

# The Messenger

November 2019 | Volume X, Number 8

All Saints' Church • 51 Concord Street • Peterborough, NH 03458 • [allsaintsnh.org](http://allsaintsnh.org)

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“Let us begin the sabbath by saying today I am going to pamper my soul.”

– Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi quoted in

*Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in our Busy Lives*

Dear Parishioners,

I am so grateful for the gift of my sabbatical which will begin the end of November this year, just before Advent and will end just before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. I like the liturgical framing of this precious time to rest, reflect, read and write. I will be living full time in my home in Jaffrey. Thank you to Bishop Rob for his suggestion that it was time to take a break from my labors and to the members of the Vestry for their overwhelming support. And to all of you, thank you for your encouragement, your curiosity, and your reassurance. All beautiful gestures of love and appreciation. I am blessed by your tender mercies.

Truth be told, I am not very good at resting. It doesn't come naturally to me. I like to do, to fix, to create, to lead, to support, to encourage, to “work out,” to challenge, to change, to burn many candles at both ends, etc., (sigh). And when I am not doing these “things” I feel guilty, with quite a bit of unease, and even though I may feel weary, I associate guilt, maybe even shame, with taking time to rest. Oh my!

Brother David, when he was at All Saints' preaching and sharing his wisdom about the value of sabbath rest, teased me about wanting to write a book while I'm on sabbatical. “Jamie, do not put pressure on yourself to accomplish anything on your sabbatical. It's time to take your hand off the plow and let God and the earth care for things while you drink from the fountain of rest and delight.”

God rested on the seventh day, yet before God rested, I'm beginning to realize, God first created rest, peace, tranquility, serenity, pace, and quiet, and on that noted seventh day gave us the gift of a deep sense of fertile healing stillness. He then commanded us to enter into this gift of renewal. This is helping me to believe in the power of attending and paying attention and returning to God's bidding. Hopefully, we as a church can all slow down and take a well-deserved rest.

We will be in good hands. Rev. Sandi will be at the helm (in her half-time capacity) either Tuesdays and Wednesdays or Wednesdays and Thursdays each week, staying at the Rectory, and then of course here on Sundays. If there's a storm predicted, she will stay in the Rectory Saturday night. To have such a gifted priest in our midst is truly a blessing. And then we have so many supportive clergy willing to help: Louise Howlett, Ann and Cassius Webb, Betsy Fowle, John Adams, Sanford Johnson, Jep Streit, and Winnie Skeates. So much talent and expertise. We are also blessed by our lay leaders who are guiding us to new horizons and by a staff dedicated to our mission, all who lend their hearts and their hands to All Saints' passion to make a difference in our world.

I invite all of you to join me in this winter rest by finding time to trust in Sabbath glory: a walk, a pause, a fun night out, special time with our friends and family, ceasing from our labor, so we can sing, rest, play, pray, and be in awe – all intimate graces that welcome our love and attention.

With many blessings,

Jamie+

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Sally Steere

## CURATE'S CORNER

Rev. Sandi Albom

Several seasons ago I sojourned down Concord Street during my lunch break to Kyes-Sage House, the Peterborough Library annex, for a browse. I always come away with a few treasures I didn't know I needed. (Such is the case with every encounter I have with stacks of books.) On this particular day I came across a lovely book of poetry, *A Celebration of Autumn* by David Adam.

Each autumn since, I have taken this collection from my bookshelf and indulged in Adam's thoughtful exploration of my favorite time of year. In the introduction he tells of the joy of living and the challenge of letting go that God presents us in the changes of time.

*"Autumn is a season of color and contrasts. Bright days give way to fog. The glory of the autumn wood is suddenly stripped bare. It is a season of death and promised rebirth. It is a time of harvest and of bare fields. All is caught up in change, fecundity and decay. Autumn speaks of the generosity of God and the wonder of God's creation."*

The final poem of the collection is my favorite. In it, I can feel the crisp air, the smell of things passing and the clearing of one moment to make way for another... I feel present in the fullness of God's time;

### **Autumn Dialectic**

This is between the world's time  
The last rays of the sun fade  
A day is coming to a close  
Another about to begin  
One is almost gone forever  
The other is coming to birth  
Where do I belong at sunset?  
To the past and the dead leaves  
Or tomorrow and its seeds?  
I belong to this very moment  
I belong to heaven and earth  
I need not choose to enjoy one  
or the other  
For both are mine

Blessings to you,

Sandi+

### **An Invitation from Rev. Sandi**

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 **7 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.

