



The Messenger

December 2021/January 2022 | Volume XII, Number 7

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

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Dear Parishioners,

This issue of *The Messenger* is scheduled to arrive early in the first week of Advent, a season that marks the beginning of a new year in the church calendar. For centuries Christians have observed Advent as a time of waiting and watching, spiritually preparing for the coming of Christ, but not only at Christmas. Even as we prepare to celebrate once again the birth of Jesus, in Advent we are also meant to be preparing for another coming of Christ, the arrival of God's reign on earth. Since we don't know exactly what that means or how or when it might happen, and since we live in a culture that makes this time of year feel stressful and rushed, it can be challenging to prepare ourselves spiritually for these mysteries.

For most of my adult life I have anticipated this time of year with mixed feelings because of heightened expectations, from myself or others, about all sorts of things (gifts, cards, cookies, festivities, decorations, etc.) that make me feel inadequate. Last Advent and Christmas were different, and although they were difficult in ways, I felt relieved of most of those expectations and more able to focus on the real meaning of these seasons, moving from darkness into light and welcoming Christ into our lives.

Over 30 years ago as my mother lay dying, I was grateful to be able to be with her and my father, not knowing what each day or week would bring. We did not worry about sending cards, buying presents or baking cookies, and could just focus on matters of life and death. Then last year, as we all were living through the first year of the pandemic, unable to gather indoors in person for worship or to feel safe traveling to be with family, everything felt different. It was a quieter season of Advent and Christmas, and although there were lots of reasons to mourn so many losses of that year, we had the hope of a vaccine on the horizon — and we could plan an Epiphany pageant outdoors in the snow. At home we could slow down, reassess our traditions, take time to read, pray, call or write to friends and family, and count our blessings, including FaceTime and Zoom.

This year life feels a bit more normal, if uncertain, and we still need to be cautious and abide by Covid protocols. Those of us who feel safe gathering in church can celebrate Advent, Christmas and Epiphany together, albeit with masks and social distancing, and without wine at Communion or an indoor pageant. I hope and pray that whether at church or at home, we can each find quiet time for spiritual nourishment, to pray, reflect, and meditate on the meaning of Advent and to prepare our hearts once again for the coming of the Christ who was, and is and is to come.

~ *Betsy Fowle, Priest Associate*

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From the Vestry

Chris Tourgee, Vestry Member

The Vestry would like everyone to know that we are open for business, and our All Saints' ministries are busily at work. While the pandemic has made in-person gathering difficult over the past 20 months, with precautions in place, we are now able to gather in our beautiful church each week. Our Altar Guild is hard at work preparing for the service. The choir is back in the stalls. We are greeted each Sunday by ushers. The Hospitality Ministry is providing snacks on the lawn. Soon our Prayer Ministry will again offer prayers during communion. Knitters are knitting up a storm providing lovely shawls for those who would benefit, each made with prayer and love. We get to listen to and see our Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and readers each week.

Our Building and Grounds Committee members have been working to maintain our campus throughout the pandemic. They are planning for improvements and repairs to our buildings as well as keeping the grounds looking gorgeous.

Learn more about our ministries below:

- [Liturgical Ministries](#)

Altar Guild, Acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Readers and Ushers

- [Outreach Ministries](#)

Avenue A, Mission to Juarez, Peterborough Food Pantry, Eastern Monadnock Provider Network, Greater Peterborough Interfaith Council and Community Supper

- [Pastoral Ministries](#)

Meals and Transportation, Eucharistic Visitors, Sunshine Ministry, Prayer and Knitting, Visitors, Funeral Reception Assistance

If you are interested in joining any of our ministries, please contact the Ministries Coordinator at admin@allsaintsnh.org or call the office at (603) 924-3202.

The Vestry also wants everyone to know that we have not forgotten about our Christian Education programs — for adults and for children. The diocese has suggested that now may not be the time to offer in-person children's activities, due to only partial availability of a vaccine for children. The diocese has recommended this site for alternative activities: [Faith at Home](#). We are monitoring the cases in New Hampshire, and are hopeful to have Sunday School before you know it.

Thank you to everyone in the All Saints' community; we are in tough times, and as a community we will come out on the other end.

