

The Messenger

May/June 2021 | Volume XII, Number 3

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

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Dear Parishioners,

As we delight in Easter joy, let me share this poem, "Be Here," as a bridge from Lent into Eastertide:

Lord, be here in our
suffering and in our joy,
But mostly in the hidden places,
our denials, our withholding,
grief.

Help us to move beyond
the dark places
into the light of possibilities
You carved upon our souls
when we were but
dreams within your being.

You are the ancient heart
of our becoming live.
For this we rejoice
and pray.

— *Hymns of the Earth*, written by Robin Izer

Becoming live! As we held our Easter service on the lawn, with folks crossing the street out of a full parking lot, with chairs and blankets and masks, snacks for "our kids" in our community, pledges, Easter offerings, and children playing, we were coming out of our hidden places of this past year of grief, separation, denial, confusion, and fear. Together, we lifted the host over the altar as witness to the Resurrection — our rising by Christ, with Christ, and in Christ. We celebrated communion after a year+ of fasting from sharing in the Eucharist, all in the name of love to keep each other and all in our community safe.

These acts of "careful" love were so strangely counter-intuitive, and yet through all these dark places, the Light of Christ never dimmed, leading us to places of hope and life, empowering us to live as prayers of thanksgiving. Alleluia!

As we transition into this hybrid time of in-person worship, Zoom services, face-to-face meetings, public places slowly opening, we also keep those who struggle in our hearts and in our prayers: those vulnerable to the virus, those besieged economically, those fighting off depression and fear, those overwhelmed by racial injustice, and those mourning the loss of their loved ones. If last year has taught us anything, it is to know that we are of one flesh. This is good news, stunningly so! Together, as we serve in the Spirit of Love, we show the world the power of the Resurrection.

With gratitude for you and for our shared faith,

Jamie+

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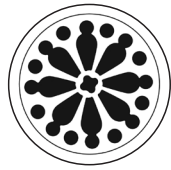
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From the Vestry

John Kerrick, Vestry Member

I hope that by the time this is published, many of us will have celebrated Easter together in the courtyard. Even if that service did not come to be, I think we can be grateful for how vibrant our community of faith continues to be despite the constraints of Covid. The Knitting Ministry represents this vibrancy well.

At the March Vestry meeting Gail Caron, Betsy Chapman, and Nancy Drogy of the eighteen-member Knitting Ministry shared their perspective on and experience in the ministry. Their mission is “to use the bounty of our hands to bring joy and comfort to others.” While they knit, they pray for the recipient. They make shawls, baby blankets, lap robes, and scarves for whoever needs one; the recipient need not be an All Saints’ parishioner. They also make hats and mittens for elementary school children, hats for newborns, and hats for people using the food pantry.

They find great satisfaction in their fellowship and in their service to others. They feel that their job is to make the items, and it is God’s job to get them where they need to go. They are delighted and grateful when they hear from the recipients of their handiwork, as it gives them a sense of how their ministry is experienced.

This morning I read a *New York Times* article about a course on happiness given at Yale in 2018. It became one of the most popular courses in the university’s 320-year history and was made into an online course. To date 3.3 million people have taken the course. What does the course say about the factors critical to happiness? They are surprisingly simple: getting sufficient rest, expressing gratitude, and helping others. I am not surprised that the members of the Knitting Ministry are a happy lot.

At our March meeting two other significant topics were parish finances and the kitchen renovation. Due to Covid we have little plate income and no income from the Serendipity Shop. Jamie and others are exploring possibilities for the future of the shop. Greg Naudascher and his team have done a superb job moving the kitchen project along, and construction is not far off.

May you sleep well, be grateful, and help others.

~ *John*

Avenue A, A Place for Teens: *Volunteers Needed!*

Avenue A, a program of the Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center, provides a place for teens throughout the Monadnock Region to thrive through out-of-school enrichment programs. If you are interested in becoming a part of this exciting ministry, spending time with teenagers encouraging their creative expression, social development, wellness, and career skill building, please call the church office or email Jamie at revjamie@allsaintsnh.org.

