

THE MESSENGER

December 2014, Volume 5 Number 8

All Saints' Church 51 Concord Street, Peterborough, NH 03458

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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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From the Rector...

Secured on the right wall, as you exit the Lady Chapel of All Saints' Church, is an exquisite small bronze sculpture with the following inscription:

Dancing Madonna
Given in loving memory of
Elizabeth W. Pleasants
by

Nathaniel & Constantia P. Bowditch

Mary is a young woman. Her long hair is flowing; she is skipping. Her dress is twirling. She has Jesus by his hands and she is swinging him around and around. He is launched, feet in the air, soaring. Jesus is smiling; his hair is caught in the breeze.

The two are carefree and the sculptor, a Welsh friend of the Bowditch's daughter, has captured the deep love and joy between mother and child. There is a spaciousness of mind and heart, not only in the spaces caught between flight and gravity and a mother's tender glance, but also in the sheer abandonment to the beauty of presence. Nothing matters and everything matters. They have each other: the sacrament of the moment.

As I look at them in play, I can't help but fast-forward and see Mary at the cross. She is weeping, caught in another type of abandonment, a pain so great no container can hold its expanse, as she surveys her beloved son on the cross, stripped from her and crying out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Did Mary know all that Gabriel knew when he came to her with his life-changing announcement, "The power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow"? (Luke 1:35).

I think not and this is why. Mary said, "Yes," not to knowing, but to trusting in God's activity in the world.

Oh my! What courage, what power, what humility, as she received God's Word into her womb and abandoned herself to God's will.

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



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

With much joy and anticipation,
Jamie+

Into the Dark

"I will love the light for it shows me the way; yet I will endure the darkness for it shows me the stars." Og Mandino

I can't help but think about darkness this time of year. The fall light, those splendid, golden hues of October, are bittersweet because I know they lead to shorter days and longer nights. Late nights outside in t-shirts give way to long, dark evenings indoors, which, at least initially, have their own appeal. But at a certain point, the darkness wears on us all.

The gospel story is one of light: "The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light;" Jesus' transfiguration where he appears as pure light atop the mountain; his reminder not to hide our light beneath a bushel basket; his teaching that we are the Light of the world; the light of his Resurrected self outside the tomb. And yet, it is also a story of darkness; the darkness is present throughout. The Magi, in particular, come to mind for me when I think of darkness.

I've always felt the Magi get sort of a tough break in the Nativity story. They are vaguely mentioned as "kings from the East," and their journey to visit the Christ-child is given a relatively short overview. Very little is known of their adventure beyond the fact that it was long, they followed a great star, and they save the day by not disclosing the location of the child to King Herod as he requests them. They are, in a sense, the first apostles, leaving everything behind, risking their very lives to follow Christ. And all this long before any hope of witnessing a miracle, experiencing a healing event or even hearing a moving sermon. Countless miles, untold perils - just to bow at the feet of a nameless peasant baby whom they believe will one day be king. They arrive, they present gifts, and they are never heard from again. What tremendous faith! And it was all done in darkness, travelling at night when their star-maps were visible. I am humbled when I consider their journey.

Last week, Jamie invited us out into the darkness as she discussed the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. She suggested that this story is not about the lights, not about the lamps, but rather, it is about entering the wilderness, leaving the light behind to join our sisters and brothers in the darkness. The gospel story has always been one of risk, of facing our fears and boldly following Christ. And often, it is into the darkness. The Magi remind us, however, we are not alone -

The Christmas Schedule at All Saints'

December 7: Spiral Walk in Reynolds Hall, 6-7 PM

December 12: Blue Christmas Service, 5 PM, Reynolds Hall

December 14: Ecumenical Service of Light, 7 PM, in the Church

December 21: Lessons and Carols, 5 PM, *Reception to follow*

Christmas Eve: 4:30 PM Nativity Pageant

7:30 PM Eucharist

10:30 PM Music for the Feast

11 PM: Festal Eucharist

Alma's Poem

Lo, a little child shall lead them

One April day
There came our way
Our fourth child
The others went wild
With joy and delight
They marveled at him day and night
"What tiny hands and feet!
Cutest baby you'd ever meet"
Then his oldest brother,
Reflective like none other,
One night before going to bed
Came to me and said,
"This must be what Jesus looked like"
I still cherish that remark
And find a light when things look dark
I learned a lesson from my son:

Youth Speaks

I have been going to All Saints' for six years. I'll admit, at first I wasn't too happy with sitting quietly for an hour. But once I got involved with the church I got used to it and actually enjoyed it. I went to Sunday school after the service and really enjoyed it because I made new friends who were my age. I've later realized they are such good friends because we all have the same values.