**Wednesday evenings in the Parlor**  
**November 6, 13, 20**  
**December 4, 11, 18**  
**7 to 8pm**

Each session will be followed by a brief evening devotion. *All are welcome!*

Join us for

## A Feast of All Saints

and our Annual Ingathering  
Sunday, November 3, 9:30am

followed by brunch in Reynolds Hall

We look forward to  
seeing you!

## Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

Tuesday, November 26th • 7pm

Peterborough Unitarian  
Universalist Church

On Tuesday, November 26th at 7pm, we will join with other faith communities in an **Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving** at the Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church. The event is sponsored by the Greater Peterborough Interfaith Council. The Rev. Jep Streit will be representing All Saints' in the service. *All are welcome to attend.*

## ADULT FORUM with Bob Kiely • December 1

Please join me in the Parlor after the 10 o'clock services to discuss my book, *Fair Jesus: The Gospels According to Italian Painters: 1300-1650*

One of the marvels of Christianity is the extraordinary inspiration of the Gospels on poetry, music, and art. During two happy sabbaticals in Italy, it became clear to me that before Gutenberg (1450) and Caxton (1476), the life of Jesus was known to most people through liturgy, stories, hymns, and paintings on the walls of churches. Trained in literature, I could see that the pictures were meant to be "read." They were sermons in paint, or as one critic put it, "theology in visual form." Christians saw the paintings over and over whenever they went to church. In Italy they still do.

A professor from Venice told me that she stopped in her neighborhood church every morning to look at a favorite painting of Mary Magdalene to see what "mood she was in that day." Although otherwise rooted in Hebrew tradition and scripture, the Gospels are distinguished by presenting Jesus, the Son of God, as a human being, one of us. He could be touched and he could be seen. It was inevitable that everyone, especially artists, wondered what he looked like.

## A Muslim Visits Cowboy Country Sunday, November 10 • Parlor

Join **Robert Azzi** and **Nick Morris** after the 10 o'clock services on **November 10th** to hear about their trip to Wyoming. While staying on a working ranch, Robert ventured forth to churches, colleges, high schools and the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center (memorial to the Japanese interned at this concentration camp during WWII).

What do you think Robert spoke about? How was a Muslim received in cowboy country? What were his impressions of Wyoming? How was his message received? Did he meet any internationals? Was he chased by a bear?

Come hear (and see photos) about the adventures of a Muslim, introduced by a Jew in a Christian church all preceded with an opening concert by a famous rapper in Cody Country. And more!

## Calling all Shepherds and Kings – The Pageant is coming!

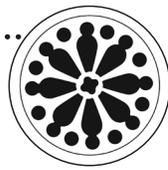
Stay tuned for detailed updates in Saints Alive and other email communications.

## 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 at (603) 924-3202 or [revsandi@allsaintsnh.org](mailto:revsandi@allsaintsnh.org).**

# From the Vestry



*Sally Steere*

**N**ow that my three-year term on the Vestry is nearing its end, I am looking back on the years that I have been a member of All Saints' Church. Bruce Jacobsen was the interim rector in 2002 when my family moved to the area.

My daughter wanted to get married at All Saints' in 2003. It was spring and I had just joined the Building and Grounds Ministry. The person who had been planting flowers in the circle garden had pneumonia and asked if I would like to plant something in the garden, since I was planning a wedding for July. I agreed and planted Purple Wave and pale pink Petunias. The next spring I was asked what I might like to plant. That was 16 years ago! Luckily, I had some early planning help from Deb and Bill Barrett, who were good friends and owned a garden and nursery business in Swanzey. When I told Bill that the circle garden had once been a fountain, he suggested Fountain Grass as a foundation. It has been fun to try different annuals each year, but the Fountain Grass works well for both the summer garden and fall display.