As things slowly open back up, here are some of the possible volunteer opportunities:

- **Volunteers to lead one-off art workshops** on Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30pm or 6 to 8pm as part of Avenue A's "Art at the Avenue" workshop series.
- **Volunteers to lead any program related to music** — this has been a big request from the teens! The teens are interested in learning and practicing instruments and singing. Avenue A has drums, guitars, a piano/keyboard, and ukuleles.
- **Volunteers to help chaperone social programs** (like summer campfire time or our Wednesday evening pool group). These are opportunities for teens to connect without a specific structured activity.
- **Volunteers to help with a poetry reading/open mic poetry event.**
- **Volunteers who like baking** — the virtual baking corp is on break this month, but there is hope to start it back up by summer!




AVENUE A TEEN + COMMUNITY CENTER

A Program of the Grapevine Family & Community Center

42 Main Street, Antrim, NH 03440

(603) 588-2620

avenuea@grapevინeh.org

 Don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or suggestions. Parishioners Marcy Pope, Mark Hatch, and Harriet DiCicco would be happy to share with you their experiences of volunteering.

All Saints' Archives

Ivy Freeman, Parishioner

Thank you to all who have submitted Pandemic Reflections to become a part of our church history. It is wonderful to read the different ways in which parishioners are experiencing this extraordinary time. Please keep them coming. (I do hope someone will write about Easter Sunday, which was so joyous!)

Have our spiritual journeys been challenged, deepened? ...in what ways?

Send your reflection, journal entry, essay, or poetry to me at britsrus_745@msn.com.

Thank you!

~ Ivy

Alma's Poem

*"The Lord is my strength and my shield.
In Him my heart trusts, so I am helped
And my heart exults."*

~ PSALM 28, VERSE 7

The snow has melted, spring is here.
We have much to be grateful for, it's clear.
The best is knowing God is near.
With that kind of help, we should not fear.
Our faith is helping us through this time,
So enjoy the flowers and bright sunshine.

Love,
Alma



PANDEMIC REFLECTION

Musings on Covid

Deborah Waldo, Parishioner

I am of two minds about this pandemic. It is one of the best things that ever happened to me. My life was spinning like a whirling dervish before the pandemic, and I was caught in the swirl. When I stopped, God could more easily share wisdom and love and strength with me, and I was more receptive to guidance on how to use those resources to do God's work. That guidance allowed me to begin a new chapter of my life, and I am profoundly grateful. Concurrently, the pandemic is one of the worst things that ever happened to some family members and friends. At times it is hard to contain those two realities in my mind and body because both realities are right in front of me.

For those of us who can work virtually, or who are retired with adequate incomes, or whose business is booming during Covid, it is hard to relate to the owners of very small businesses who wonder, "Will another PPP loan come through? Or will I have to lay everyone off and close the doors?" Or owners who wonder how much longer they can listen to their businesses gasping for air. Is there light in sight? For performers and small business owners, the pandemic will not end with a vaccination. No rainbow will flash across the sky signaling the end of the storm. The recovery will be slow and fragile, dependent upon clients, customers and audience members venturing forth as they gradually feel safer with an increased rate of vaccinations.

And then the teachers. As a neighbor said the other day, "I think what they are asking of teachers borders on abuse." Planning each day for their students who are in school and for their students who are at home — teachers are exhausted and they long for a return to the personal connection with and between students that can only happen when everyone is together.

I am hoping that by summer, we will all be out in the light, sharing the gifts that presented themselves during "the (15-16 month-)long winter," and reaching out to friends, family and community members for whom it might take some time and support for the summer sun to truly shine.