Later I joined the Youth Choir because I love singing. It was great! Mr. Fuller, our choir director, had us participate in the Royal College School of Music teaching scheme, and I learned how to read music and sing scales. I was with other kids my age so I met even more people. I thought it was really cool when we sang in church with the adults because they seemed to know everything there is to know about music. I loved it when we got our RCSM ribbons. They show how much you know and I remember feeling on top of the world every time I got a new one. The whole church would clap for us and congratulate us during coffee hour. Now my friend Haley Spitzfaden, another Conval student, and I sing with the adult choir!

During coffee hour I get to meet everyone in the congregation. I know people I wouldn't have met if it hadn't been for the church. I wouldn't have grown up knowing that there is more to a person than from what you can see from the outside.

Four years ago, I was asked to be an acolyte. It was really cool to help run the service. I started by carrying the candle in the procession and then next thing I knew, I was head acolyte carrying the big cross. I've learned how to be a leader through this experience and it's helped me a lot.

Through the years at All Saints' I have made friends, learned how to read music, and learned life lessons. My time has been wonderful and I'm always proud to say that All Saints' is my church. I don't know what I would do or who I would be without All Saints' in my life.

Megan McClintock



O Tannenbaum

"Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree! How lovely are thy branches!"

Even as dementia was taking my mother away, she would enjoy singing and harmonizing over this sweet little German tune of her childhood. The staff and residents at Pheasantwood loved it, especially when my mother would linger on a particular minor seventh note of harmony and then embrace its resolution.

The Christmas tree has always been a part of celebrating the season for me. I love the fragrant boughs, the sparkling colored lights and the delicate glass ornaments that have been passed down to me. My father had the stressful task of putting up the strings of colored lights, first trying to figure out which bulb was causing the whole string to fail to light, then getting them on the tree in some artful order and (in the old days) clipping them to the branches. Many times he would have to pause in the middle and take a walk in the brisk winter air in order to calm himself. His labor of love was for me, because I so loved the Christmas tree.

When I first came to New Hampshire, I worked building Pine Hill School in Wilton. The wood trusses for the auditorium had been constructed on site, and were waiting for the crane to come and put them in place. We rejoiced when, broken axle fixed, it finally made its way to the top of the hill. Someone found a small fir tree and nailed it to the last truss, to bless the building. I remember standing on a high plywood deck gazing out at the hills beyond and at the fading light of that pink December sky, thinking that days didn't get much better than the one I had just experienced.

So what's with the Christmas tree? Is it merely a vestige from our ancient ancestors worshipping the tree spirits? Is it at worst a symbol of our commercialization of this holiday? The early church embraced and subverted the ancient customs, building churches on sacred groves, and turning Celtic goddesses into saints. They had the wisdom to take our love of the earth, God's creation, and incorporate the old stories into the story of Jesus Christ. At some deep level we know

that a green fragrant tree, blooming with lights and color, placed in our homes in the darkest part of winter, has to be a symbol of hope.

At All Saints' we have an image of the Christmas tree always with us, in the form of the St. Nicholas window. Joan Brewster describes it this way in her book, *The Stained Glass of All Saints*: "St. Nicholas, patron saint of children. He raises his right hand in blessing... A medallion below holds a bright green Christmas tree alive with candles. Tiny figures of boys, girls, trees, flowers, and mountain birds are scattered through the diamond shapes of the white and blue background, lending a spirit of love and delight." It has returned to the baptistery after a brief hiatus for repairs. You should make an effort to go and view it in this holiday season.

I feel great affection for the children of the Mountain Mission by Mail, who donated the funds for this window. I wonder if there were those who complained when it was installed. Mrs. Cheney Schofield must certainly have approved. The baptistery windows all together display an underlying generosity of spirit, seeking to delight the children who are a part of our church family.

While celebrating this season, we have the opportunity to embrace a rich array of traditions: the birth of the little baby soon to become our Savior, the magical story with the shepherds and animals in the manger, the dark days cheered by the candles in our windows, the special foods we prepare, and the songs we love to sing. Christmas is a generous holiday, and it is able to take it all in and transform it.