~ *Chris*

Search Committee Update

David Jette, Co-Chair

The All Saints' Search Committee meets weekly. Our first meeting was with the Reverend Canon Gail Avery, Canon for Transition Ministry. She briefed us on the search process and described documents to be submitted to the diocese. The first document is a Parish Survey that will inform our Parish Profile. The Profile (the second document) will be submitted to the diocese and shared with prospective candidates.

As you know from *Saints Alive*, the Search Committee is now circulating the Parish Survey. If you have not completed your survey, please do so. It is just six questions long and is available as a hard copy in the back of the church or from the church office. The collective information about our parish is a very important part of the search process. Your input is much appreciated!

We thank you for your continued prayers as we are guided by the Holy Spirit and through the transforming grace of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Ministry Update

Nina Pollock

We want to let everyone know that the Tuesday Prayer Gathering is meeting weekly at 1 p.m. in the Old Parish Hall. We meet every Tuesday for an hour and we welcome anyone who would like to join us. Also, we encourage people to fill out prayer requests on the prayer cards in the back of the church. You can put the card in the "alms box" and someone from our team will check the box weekly. If you do not want the name put on the parish list, please note that on the card.

Will the healing Prayer Ministry be back in the sanctuary at 10 a.m.? Yes, that team still exists and would like to be back in service during the Eucharist, but we want to be sure we are within safe Covid guidelines. Let us know your thoughts and preferences. At this time, we are abiding by the diocesan guidelines and are waiting to learn when they think we can begin.

Lastly, I want to share how I prepared for Christmas last year. I found Advent 2020 to be a very dark time with no family coming to celebrate due to Covid. I used the *Pray As You Go* app for my daily reflection. It is a free app for your phone and the website can be found on any computer. They offer what they call retreats. Don't panic; they do not ask for 24 hours of fasting and silence. It is a weekly offering during Advent for about 30-45 minutes where you can listen and participate at your leisure to help prepare for Christmas. I found it to be hugely helpful and encouraging for my spiritual walk during last year's Advent and I look forward to doing it again this year. The title of this series is Stepping Beyond. I think the introductory offering is the week of November 28th, but you don't have to do them all or even in order. Maybe mid-December some of us would like to gather on Zoom or after church to talk about what we have gained from doing this kind of preparation for Christmas 2021? I look forward to this Advent.

If you have any questions, please email me at nina.pollock@gmail.com.



The Feast of the Nativity

at All Saints' Church, Peterborough

Advent IV: Rorate Sunday, December 19, 2021

10:00am: Rite NOW (on Zoom)

10:00am: Holy Eucharist
with choir and organ

5:00pm: The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Music and readings for Christmas, with the All Saints' Choir

Christmas Eve

7:30pm: Holy Eucharist for Christmas Eve
with organ and carols

10:30pm: Music for the Feast
~ A Wreath of Carols ~

Traditional Carols from around the World sung by Choir and Congregation

11:00pm: "Midnight Mass"

Festal Choral Eucharist

George Oldroyd's *Mass of the Quiet Hour*

Giles Bryant's *Carol for All Saints' Church*

John Joubert's *Torches*

Christmas Day

10:00am: Festal Holy Eucharist
with organ and carols

The First Sunday after Christmas Day Sunday, December 26, 2021

10:00am: Holy Eucharist
with organ and carols

GOD REST YOU MERRY...

Let nothing you dismay

After nearly two years of Covid protocols — from lock-downs and no indoor gatherings to mask-wearing and social distancing, “merry” is probably not how most of us would describe our daily lives in 2020 and 2021. Many experienced a range of physical and emotional responses to the Covid pandemic not unlike PTSD, from anger, fear, depression, anxiety, and fatigue, to substance abuse in extreme cases. (Many mental health professionals prefer more cautious terminology like Post-Covid Stress Disorder). But certainly everyone has felt **dismay**: fear for the future, weariness of our present state, and grief for things and people we have lost.

Christmas at All Saints’ last year was our Pandemic Christmas. We were wondering if we might have a vaccine to fight Covid; we were exhausted by an eight-month lock-down; and we were enduring the disappointment of separation from family and friends. At All Saints’ we had no Lessons and Carols, no Christmas Pageant, and none of the joyous services of Christmas Eve or Day.

