



The Messenger

December 2019 - January 2020 | Volume X, Number 9

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

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Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to Advent, our season of waiting, of hesitancy, of joy, of trusting in all the things we don't possess, of being stirred up, of seeing anew, of being delighted and surprised. Advent is the time for waiting for the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. And we do not wait alone....

We are waiting with Mary and Joseph.

We are waiting with Zechariah and Elizabeth.

We are waiting with all those traveling to Bethlehem for the census.

We are waiting with all those traveling with the wise sages from the east.

We are waiting with the shepherds and the innkeepers.

We are waiting with the morning rising star.

Even, we are waiting with Herod.

Advent is our season of waiting under the shadow of Jesus' birth, not only as a baby, but as the Christ crucified who will be resurrected into our living spirits. And during these days, we are invited to take time, to make the effort to create some space in which God can act, maybe even in ways we never planned.

During these very busy days, we are asked to prevent the time in our life from always being filled up, where we find ourselves occupied or preoccupied. To make that precious time, where we too, like Mary, can say, "Yes," maybe not to a life-changing encounter, but to the experience of encountering God's grace and love and presence: the sacrament of the moment.

One of the things I loved about living in South Africa was that there was a lot of waiting. Because of that, there was also a lot of pulling up a chair, sharing a cup of tea, holding hands, laughing, playing cards, massaging a neck, taking a long walk, or singing, while peeling an apple very slowly. The waiting, then, became a communal expectation for whatever would happen next.

In other words, we're not praying while we wait. The waiting is prayer. So, let's make the most of it, because the present moment is really all we have anyway. Take it in, don't let your plans or needs get in the way of what you can discover with each other and with God.

I think that's what it must have been like to have travelled with Jesus. Plans were replaced with intimacy. And those traveling discovered that while they were waiting for whatever Jesus would do next, they were also being "waited on" by God. God waits with us, for us and between us, and when we wait, we are invited to travel in the ways of God.

You will all be in my daily prayers during my sabbatical, which is from Advent to Lent. May you and your family have a blessed Advent and a beautiful Christmas.

Always,
Jamie+

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CURATE'S CORNER

Rev. Sandi Albom

As I was looking ahead to what resources I might use for my morning reflections during Advent, I journeyed to a Christmas sonnet written by English poet Malcolm Guite, from his collection *Sounding the Seasons, Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year*.

*Christmas sets the centre on the edge;
The edge of town, the outhouse of the inn,
The fringe of empire, far from privilege
And power, on the edge and outer spin
Of turning worlds, a margin of small stars
That edge a galaxy itself light years
From some unguessed at cosmic origin.
Christmas sets the centre at the edge.*

In a meeting this week one of our staff members remarked how much they appreciated witnessing all the ways that we know and care for each other in this parish. It is true; we do care for each other widely and deeply at All Saints'. And it goes beyond the fact that we are situated in a close group of communities here in the Monadnock region. It certainly feels to me, as one who does not live here in Peterborough full time, that this is an extraordinary place where it seems, everybody really does know your name. People here are genuinely interested in what their neighbor is up to and, more than that, how are they doing. Giving to and being in community is part of the DNA of the region. All Saints' Parish and its people are right at the center of it all in so many ways.

Don't you find it a bit curious that for all of the Christmas shows that are on television, very few even mention the name of Jesus? Certainly, the sentiment is there, but the message is so highly domesticated. Perhaps the reason is that bringing the name of God incarnate into the equation calls us to fundamentally change our response to "Peace on Earth, good will to all," to be more a prayer of contemplation and action, than a simplistic greeting card message.

God chose to come to us as a child, lowly born, of an unwed young woman, from a people oppressed by the power of empire. As Christians, this is the One who is at the center of our world and our faith.