So let's take time this year, and feel the joy in the traditions and not the crushing pressure to make everything perfect. However you choose to trim your tree: hand cut and decorated with popcorn and cranberries, carefully planned with matching colored balls and tasteful white lights, or loaded with well worn treasured ornaments full of happy memories; I wish you an expansive and joyous

Christmas filled with all kinds and sorts of blessings.

You do not fade with winter snow, You bloom with lights when cold winds blow. Oh Christmas Tree, oh Christmas Tree! How lovely are thy branches!

Laura Campbell

Mark your Calendars:

Celebration of Ministry

Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 6:30 PM

All Saints' Church

Bishop Rob will preach and celebrate at a service recognizing Jamie as our new Rector

All Saints' Stained Glass Window Given to Divine Mercy Parish

When All Saints' Church was first built, many of the windows were given by the Cheney-Schofield families and created by the Connick Studio in Boston. The windows in the Nave, also by Connick, were of the grisaille design: strictly geometric and without religious figures. Examples of this can be found in the Lady Chapel entrance and in the Sacristy.

As memorials were given, the Nave windows were replaced with the beautiful works we see now. Some of the grisaille windows were given to Holderness School, but others were placed in the shed, under-protected and underfoot. As a result, only parts of the windows survived, one of which

was given to Divine Mercy Parish for their new facility in Peterborough by Adrian before he left.

This window is an example of early Connick work and is approximately 100 years old. It is about 24 inches by 50 inches and is currently being completely rebuilt by Bob Weathers, of All Saints' Church, and Beth McGurty, a member of Divine Mercy Parish. Both have experience in the art of stained glass. They are removing all the lead, cleaning the glass, adding new lead caning and maintaining the integrity of the original design.

We look forward to the installation of the All Saints' window in the new Divine Mercy Parish.

Deb DeCicco and Bob Weathers

Saintly News

Congratulations to...

- ❖ Ivy Vann for officially becoming N.H. State Representative

If you would like to share a "special news" item or a happy occasion with the Parish, please email Gloria Schultz at glojoemointheglen@gmail.com or call 924-9489.

Advent Tuesdays with Mary

Every Tuesday during Advent (December 2, 9, 16 and 23), in Mary's Chapel (the Lady Chapel), Morning Prayer will be said at 7:30 AM.

After Morning Prayer, Jamie will lead a discussion on the novella, *The Testament of Mary*, by Colm Toibin.

Much can be said about this novella – it's thoughtful, lyrical, *not* sentimental, even dark, strange, yet familiar. Mary is presented in her old age, guilt-ridden, sad, even angry, and resistant to telling her story. As her suffering is revealed, also revealed is our own humanity, which liberates the story to become more about us and less about Mary.

Come for Morning Prayer at 7:30 AM, come for the book discussion at 8 AM, or come for all, worshipper and wayfarer, alike. We will end sharply at 8:30 AM for those who need to leave for work. Books will be available at the parish office.

Vestry Views

In the past I took for granted all that happens within a church community. Now as my three-year term on the Vestry comes to a close, I get it, I really get it! The spiritual growth we experience through Sunday worship is not without incredible workings behind the scene. Much of that work occurs within the Vestry by its members under the direction of their rector and wardens.

The November 18 meeting was the second with our new rector. An electricity and spirit of excitement was evident as we focused on some of the challenges and opportunities ahead. Finances top that list. Deb DeCicco shared the status of the stewardship campaign. We now have 101 pledges totaling \$209,259.00. The Vestry continues to aim for the goal of 100% participation from our All Saints' parishioners. We encourage everyone who has not yet pledged to send one in as soon as possible. This will enable us to finalize the budget for 2015, during our December meeting. When each of us takes the opportunity to give from our hearts in thanks for all the gifts God has given us, we as individuals and as a church community become stronger.

What a bittersweet moment for me during our meeting when Andy Peterson observed the number of new worshipers attending Sunday services and the growing energy and vitality within our Church – bittersweet because while I am happy to share a sense of pride with the other Vestry members for the foundation we have been building, I am sad that my term on Vestry is almost over. This dynamic and talented group has graciously accepted the challenges put before them, always keeping God's mission as their focus. Serving with this group has given me a renewed faith and understanding of the power of God's love in my life. Although I will miss working with the Vestry under Jamie's inspiring leadership, there will be ministries in

which I will continue to serve. Thanks for the privilege and honor of sharing the journey. The best is yet to be.