All those events are the heart of Christmas for me and perhaps for many of you. Even though we now have vaccines and are able to gather in church, albeit masked, the pandemic is not over. We cannot yet return to “normal,” but we are striving to restore some of the “merry” we have missed over the past 20 months.

On December 19 at 5p.m., the All Saints’ Choir will once again join with members of the parish and the wider community for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. It will be a joyous occasion, even though current Covid protocols preclude the festive reception we always host for our friends and neighbors in greater Peterborough.

This Christmas Eve, there will be no 4:30p.m. Christmas Pageant out of an abundance of caution and concern for the health and safety of children who may not be fully vaccinated or may be too young to be vaccinated.

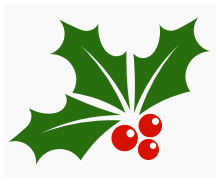
We will have our 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist for Christmas Eve, a joyous service of modest length with plenty of carols to sing. Later we will celebrate our traditional “Midnight Mass” (beginning at 11 p.m.), a choral Eucharist with many carols to sing as well. It will be preceded at 10:30 p.m. as always by “Music for the Feast.” The choir and congregation will join in singing “A Wreath of Carols,” a selection of oft-heard and much-loved Christmas carols that mostly do not appear in hymnals. Sadly, between Covid protocols and self-imposed quarantines of traveling musicians, we are unable to feature our usual guest instrumentalists this year.

In truth, my cup of Wassail feels like it is little more than half-full. As grateful as I am to be making music with the choir again and joining with all of you in person this Christmas, I have to acknowledge a little disappointment about what is still missing this year. But I know that with another ladle of Wassail and a little attitude adjustment, Christmas even in Covid times can be merry. In the words of an old Galician carol the choir will sing at Lessons and Carols and on Christmas Eve,

*Sing, my friends, and make you merry,
joy and mirth and joy again:*

*Lo, he lives, the King of heaven,
now and evermore. Amen.*

Saints' Days



DECEMBER 2021

William Raymond	12/01
Christine Howe	12/06
Lily Bell	12/07
Laurie Nelson	12/08
Hadley Bates	12/09
Christopher Conway	12/10
Max Scheinblum	12/11
John Calhoun	12/12
Martha Manley	12/12
David MacMillin	12/13
Bernadette Allan	12/14
Becky Hudson	12/15
Catherine Cauthorne	12/16
Caroline Sarles	12/17
Michael Carter	12/17
Matthew Belliveau-Ryan	12/17
Molly Badrawy	12/19
Sarah Kendall	12/20
Kate Coon	12/21
Emma Hamlin	12/22
Sanford Johnson	12/26
Lois Walen	12/27
Joan Jansen	12/29
Gretchen Mayhew	12/29
Dallas Charles	12/31

JANUARY 2022

Andrew Goss	01/01
Emily Wuorinen	01/04
Ryan Betz	01/05
Cason Requa	01/05
Tommy Goodwin	01/06
Beth Krommes	01/06
David Rowell	01/06
Lilianne Tullio	01/07
Cindy Stoss	01/07
Mary MacMillin	01/07
Megan Graff	01/08
Charles Richmond	01/08
Stephen DiCicco	01/11
Susan Sarles	01/12
Robert Morris	01/13
Emily Manns	01/14
Gordon Brown	01/16
Joelle Mancini	01/16
Martha Raymond	01/17
Susan Gill	01/18
Rick Simpson	01/18
Heather Peterson	01/19
Claire Marlar	01/23
Finbarr McCullough	01/24
Laura Campbell	01/24
Judith Pratt	01/25
Charlie Foecking	01/25
Bailey Guinn	01/25
Lily Beyer	01/26
James Allan	01/27
Nancy Scheerer	01/28
Naomi-Clare Praul	01/31
Tim Riley	01/31



The Tenant of Wildfell Hall

by Anne Brontë

Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* has been described as the first feminist novel. Published in 1848 despite the efforts of her sister Charlotte to persuade Anne to withhold it, it was a remarkable best-seller. But it was the second and last of Anne's novels (she died shortly afterwards), and in time came to be largely eclipsed by her sisters' work, especially *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*. The reasons both for its instant fame and its subsequent decline in favor, are not difficult to find.