~ *Deborah*

Getting Back to Normal: *EXCELSIOR!*

Thirteen months is a long time in the life of an organist and choirmaster. Our last in-person indoor choral service at All Saints' was March 15, 2020. We have now missed Holy Week and Easter twice. We missed Christmas, Lessons and Carols, the Christmas Pageant, and three Evensongs. Oh, sure, we adapted. Through the "magic" of modern technology and social media, we provided pre-recorded and live weekly services, as well as Advent Lectures and daily Compline in Lent. Through strict adherence to CDC guidelines re: masking, social distancing, and contact tracing, we convened outdoors on the lawn for weekday evening prayer, Sunday liturgies, and even an Epiphany pageant. As much as we all appreciated these offerings and as important as it was to adapt to pandemic restrictions, it never felt quite normal.

An article in the *Huffington Post* not long ago reminds us that, if we look back at this utterly exhausting past year as a whole — a global pandemic, an economic crisis engendered by the pandemic here in the U.S., social unrest over racial injustice, an insurrection, ongoing assaults on voter rights — a case could be made for never *wanting* to return to normal as it was.

Yet, we continue to hope for and talk about getting *back* to normal. Our pandemic icon, Dr. Anthony Fauci, remarked that getting back to normal is not a matter of flicking a light switch on or off. At All Saints' there will be no announcement in *Saints' Alive* that, on the third Sunday in September, we will flick a switch to return to normal and everything can be as it used to be.

So, to be a bit self-absorbed — what's an organist and choirmaster to do? Dr. Sarah MacDonald, Director of Chapel Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and Director of the Girls' Choir at Ely Cathedral, has suggested that, instead of fixating on a quick return to normal, we need to prepare instead for the likelihood of challenging times ahead (the fourth surge?) — and allow ourselves to be pleasantly surprised when positive developments do occur.

Here are my thoughts for the music program at All Saints':

- Prepare a full repertoire list and schedule for the fall — taking into account the fact that most choir members' vocal and choral skills will have atrophied to some extent — so that if and when we resume indoor services, I'm prepared.
- This summer, focus on getting my own "chops" back in shape after a year of underuse, through daily organ

practice; and prepare some new organ repertoire for me to avoid practice boredom.

- Prepare for the possibility that social distancing may have to continue for many more months: identify and select interesting and challenging music for small ensembles in case we cannot have the entire choir together in the choir stalls.
- Begin choral rehearsals in late August to renew skills and build repertoire for special services (All Saints' Day, Christmas Lessons and Carols and Evensong), whether virtual or in person.
- Focus on choir recruitment: since we last rehearsed together, at least five choir members have resigned due to age or health, and an additional member died. What will be the best course of action to maintain a balance of vocal parts as we rebuild our numbers?
- Be grateful every day for those who have continued to share their time and talents, and do not lament or brood over how much may have been lost in the past thirteen months.

Our hope for normalcy is... well, normal. But hoping that everything will go back to the way it was before Covid is in vain and perhaps not healthy. Looking back, it is easy to see why Marvel superhero movies and comic books have captured the imaginations of so many. These have been tough times, and many have longed for a superhero to vanquish our woes and get things back to normal. However, it behooves us to remember the motto of Stan Lee, the Marvel comics creator: *Excelsior!* (*Ever upward, not ever the same*).

