed within Muslim and Christian frameworks (including the acceptance by Islam of the Virgin Birth, though not of the designation of Jesus as Son of God), there are chapters on the camel; the majlis or meeting room in the front of a house; and weddings. The camel? you ask. Well, camels are held in great affection by those who have them, and are in themselves remarkable creations of God. Their adaptations for survival are discussed and admired. But they are not good at going through the eye of a needle, and it is the saying comparing that with the difficulty of rich people getting into the Kingdom of Heaven that Arabic hearers find scandalous. Thompson

poses this to them, and the ensuing discussion sucks us right in.

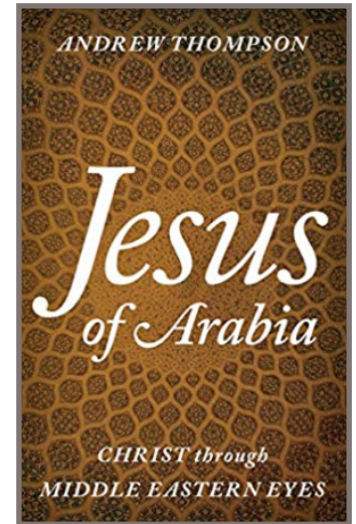
And so it goes with the other chapters. The majlis chapter discusses the perils of putting yourself nearer to the host than you have a right to. The wedding chapter displays the deep shock occasioned by the insulting behaviour of invited guests who refuse to come to the feast. Many aspects of Middle Eastern culture, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, find a place in the rest of the book.

At the end, in a section somewhat misleadingly called "Appendices", there are discussions of the thorniest disagreements between Muslims and Christians about Christ and the New Testament, such as the supposed corruption of Christian Scripture and what happened at the Crucifixion of Jesus.

Canon Thompson confronts the obvious questions: how is he qualified to speak on such a subject? Is he aware that Palestine is not Arabia? Isn't there a difference between the Middle East now and the same region two millennia ago? To my mind, he establishes this work very satisfactorily as one that enables us to look at the Gospels with the excitement of a fresh, more culturally aware perspective.

This is a fine book that deserves better editing and proofreading. It abounds, sad to say, in omitted or reduplicated words, lapses in punctuation, and other errors. I may be fussy, but when a footnote cites simply "Corinthians," I would like to know which one! But *Jesus of Arabia* is worth a few irritations along the way.

Cassius





December & January SAINTS' DAYS

DECEMBER 2020

William Raymond	12/01
Janet Fiedler	12/03
Christine Howe	12/06
Lily Bell	12/07
Robert Kennedy	12/09
Hadley Bates	12/09
Christopher Conway	12/10
Max Scheinblum	12/11
John Calhoun	12/12
Martha Manley	12/12
David MacMillin	12/13
Becky Hudson	12/15
Catherine Cauthorne	12/16
Caroline Sarles	12/17
Matthew Belliveau-Ryan	12/17
Michael Carter	12/17
Molly Badrawy	12/19
Sarah Kendall	12/20
Carl Wagner Jr.	12/20
Kate Coon	12/21
Sanford Johnson	12/26
Lois Walen	12/27
Joan Jansen	12/29
Gretchen Mayhew	12/29

JANUARY 2021

Andrew Goss	01/01
Emily Wuorinen	01/04
Ryan Betz	01/05
Beth Krommes	01/06
David Rowell	01/06
Tommy Goodwin	01/06
Cindy Stoss	01/07
Mary MacMillin	01/07
Lilianne Tullio	01/07
Megan Graff	01/08
Charles Richmond	01/08
Christine Kelly	01/09
Stephen DiCicco	01/11
Susan Sarles	01/12
Robert Morris	01/13
Emily Manns	01/14
Joelle Mancini	01/16
Gordon Brown	01/16
Martha Raymond	01/17
Susan Gill	01/18
Gretchen Rae	01/18
Tere Andersen	01/18
Rick Simpson	01/18