*And from this day our world is re-aligned
A tiny seed unfolding in the womb
Becomes the source from which we all unfold
And flower into being.
We are healed,
The end begins, the tomb becomes a womb,
For now, in him all things are re-aligned.*

In this Advent, as we move toward a stable behind an inn, I pray we are beckoned away from what is comfortable and familiar and into those places where we might illuminate those shadowy hiding places of division and empire with the light of Christ.

And may that light shine in our hearts this season, always and forevermore.

Sandi+



Advent Spiral Walk

5:00 pm–Sunday, December 15
in Reynolds Hall

Give yourself the gift of profound beauty and spiritual refreshment by walking the Advent Spiral, which brings together beautiful (live) instrumental music, darkness and light, and the beauty and mystery of nature in a setting of stillness and grace.

Families are welcome, but since the experience unfolds in silence, it probably works best for children over the age of five.

Church School/Pageant Schedule

9:45 am–Sunday, December 1

Pageant sign-up/costume fitting in the Church School Room

10:00 am–Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday – “Messy Advent” in Reynolds Hall

9:45 am–Sunday, December 15

Church School and Pageant practice @ 10:00 and
Pageant Rehearsal after the 10:00 service in the church

10:00 am–Saturday, December 21

Pageant Rehearsal in the church

10:00 am–Sunday, December 22

Church School Christmas Party in the Church School Room

All children are invited to take part in the pageant. We are looking for many adult volunteers to help with rehearsals and on the day of the pageant. Contact Rev. Sandi to find out more and to help. revsandi@allsaintsnh.org call or text @ 603-303-2435

It’s Time to Begin the 2020 Season of 8@8 Dinners!

Are you new to our parish family or have you been with us forever? 8@8 is a fun and easy way to meet members of the parish from all the Sunday services. This season, dinners will occur on the 3rd Saturday of each month, January-April, with participants from all three services randomly scheduled to attend small dinner socials in a selected host’s home. You can participate either as a guest and/or by providing your home as a host location. Every effort is made to schedule no more than 8 persons per dinner social!

Hosting is not a requirement, but strongly encouraged for fairness reasons, as well as to ease in scheduling. As host, you are responsible for providing the location (usually your home), preparing the main dish, and contacting the other scheduled participants where they, in turn, provide a salad, wine, side dish, dessert, or whatever else you wish them to bring. This year, Boo Martin will host a final all-participant gathering scheduled for May 16th.

Sign up by completing a form, available through the Parish Office or on-line, and return it to the parish office no later than December 15, 2019. A confirmation reply will be sent once your information has been received.

After December 15th any sign-ups received will be placed on a waitlist for open slots occurring due to last-minute cancelations or changes. Final schedules will be mailed/e-mailed by January 2, 2020. Further inquiries can be made by contacting the Parish Office or our Dinner Co-Coordinator listed below.

Steve Smillie
Boo Martin

(603) 315-2994
(603) 321-5255

stephenwsmillie@gmail.com
boo@imartinassociates.com

We look forward to seeing you!

Advent Morning Prayer and Reflection

During Advent on Wednesday mornings at 7:30 am 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 at revsandi@allsaintsnh.org.

Advent 2019

by Alma Ruth

Is the tree up yet?

It will be soon I'll bet

At the happiest time of year

One thing is very clear

We'll soon see Christmas lights

Hear joyous songs most nights

This Season is very beguiling

Notice—most folks are smiling!

While wrapping the Christmas presents

Feel the warmth of His holy presence

In this Season of joy and mirth

Don't forget the holy birth

Remember why we keep this date

Thank the Lord as we celebrate

The Feast of the Nativity



at All Saints' Church, Peterborough

Advent IV: Rorate

Sunday, December 22

10:00 am: Holy Eucharist

with choir and organ

(There will be no 8:00 am or Rite NOW service on this day)

5:00 pm: The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Music and readings for Christmas, with the All Saints' Choir