All of the work surrounding the Capital Campaign has made the past three years an exciting time to be on the Vestry and the Building and Grounds Ministry, too. A highlight for me was the removal of about 70 pine trees that towered somewhat precariously above the church sanctuary on three sides. It is hard to believe now that it was just a little over a year ago that the trees were lifted off the hillside by an enormous crane and moved carefully, sometimes directly over the sanctuary, to the Lady Chapel parking lot, where they were cut up and taken away. The hillside has recovered nicely and a big safety concern is gone.

Our new parking lot and improved crosswalk address a longstanding safety and growth issue. The entire community will benefit from a much larger, well-lit area to park off the street while attending church or the many meetings, receptions and community activities that take place on our campus. I personally think the view from the street to the river is pretty, too.

The coming years hold rewarding challenges for the Vestry as more of our Capital Campaign issues are addressed. I hope that new members will enjoy the opportunity to serve as much as I have.

*Sally*

## Autumn Butterfly

*by Andy R. Peterson*

What is the net worth of a butterfly?  
What would be its credit score?  
Held on a breath of air  
Soon gone, but now there  
Born of an earthbound dream to be more  
  
What is the value of a moment?  
Held close and never shared?  
To be forgotten until  
In my heart it will  
Find voice with my soul bared  
  
When is the truth discovered?  
How can it be set free?  
For autumn butterflies  
And for lovers  
That time is now, you see

## November Saints' Days

Hugh Beyer	11/04
Kathy Miner	11/08
Marguerite Krommes	11/09
Bradford Taylor	11/11
George King	11/12
Jacob M. Levesque	11/15
Isaac Dylan Sistare	11/15
Katy Barnes	11/16
Isaac Ramey	11/17
Daniel Keaveny	11/18
Jack McLaughlin	11/19
Caroline Manns	11/20
Donna Abbott	11/20
Nancy O'Neill	11/21
John Vance	11/23
Frances Beyer	11/24
Mary Lou Weathers	11/27
Sean Russell Witt	11/29

# A Word from Our Treasurer

*David Drinkwater, All Saints' Vestry*

As summer turns to fall and fall to winter, we remember that to everything there is, indeed, a season. It is true in all areas of our lives. And it is true in our church lives. We progress through the great feast days and each year re-engage the liturgical cycle of readings and prayers. We are beckoned to make sense of the ever-changing swirl in our immediate and broader worlds. It is also true in the rhythms of giving and receiving that bring our spiritual and mundane worlds together. It is even true in one segment of our shared church life – planning how to sustain our church and its ministries. Fall is the season of budgeting and stewardship.

As your Treasurer, I find spiritual, as well as financial, imperatives in such things. Diocesan and parish schedules propel us to plan (budget) before we make our financial commitments (stewardship) and that sometimes leaves us short of breath – and, sometimes, funds. This past cycle, our pledges were less than budgeted. No criticism intended here, since so many who participated also gave generously to a very successful capital campaign – but the ASC campus, clergy, and ministries must be sustained annually as well.

Architect David Lieb's recent instructive and detailed report on our campus facilities tells us what we must do to maintain

and renovate our church and what it might cost to renovate and preserve some of the most remarkable ecclesiastical buildings in the Northeast. He will be meeting with our Vestry November 5th and we will be sharing with you his recommendations. Curiously enough, financial analysis brings epiphanies: for example, the Vestry's enriched awareness that stucco, granite and slate place demands upon us not just to fund buildings but really to fund space for the ministries we practice: preaching and pastoring; worship and song; feeding and visiting; gardening and repairing – soul, body, place. Everything we do within the fabric we treasure is about ensuring God's house is truly a home throughout all seasons.

So think of this year's ingathering as providing a home for our growing and vital ministries and for enacting God's word. Some costs are covered by the campaign, but many fall to our annual budget. This will, I hope, inspire each of us, wherever possible, to raise our sights.

Respectfully submitted,

**David Drinkwater, Treasurer**

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## From Our Postulant

*Kathy Boss*

Four years ago, when I first came through those beautiful doors at All Saints', the idea of becoming a priest was a faint, but persistent vibration in my life. It seemed far distant amongst the tangle and ash-covered, but bright, embers that were my faith. I began a Masters of Divinity shortly after I started attending All Saints'; the two went hand-in-hand for me. Both were golden threads guiding me somewhere.