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, though a love story, is not always pleasant reading. It includes the chronicle of a marriage ruined by a husband's alcoholism and single-minded self-indulgence, which his devoted though perceptive wife is powerless to check. Its detailed rendering of depravity and brutality are difficult to experience even now. But the true horror lies in the utter vulnerability and legal powerlessness of a wife and, especially, a mother in early nineteenth-century England. Divorce is not available to women, and a father has absolute custody over his children.

The central figure, known to us at first as Mrs. Graham, and eventually as Helen Huntingdon, has not been forced into this marriage: indeed, her guardians and friends advised her against it, perceiving the husband's character more accurately than she. We see her confidence in her own judgment gradually eroded by the faithlessness and cruelty of an erstwhile charming man. More than anything, we come to see his inner barrenness of mind and spirit, in contrast to his wife's love of reading, the arts, and other people.

Religious concerns, as subjects of conversation, play a central part. Within the realm of country Church of England parishes of the time, we are introduced to a foolishly moralistic vicar, several characters who manage to find spiritual sustenance within the Church, and to Helen. She is both outwardly observant and also reflective, reading the Bible deeply and

coming to her own theological convictions (including universalism, the conviction that, however individual souls may have to atone for their sins, ultimately God will save everyone).

There are light moments, and beautiful descriptions of nature in all seasons throughout this story, and considerable suspense. But, as I said before, it is also a love story, of disastrous and steadfast love, and of moral strength manifested not through weakness, but through experience.

~ Cassius

Alma's Poem

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, call on his name."

~ PSALM 105, VERSE 1

We are entering the time of gifts;
Thinking of them helps our spirits lift.
Remember the best you've been given
When Jesus came to earth from heaven.
His spirit is with us as we celebrate!
Enjoy that wonderful date
And remember when you do,
Jesus came to earth for you.

~ Alma Ruth

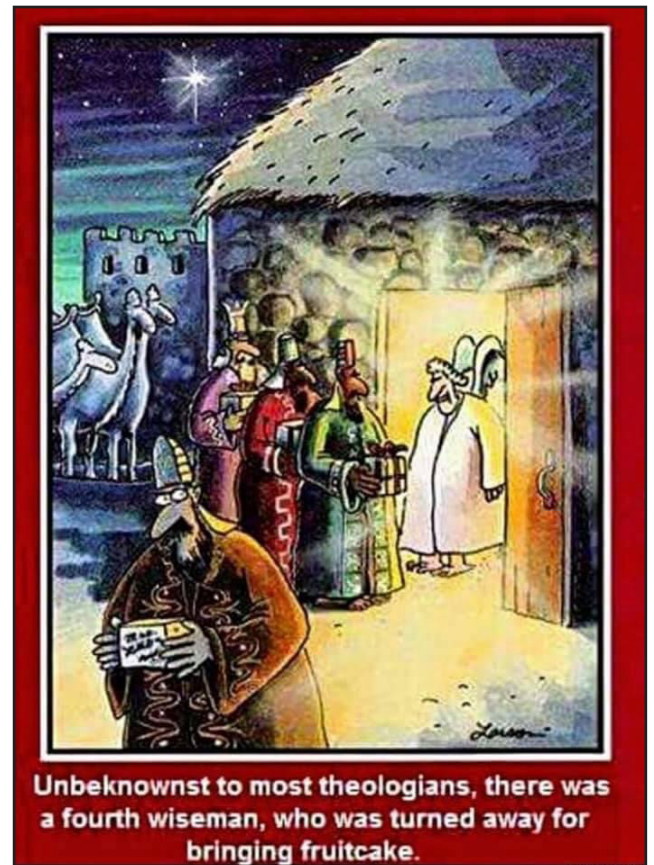


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We invite you to send articles, letters, poems, reflections, or printable artwork, to deborahwaldo18@gmail.com.

The submission deadline for the FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022 issue is Monday, January 17, 2021.



cartoon © Gary Larson

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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