A festive reception will follow in Reynolds Hall

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

4:30 pm: The Pageant of the Nativity and Holy Eucharist

A dramatization of the Nativity Story

by children of the parish with the Pageant Choir

7:30 pm: Festal Holy Eucharist with organ and carols

10:30 pm: Music for the Feast

~ A Christmas Serenade ~

music played by the Apple Hill Strings

11:00 pm: 'Midnight Mass'

Festal Choral Eucharist

Deutsche Messe, by Franz Schubert

with the All Saints' Choir and Apple Hill Strings

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 am: Festal Holy Eucharist

with organ and carols

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

Sunday, December 29

10:00 am: Holy Eucharist

with organ and carols

(There will be no 8:00 am or Rite NOW service on this day)

A Carol for Our Times

When we view Christmas through a Dickensian or an Elizabethan lens – in a PBS dramatization or documentary, for instance – it is a bit jarring to acknowledge that Christmas was not always the elaborate celebration in our liturgical, community or family life that it is today. Most of us probably realize that, very early on, the Church “evangelized” by adapting pagan winter solstice traditions into the Christian celebration of Christmas. One of the most significant of these involved carols, the songs of praise and joy sung as people danced around circles of great stones during the solstice celebrations. Although as early as 129 AD, Christian carols had emerged, it was not until the tenth century that carols began to evolve all around Europe. Through the Middle Ages, since most such carols were meant to be sung in church, they were written in Latin and not readily understood by the average person. Consequently, carol singing fell out of favor, and people lost interest in Christmas celebrations.

That began to change in the 13th century when St. Francis of Assisi presented the first of his Nativity Plays, dramatizations which included ‘carols’ that revealed particular aspects of the nativity story. Around Europe this mystery play tradition flourished and more new carols, for the most part in the vernacular of the people, emerged. Minstrels and troubadours sang nativity carols as they traveled, embellishing or changing the texts over time by merging legends or even news of the day into stories of The Holy Family.

One such carol is from the nativity play ‘The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors,’ a famous mystery play traditionally presented by the Guilds in the city of Coventry in England. The play tells the story of the slaughter of the Holy Innocents, when Herod ordered deaths of all male children under age two in his kingdom in an effort to ensure that the

infant Jesus would not survive. The Coventry carol is presented as a lullaby sung by the mothers of three of the doomed children. Many will recognize the carol refrain, “Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, bye, bye, lully, lullay.”

At the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 22nd this year, the All Saints’ Choir will sing Scottish composer David Blackwell’s ‘A Carol for our Times,’ published just this year. In the medieval carol tradition, Blackwell has merged news of our day with a part of the nativity story, juxtaposing the ultimate flight of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus into Egypt with the flight of Middle Eastern and North African refugees across the Mediterranean into Europe.

A little teaser:

*A crowded boat tossed by the rolling sea,
It dips and sways, water soaks the infant boy,
Fast he grips his mother’s hand.
See, the clothes he’s wearing are all he has.*

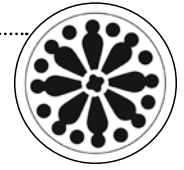
*Kings bring gifts to the Christ Child,
Gold, frankincense, and holy myrrh,
But who will bring a simple gift to the little boy at sea?*

*Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.*

**Please join us on December 22nd at
5:00 p.m. for the Festival of Nine Lessons
and Carols.**

From the Vestry

Heidi Graff



It is hard to believe that my second year on the Vestry is nearly complete! Two years ago, when I was asked if I would consider serving, I have to admit, I was a bit hesitant to say yes. I was certainly happy to serve the All Saints' community but wondered if becoming a Vestry member was a good fit for me. I questioned what I might be able to contribute. I thought, after all, much of what the Vestry does is focus on church finances and that is something a bit out of my league! Jamie convinced me that my involvement in various church ministries would be beneficial to my service on the Vestry, so I took a leap of faith and said yes! It was a good decision. The last two years have proven to be a valuable learning experience as I have come to know the many ways in which the Vestry helps to carry out the work of the church.