This parish and its amazing priests and leaders have been gentle and persistent guides, challenging me to dig deep, to pay attention to where God is guiding me. You have nurtured that glowing ember of call that was in me. And when, after much discernment, it became clear that I had a call to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church, the All Saints' Vestry, with love and affirmation, stepped up as my sponsor for postulancy.

Last month I met with the Commission on Ministry in New Hampshire to discuss my call and my application for postulancy. I felt exactly in the right place and words came easily. There is a confidence, and a humility, that comes from the knowledge that you are part of a Beloved Community. And you, All Saints' brothers and sisters, have given me that.

I am thrilled that Bishop Rob has accepted me as a postulant. This is a time of mutual discernment with the bishop as I prepare for vows. As All Saints' postulant, I am happy to answer any questions you may have, and I look forward to preaching on November 10. Thank you all for your love and support.

*Kathy*

## Lighten Our Darkness: In Praise of Choral Evensong

It has been said that Evensong (sung Evening Prayer) is the “crown jewel” of the rich tapestry of Anglican liturgical tradition. Evening Prayer is not a sacramental liturgy, but one of the daily “offices” built on prayers passed down through the centuries from the Apostles and from daily Jewish prayers before them, adopted, adapted and originally set to chant in monastic communities. What we know as Choral Evensong – sung in monasteries and cathedrals by a choir on behalf of those in attendance – reached something akin to its current format nearly 500 years ago. Choral Evensong has persisted, sung daily or weekly in many cathedrals, and with increasing frequency in parish churches, even as church attendance has declined.

A generation ago, declining church attendance presaged then Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey’s lament that the Church of England was “one generation from extinction.” A generation later Carey is no doubt puzzled by the 35% increase in attendance at services of Choral Evensong due in part to its appeal to growing numbers of Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and even hardened atheists. It is little wonder. Archbishop Thomas Cranmer’s elegant *Book of Common Prayer* language, enhanced by beautiful architectural settings and some of the finest music ever composed, has power to affect individuals from all backgrounds and experiences viscerally.

Choral Evensong at All Saints’ draws those of all faiths and no faith from across the Monadnock region to join with members of our parish as we share this “crown jewel” of our Anglican heritage. On **Sunday, November 17th, at 5pm**, we will hear Choral Evensong. Choral Evensong generally begins with an introit: the All Saints’ Choir will sing one of the gems of Anglican choral music, William H. Harris’ “Holy is the True Light.” Harris was organist and master of the choristers at St. George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle. The Preces and Responses will be sung in a setting by Martin Neary. Neary served as organist and choirmaster at Westminster Abbey. The Evening Service (the canticles “Magnificat” and

“Nunc dimittis”) are set by American composer Harold Friedell, who served as organist and choirmaster at St. Bartholomew’s Church, New York City.

Choral Evensong at All Saints’ generally concludes with an anthem sung as a meditation. The choir will sing young American composer Frank Pesci’s “Be Thou Alone,” a setting of a portion of the Prayer of St. Bonaventure. Like composers of many of the great “cathedral” and Evensong anthems, Pesci is not a church musician nor primarily a composer of sacred works. Like Vaughan Williams, Britten and Rorem, he is a master of marrying an accessible musical vocabulary with a traditional text in a moving way. Now living in Cologne, Germany, Pesci was previously Associate Artistic Director for the Boston Opera Collaborative and also Executive Director of the New Hampshire Music Festival.

**PLEASE JOIN US – and bring your friends and neighbors – to hear Choral Evensong at All Saints’ on Sunday, November 17th at 5pm.**

# The Book of Margery Kempe

“**W**hat can we do with Margery Kempe?” This question must have burst from the lips of Margery’s parents, husband, parish priest, neighbors, fellow parishioners, fellow pilgrims, and assorted friars, monks, and high ecclesiastics throughout her life. But after her death, she might have slipped from view as a minor fifteenth-century pious eccentric, except for one thing: though illiterate, in the 1430’s she dictated her memoirs, which then circulated in manuscript as *The Book of Margery Kempe*, a bumptious, pious, hard-headed, tear-filled window into late medieval life in England and on the pilgrimage routes a century before the Protestant Reformation. And so, ordinary Christians, historians, sociologists, and official Churches have echoed that exasperated cry ever since.

