

The Messenger

October 2019 | Volume X, Number 7

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

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Dear Parishioners,

One of my favorite poems by Mary Oliver ends with these lines:

*“When it’s over, I want to say: all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.
When it is over, I don’t want to wonder
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.
I don’t want to find myself sighing and frightened, or full of argument.
I don’t want to end up simply having visited this world.”**

Our experiences with our faith and with members of our church family help us to dig deep and embrace life, with all its glories and difficulties, through the light of love and grace. I am sure at times you, like me, have found yourself sighing, frightened or full of argument. There are those days! And yet, when we can put aside our worries, and see the Big Picture, we can begin to recognize that the fullness of life is grounded in the divine spark that is within all.

As we take the world into our arms and revel in amazement, we experience moments that are truly holy. This is one of the fundamental claims we make as Christians. Life is holy, especially within the ordinary tasks of our lives: changing a diaper, listening to a friend, chopping vegetables for a meal, writing a thank you note, pulling weeds in a garden, giving someone a ride to a doctor’s appointment, kneeling for prayer, the list goes on. Simple things, and yet at their core they are what make life Real. Paying attention is what makes life particular and blessed because when we pay attention, in doing so, we find the profundity of connections and meaning, purpose and value.

Our commitment to our faith community and to our worship helps us to pay attention. One of the special days coming up for All Saints’ will be November 3rd, All Saints’ Day and our Ingathering Sunday. We will gather together as one community at the 9:30am service, make our pledge for the church year within the service and then come together in Reynolds Hall for a celebratory brunch. Writing down your pledge and putting it in the alms basin is one of those particular moments that is blessed. It becomes a sign of our intention to make giving a priority in our life as we each support in our own way our ministries and our church life. Placing our pledge in the basin is like a sacrament – an outward and visible sign of our inward and spiritual grace. Giving becomes an opportunity to see how God is the grounding for everything we do. How cool is that!!

Blessings abound,

Jamie+

* © 1992 by Mary Oliver, from *New & Selected Poems: Vol 1.*

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CURATE'S CORNER

Rev. Sandi Albom

This excerpt is taken from the introduction to the podcast *The Way of Love, Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life* by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry:

“In the first century Jesus of Nazareth inspired a movement. A community of people whose lives were centered on Jesus Christ and committed to living the way of God’s unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, and redemptive love. Before they were called ‘church’ or ‘Christian,’ this Jesus Movement was simply called ‘the way.’

Today I believe our vocation is to live as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. But how can we together grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world?

*The deep roots of our Christian tradition may offer just such a path. For centuries, monastic communities have shaped their lives around rhythms and disciplines for following Jesus together. Such a pattern is known as a ‘Rule of Life.’ The framework provided in **The Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life** outlines a Rule for the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.”*

Please join with me as we engage with a variety of resources, including the podcast *The Way of Love*, featuring Presiding Bishop Curry to discover and reflect on the seven practices of **The Way of Love: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest**. I have been listening to the podcast as I walk and have found it to be enriching and inspiring in my personal, spiritual, and prayer life.

The series will take place on Wednesday evenings November 6th, 13th, and 20th and December 4th, 11th, and 18th in the Parlor from 7 to 8pm. Each session will be followed by a brief evening devotion.

Advent Morning Prayer and Reflection

During Advent on Wednesday mornings at 7:30am in the Parlor, we will gather for Morning Prayer and a time of reflection on selected poems of blessing taken from Jan Richardson’s beautiful collection, **A Circle of Grace**.

I hope you will take advantage of one or all of the offerings leading into and through Advent. Come and see all the Ways of Love unfolding at All Saints’.

Blessings,

Sandi+

HOLIDAY STROLL “Kid’s Shop” Reynolds Hall • November 23

The air is crisp and our thoughts are turning to warm apple pies, pots of chili – and sweaters! As you begin to change over wardrobes and clean out closets, please keep in mind any gently used items (and new items too!) that can be donated for our “Kid’s Shop” at the November 23rd Peterborough **Holiday Stroll**. Kid’s Shop gives our young people the opportunity to purchase ultra-low priced gifts with their own money.

Popular items are:

- **Gifts for Mom - Jewelry, hats, gloves, and scarves**
- **Gifts for Dad - shaving cream, gloves, socks, mini flashlights, handwarmers**
- **Gifts for siblings - games, craft kits**
- **Decorative household items, candles, and more!**

► You may drop off donations in Sandi’s office in the Old Parish House.

Save These Dates!

- **Sunday, October 6th**

After Sunday services, guest preacher, Br. David Vryhoff will facilitate an adult forum in Reynolds Hall on the gifts of sabbath rest. (Br. David will also be addressing Jamie’s sabbatical.)

- **Sunday, November 3rd**

All Saints’ Day Ingathering Sunday, 9:30am service followed by brunch in Reynolds Hall.

- **Wednesday evenings in the Parlor, 7 to 8pm**

November 6th, 13th, 20th

December 4th, 11th, and 18th

Discovery and reflection on *The Way of Love: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest* via podcast and other resources. Each session will be followed by a brief evening devotion.

Advent Morning Prayer and Reflection

During Advent on Wednesday mornings at 7:30am in the Parlor, we will gather for Morning Prayer and a time of reflection on selected poems of blessing taken from Jan Richardson’s beautiful collection, *A Circle of Grace*. ► For more information, contact Rev. Sandi.