Cindy Naudascher, for the Vestry

What is The Monadnock Area Food Pantry?

Forty-three years ago, two members of the Outreach Committee at All Saints' Church, Lorraine Bishop and Jean Peters, recognized the need for a food pantry in the Monadnock region. They organized "The Monadnock Area Food Bank" (now called Pantry) and enlisted Tom and Mary Murphy to act as its original directors. Margot Johnson ran it for several years and now Gary Armstrong and I are the managers.

Since its inception, the food pantry has provided food to over 150,000 people from 20 towns - Antrim, Bennington, Deering, Dublin, Fitzwilliam, Frankestown, Greenfield, Greenville, Hancock, Harrisville, Hillsborough, Jaffrey, New Ipswich, Peterborough, West Peterborough, Rindge, Stoddard, Temple, Troy, and Winchester. We have not refused anyone and have not had to close for lack of food.

The organization has 34 volunteers (eight from All Saints') and operates using both monetary and food donations. All Saints' donates space in the basement of the Old Parish House. The pantry is open Monday, Tuesday and Saturday from 10 AM to Noon.

The holiday seasons are a particularly busy time. This year we will prepare 100 Thanksgiving baskets, which include a turkey, cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, two vegetables, boxed mashed potatoes, and a dessert.

Names and addresses are not required. Clients only have to give their zip code, the number of adults, children, senior citizens, and veterans in their families. We have had as many as 317 requests in a month! Clients are able to select the items they need to feed their families based on the inventory of foodstuffs available that day. The N.H. Food Bank, Feeding America, and The Catholic Charities help us to serve the right foods and the kinds of foods to provide 4.5 meals a week - we do more.

Obviously, the food pantry could not exist without the continued financial and in-kind support of many individuals and organizations in the community. We are particularly grateful to All Saints', Roy's Market, ConVal, the Boy Scouts food drive, Manhattan East, The Peterborough Post Office, Shaw's, and all our local churches and the many generous people who make financial contributions.

I would like to see us expand to serve more families in more ways. I would like to add more "child-friendly" food with no sugars, school snacks, and juices. This will require more volunteers, more money, and more donations. If you'd like to help, drop off non-perishable food items or mail us a check. Or, call 924-0111 to arrange a visit.

Meredith White, Co-Manager of the Food Pantry

December Saints' Days

12/1	Bill Raymond		Carleigh Brown	12/18	Barbara Wood
	Timothy Ryan	12/9	Hadley Bates	12/19	Sheridan Johnston
12/2	William Marot	12/10	Renee Charney	12/20	Carl Wagner, Jr.
12/3	Janet Fiedler	12/11	Max Scheinblum		Sarah Kendall
12/6	Hellyn Egan	12/12	John Calhoun	12/25	Jesus of Nazareth
	Chris Howe	12/15	Deb Rogers	12/26	Finnian Brown
12/7	Lily Bell	12/16	Catherine Cauthorne	12/27	Lois Walen
12/8	Laurie Nelson	12/17	Michael Carter		Noah Harrington
12/9	Doris Covey		Caroline Sarles		Isak Harrington

12/30 Nicholas Ryan

If your name is missing from our Saints' Days lists, PLEASE let us know so you can be remembered! Just call or email the Church office: 924-3202 or diane@allsaintsnh.org

Exploring the Inner Life: A Circle of Trust

*You formed my innermost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb...
I am fearfully and wonderfully made...my soul knows that very well.*

Psalm 139:13-14

Have you ever wondered what's at the innermost being? Thomas Merton suggests that this is where you will find your own true self. The attempt to name that which lies at the center of human life and the experience of those who have traveled inward suggests that there is more to the inner life than we know and invites us to "come and see."

A Circle of Trust, based on the teachings in Parker Palmer's book, "A Hidden Wholeness - Journey to an Undivided Life", is a specific method, developed and taught by Parker Palmer, to create a safe space for the soul or inner teacher, to emerge and speak to you either silently or aloud. Having this safe place to listen to your soul helps you discern your own path, find your truth, and discover your inner voice in the encouraging and supportive presence of other people.

The Circle of Trust at All Saints' Church began in 2009 and continues today with four day-long retreats each year at the Barbara C. Harris Center. The cost for the year is \$140, due on February 1, 2015. The Circle of Trust is open to all people and we invite you to join us as we learn to uncover our authentic inner voice or "hidden wholeness."