MAY/JUNE 2021 SAINTS' DAYS

MAY Judith Collier	05/02	Heather Tourgee	06/09
Mary Goodnow	05/02	Chiara Requa	06/09
Ellen Avery	05/04	Gail Bumgardner	06/09
Patricia Row	05/06	Marguerite Roberts	06/12
Eleanor Kennedy	05/07	Lorenzo VanHorn	06/13
David Dodge	05/08	Calvin Marlar	06/13
Jonathan Juarez	05/09	Miles Marlar	06/13
Lincoln David Jarest	05/14	Henry Marlar	06/13
Priscilla Bourgoine	05/16	Petra Longman	06/14
Ellen Bernard	05/18	Laurie Lewis	06/15
Anne Webb	05/19	Meghann Wuorinen	06/15
John Kerrick	05/20	Ryden Requa	06/15
Harriet DiCicco	05/23	Laura Phillips	06/16
Montana Schultz.....	05/26	Shelley Hulbert	06/16
McKennon Requa	05/26	Dodie Finlayson	06/17
Anne Peirce	05/27	Jonathan Miner	06/19
Daniel Scheerer	05/28	Sharon MacCartney	06/19
Lucy Beyer	05/28	Eric Masterson	06/19
Lorraine Bishop.....	05/31	Bonnie Achterhof	06/20
JUNE Jane Scheerer.....	06/01	Diana Mundy	06/21
James Sarles	06/02	Evelyn Ritchie	06/22
Samuel Ian Sistare	06/03	Jody Simpson	06/22
Judy Heddy	06/03	Ann Lammers	06/23
Meg Kearney	06/03	David William Levesque	06/24
Charles Ruth	06/05	Ian Ramey	06/24
Helene Harbage	06/06	Deborah Waldo	06/25
John Lewtas	06/08	Russ Gebhart	06/26
Elizabeth Fuller	06/08	Christina Gatto	06/28
J. Andrew Graff	06/08	Charles Goodwin	06/30

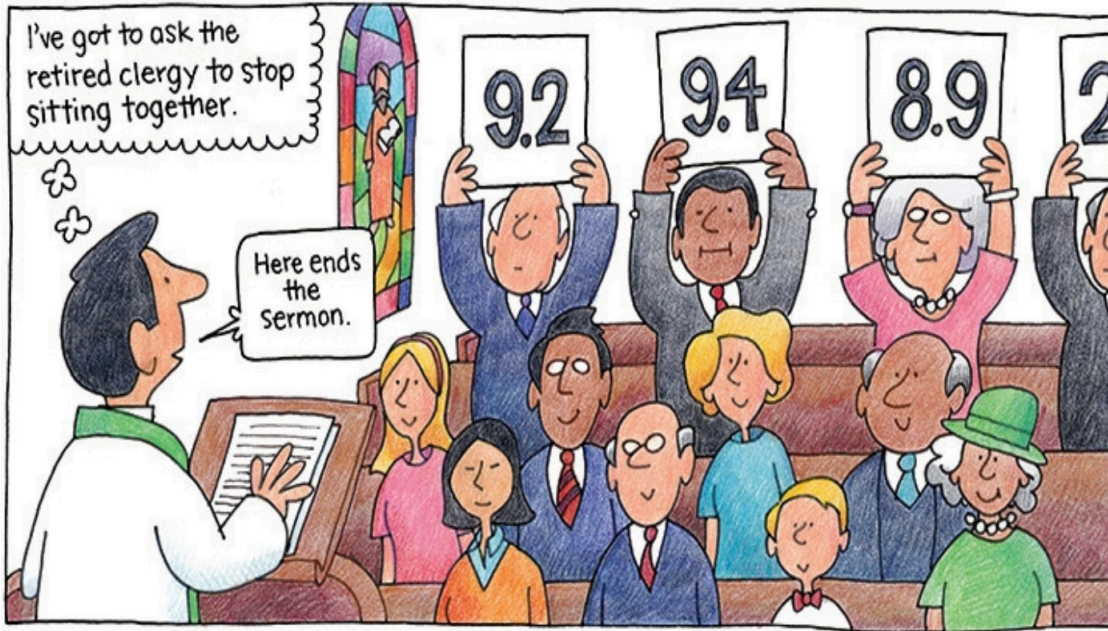




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SERMON REVIEWS



We invite you to send articles, letters, poems, pandemic reflections, or printable artwork, to deborahwaldo18@gmail.com. The submission deadline for the JULY/AUGUST ISSUE is Monday, June 14.

© Cartoon by Rev. Jay Sidebotham and Church Pension Group

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.



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