Margery was a person of some social standing, as the wife of a prosperous merchant in King’s Lynn, Norfolk. She also tried her hand at several businesses of her own, including brewing (the foam didn’t last, unfortunately). But after some sort of crisis produced by the birth of her first child (there were to be thirteen more), an intense inner life welled up in her, never to recede. And her mystical tendencies were not of the self-effacing, retiring sort exemplified by her contemporary Julian of Norwich, whom she consulted. Her longing for the presence of Jesus was rewarded by visions, conversations, and indeed by an undeniable intuition and prescience which brought her notoriety. She spoke of the love of God and of her spiritual experiences to any who would listen—indeed, any within earshot, many of whom would make their escape as quickly as possible. Thoughts of Our Lord’s Passion made her weep and, indeed, wail, loudly, even in the middle of mass.

She was, in fact, loved and revered by many, and regarded as a nuisance or even as a menace by others. She recounts it all in her Book, from slights and sneers to arrests and examination by learned clerics. Part of her trouble came from the fact that she lived in the time when Lollardy was abroad in England. Lollardy was a pre-Protestant movement of resistance to some aspects of Catholic teaching and practice stimulated by the work of John Wycliffe, an Oxford theologian with powerful friends at court. He died in 1380, but his followers spread his pernicious anti-clericalism and exaltation of preaching, and an illegal translation of the Bible into English. Since Margery could be accused of (unauthorized) preaching, she was suspected of heresy, though when examined she passed the orthodoxy exam with flying colors. They needn’t have worried; she seems to have been an enthusiastic participant in late medieval Catholic piety: paying for masses, incessant confession, devotion to the saints, good works, pilgrimages, and great deference shown to hierarchical office.

Her respect for actual clerics, on the other hand, was conditional. Godly people, who recognized her sincerity and basic goodness even when they found her a little hard to take, are praised in her Book. Those whom she divines to be hypocrites or worse, she answers fearlessly and often with simple eloquence.

*The Book of Margery Kempe*, my copy of which was translated by Tony D. Triggs and published by Burns & Oates in 1995, gives a compelling picture of ordinary life in fifteenth-century England and beyond. Margery Kempe made two pilgrimages, one to Jerusalem by way of Europe (Rome included) and one to Santiago de Compostela, and a later trip to Danzig and Scandinavia with her widowed daughter-in-law. There were many adventures, some of her own making, which she tells us in usually forthright prose, but with a gift for metaphor. After a passage in which “Our Lord” speaks to her in the tenderest loving terms, He praises her steadfastness by saying, “Daughter, you obey my wishes and stick to me as tenaciously as a cod’s skin sticks to a man’s hand when it is boiled.”

To what extent would Margery Kempe now be regarded as inspired and to what extent as ill? Or are those mutually exclusive? Was strength perfected in weakness for this sturdy but vulnerable middle-class wife and mother? For me, one of the revelations of this book is the extent to which it depicts the pre-Reformation Church as *genuine*, varied, doing its flawed best to be the People of God. Its world seems markedly remote from ours. And yet, these were Christians, trying to be faithful to the will of God and the way of Jesus. However rigidly ordered their view of the universe and the Church might be, many of these princes, hierarchs, gentlefolk and beggars still had a powerful sense of the unpredictable possibilities of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, even in the difficult person of this Norfolk housewife. People promised to pray for her, and she for them.

Finally, they were all in this together.



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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.



# The Messenger

November 2019 | Volume X, Number 8

**“It is good to give thanks to the Lord.”**

– Psalm 92

Let's have Thanksgiving every day

Each morning say “Thank you”  
 when you pray

Send a note to a distant friend

Things we can do have no end

When you get to Thanksgiving dinner

Smile and consider yourself a winner

*Alma Ruth*



© Cuyler Black (Inherit the Mirth)

## Submissions are welcome!

We invite you to send articles, letters, poems or printable artwork to [deborahwaldo18@gmail.com](mailto:deborahwaldo18@gmail.com).

The submission deadline for the December-January issue is:

**Monday, November 11th**