My years as a parishioner have provided me with numerous service experiences, all of which have been rewarding. I have made special friends, and I have been blessed to witness the example of others who live out their faith in inspiring ways. Serving on the Vestry has expanded those same blessings. I look forward to our monthly meetings, as I know each time I will be in the presence of a large group of mentors who dedicate themselves to All Saints' in ways that are awe inspiring. Each person brings something valuable to the table which allows the Vestry not only to make important financial decisions, but also to guide decision making and to support our ongoing ministries.

I have always felt grateful to call myself a member of All Saints' Church; the reasons are many—my fellow parishioners, our talented clergy, the natural beauty of our campus, our amazing choir etc. I can now count my learning experience of serving on the Vestry as yet another reason for which to be grateful to call myself a member of All Saints' Church.

Heidi

Welcome 2020

by Alma Ruth

Was opening your presents fun?

Get ready for another one

To me it's very clear

The present is the new year

Forget your mistakes—they are in the past

Live in the joy of the Lord—that joy will last

Can you see where this is leading?

Make time for prayer and bible reading

Be good to all and make them cheer

And have a happy new year

December Saints' Days

William Raymond	12/01
Janet Fiedler	12/03
Christine Howe	12/06
Hellyn Egan	12/06
Lily Bell	12/07
Robert Kennedy	12/09
Hadley Bates	12/09
Christopher Conway	12/10
Renee Charney	12/10
Max Scheinblum	12/11
John Calhoun	12/12
Martha Manley	12/12
Catherine Cauthorne	12/16
Caroline Sarles	12/17
Michael Carter	12/17
Matthew Belliveau-Ryan	12/17
Sarah Kendall	12/20
Carl Wagner Jr	12/20
Kate Coon	12/21
Lois Walen	12/27
Jonathon Klassen	12/28
Gretchen Mayhew	12/29

January Saints' Days

Andrew Goss	01/01
Lucas Gregory	01/03
Peter Oliver	01/05
Ryan Betz	01/05
Beth Krommes	01/06
Tommy Goodwin	01/06
Lilianne Tullio	01/07
Megan Graff	01/08
Charles Richmond	01/08
Christine Kelly	01/09
Mary Weis	01/12
Susan Sarles	01/12
Emily Manns	01/14
Joelle Mancini	01/16
Martha Raymond	01/17
Susan Gill	01/18
Heather Peterson	01/19
Louise Lawrence	01/20
Claire Marlar	01/23
Laura Campbell	01/24
Finbarr McCullough	01/24
Elisabeth Foecking	01/25
Judith Pratt	01/25
Catherine Pendleton	01/25
Bailey Guinn	01/25
Lily Beyer	01/26
Elsbeth Pendleton	01/28
David Boothby	01/31
Naomi-Claire Praul	01/31

Our Upcoming Slate of Nominees for Election to the Vestry



John Kerrick

The core mission for my life is to have a healthy mind, body and spirit; to make some progress toward unconditional love, and to make a positive contribution in the world. I find that I can fulfill four of the five at All Saints. In addition, I had the great good fortune to find my wife Winnie Skeates when we worked together on an All Saints' committee. Currently I help with church school and am a member of the altar guild for the Rite NOW service. This will be my second turn on the Vestry.

I continue to be modestly active in my business coaching human development in the corporate world. Adventure travels with Winnie and with my children are rich dimensions of my life. Next spring Winnie and I will go to the Scottish island of Iona for a retreat based on Celtic spirituality.



Nathaniel Peirce

I retired to Hancock six years ago and have been an active member of All Saints' Church since that time. I presently serve as an usher and a Lay Eucharistic Minister, generally for the 8 am service. During the recent Capital Campaign, I also served on the solicitation committee.

I have had 45 years of experience in independent schools as student, mathematics teacher, division head, Head of School, trustee, and consultant. In 2013, I retired as Head of East Woods School, Oyster Bay, NY. At the request of the University President, I came out of retirement in 2015 to serve as the Chief Operating Officer for Franklin Pierce University for two and one half years.