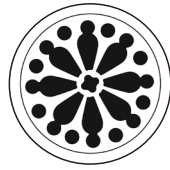
Autumn

We may live in an electronic age
But nature has set the stage.
So turn off your television set.
The show you’re about to get
Will be the best you’ve ever seen –
Watching leaves lose their green.
It’s a sight that never gets old
Maples red, oaks dressed in gold.
Hear the honking in the sky
As wild geese go flying by.
Feel the cool refreshing breeze;
After summer’s heat, it is sure to please.

Remember to give the
Creator praise
As you enjoy these autumn days!

Love, Alma

From the Vestry



Lora McClintock, ASC Vestry

Interestingly, I have been asked twice in the past week to talk about my faith. The first time was when my youngest son Evan interviewed me for a piece he's writing in his World Religions class. He asked me to talk about why I chose to start going to church and what I gain from it. Now I am writing this article about the impact that my work with the Vestry has on my faith journey.

It is an honor to serve on the Vestry and to be a steward of this beautiful place where we worship. I feel an even stronger sense of community at All Saints' as a Vestry member, respecting the varied perspectives I hear in our discussions and trying to consider the diversity in our congregation as we make decisions impacting the future of the church.

I realize how important it is to continue our commitment to offering a breadth of services and ministries and to learn the value of those programs with which I have been unfamiliar. I am able to witness Jamie as she so ably and skillfully leads our Vestry and our church. This sense of connectedness and growth is inspiring for me, and I hope others can be inspired as well, by getting involved in whatever way you feel called to serve All Saints' Church.

October Saints' Days

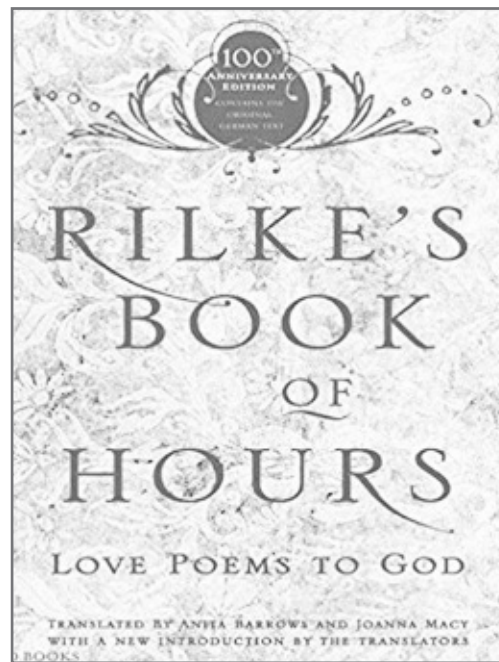
Otto McLaughlin	10/01
Ted McLaughlin	10/01
Berkley Bates	10/02
Bruce Larsen	10/02
Julie Crocker	10/05
Judy Vance	10/06
Max McCarroll	10/09
Kaileigh Row	10/10
Connie Oliver	10/12
Ann Conway	10/14
Alma Ruth	10/14
William Ricaurte	10/15
Joseph Hale	10/17
Linda Walsh	10/18
Heidi Graff	10/18
Dhanesh Airi	10/18
Nathaniel Peirce	10/18
Oscar Dunn	10/19
Augusta Law	10/19
Stanley Szydlo	10/19
Sonny Tavernier	10/20
Jaydon Belliveau-Ryan	10/22
Matthew Guinard	10/22
Katherine Foecking	10/26
Tricia Burt Masterson	10/28
Sally Larsen	10/29
Kaleb Guinn	10/29
Emily Twitchell	10/31

Rilke's Book of Hours Love Poems to God

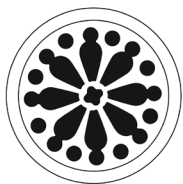
Between 1899 and 1903, Rainer Maria Rilke set down three cycles of poems which were later published as *Das Stunden-Buch*, *The Book of Hours*, *Love Poems to God*, alluding to the many handbooks for Catholic daily devotions produced since the Middle Ages.

Though only age 27 when he finished them, Rilke was already an established poet in German-speaking Europe. But these three cycles, written in three bursts of intense creativity, chronicle a change in the poet's perception of himself, of his world (that exhausted, jaded period before the First World War), and of God. This allows for rawness and vulnerability alongside his usual great skill and vivid imagery that has enriched the religious experience of those fortunate enough to read German for over a century.

One of those fortunate readers was Joanna Macy, a scholar and social activist who discovered this work in Germany during her student days and who was enriched by it through her years of discovering and practicing Buddhism. Years later, she brought it to the attention of her friend, the poet and clinical psychologist Anita Barrows. Finding current English translations unsatisfactory, they decided to translate the poems as a team effort. The result was Rilke's *Book of Hours, Love Poems to God*, translated by Anita Barrows and Joanna Macy (New York, 1996). The relationship of this book to the original is many-layered, and the layers are set forth honestly in the "Notes on the Translation" and in the commentary which follows the text.



This slim volume was recommended to me by my spiritual director in the 1990s. She knew that most of us earnest God-seekers, even if immersed in the rich imagery of the Church as it comes our way through worship, still need occasional jolts to refresh our sense of God. This is one of those jolts. It isn't all adoration; bewilderment and anger spill out of this young man's attempt to come to grips with the world. But it is honest, unguarded, and also beautiful in its sincerity.



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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.



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Submissions are welcome!

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

The submission deadline for our next issue is **Monday, October 14.**