I have a wide range of professional expertise, including financial management, strategic planning, organizational management, teacher evaluation, curriculum development, school accreditation, institutional advancement, and school governance.

I have served as the Chair of six Visiting Committees for Accreditation for NYSAIS schools. In addition to my professional activities, I serve as a trustee for Brantwood Camp, a camp for underprivileged boys and girls, located here in Peterborough. In the town of Hancock, I serve on the Historical Commission, the Planning Board, and the board of directors of Music on Norway Pond.

I am a graduate of Northeastern (BS), Harvard (MEd) and Columbia University (Ed.D). At Columbia University my doctoral studies focused on organizational behavior and management.

I have been married to Anne Griswold Peirce for 44 years. We have a daughter, Betsy, who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina with her husband James, and our two grandsons, Alexander and Jack.



Rick Simpson

I am currently a member of the All Saints' choir and a Lay Eucharistic Minister. I was formerly a vestry member, clerk, and co-chair of the rector Search Committee. In my previous parish, I was Senior Warden, treasurer, and Lay Eucharistic Minister, among other roles.

I was a member of Boston's Cantata Singers for 22 years, and recently served as board chair. I have sung opera roles with the Boston Lyric Opera and other companies, and have been tenor soloist with many regional and local orchestras and choruses, including the chamber orchestra of Monadnock Music and the Monadnock Chorus. I was a New England finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions.

My business experience includes roles as CEO, SVP, VP, board member, strategy consultant, and interim executive in diverse business environments. I am currently an independent management consultant and a Certified Primal Health Coach, a trustee and board chair of Concord Community Music School, and treasurer and business manager of Music on Norway Pond.

My wife, Jody, is a well-known choral conductor, also an All Saints' choir member, and Artistic Director of Music on Norway Pond. We have three married sons, four grandchildren, one dog, and one cat. I am a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Business School.



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Curate: Rev. Sandi Albom, revsandi@allsaintsnh.org

Organist & Choirmaster: Jeff Fuller, jeff@allsaintsnh.org

Ministries Coordinator: Gail Caron, admin@allsaintsnh.org

Project 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 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

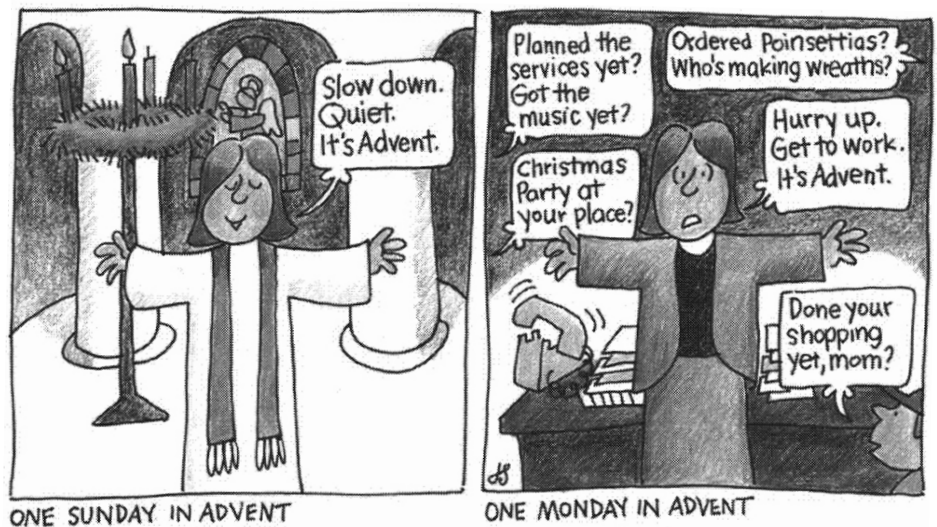
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Submissions are welcome!

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

The submission deadline for the February/March issue is:

Monday, January 13th



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