There will be an introductory meeting on Thursday, January 15, from 6-8 PM in the Old Parish House. Please contact Deb DeCicco (532-7827 or debdecicco@gmail.com) to register so we know how many people to expect.



Anymore



I cannot ski any more
I cannot hike any more
I cannot walk two miles any more

BUT

I can still
Meander and meditate on
Amble and appreciate
Stroll and savor
Saunter and sense
Wander and wonder on
All the gifts of my life

Amen!

Operation Horse Power at Touchstone Farm

It is with great pride and joy that we at Touchstone Farm announce the official launch of Operation Horse Power, weekend programs for veterans and their families. Under the guidance of a marriage therapist, a family therapist and an equine specialist, assisted by the Touchstone team of horse people and counselors and a terrific herd of horses and ponies, we all had an amazing time at our first session.

Four vets and their families arrived on a Friday in November. Their individual therapists had named them as good candidates for this inaugural program. With a multitude of diagnoses, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD,) they came ready to work on reconnecting as families. With their own therapists leading the groups, assisted by the Touchstone team, the participants worked on healing and reconciling throughout the three-day weekend. They enjoyed a variety of unmounted exercises with the horses to begin. They then moved on to actually riding and carriage driving.

Throughout the time with the horses, the therapists set up challenges that a couple or the whole family were to do together.

During the talk therapy part of the weekend, participants enjoyed talking, laughing and gaining insights.

Mixed in was just plain, good old "fun on a farm." The kids and dads fed the horses one morning. Everyone collected warm eggs from the hen house for breakfast. Art projects and gifts abounded. Music was played. Funny silly games took everyone's mind off their struggles. Bunnies were hugged. Dogs walked. Goats petted. Donkeys dressed up. A bonfire, complete with S'mores, and a sky full of shining stars, happened with talk

late into the night between fellow veterans. The weekend wrapped up with a ceremony with each family taking a 'touchstone' away with them as a keepsake for their weekend.

Our own John Adams came to do a service, modeled after our 9:15 AM service, on Sunday morning. With his gentle demeanor and generosity of spirit, he capped the weekend for us all.

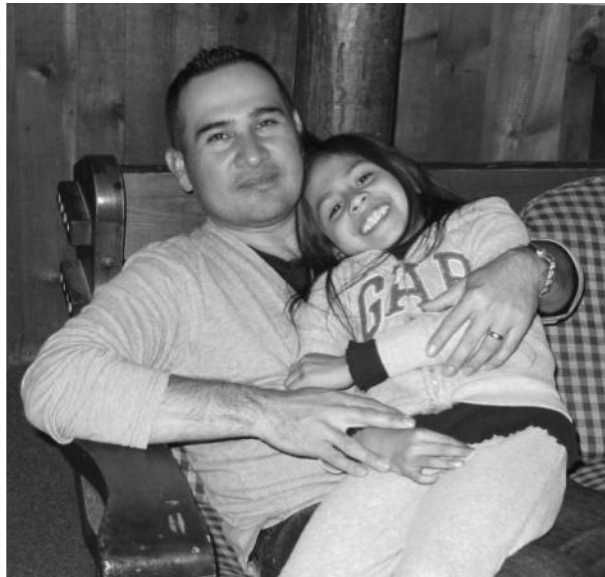
As the families wrote their evaluations and let us know what the weekend had meant for them, we were sure we were on the right path. While we have been offering therapeutic riding and carriage driving lessons for veterans for the last eight years, and we feel we are now ready to really

delve into the psychotherapeutic heart of veterans' issues. With PTSD at an all-time high (22 vets with PTSD commit suicide every day around the country,) we want to do more than offer recreational activities.

Our team is now trained, credentialed and fully operational to offer in depth Equine Assisted Psychotherapy. We also will be offering a multi-modality treatment approach this spring that will include EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and

Reprocessing,) Restorative Yoga, Small Unit Healing and Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy. We will also be addressing Moral Injury with a spiritual component to our weeklong residential treatment programs.

It is with great joy that I share this with our All Saints' family. Each week we pray for those in our parish serving in the military. It is my fervent hope that our church will eventually come together to welcome these veterans home and help them. We can make a difference. We have so much to offer as a church and as a family.



A vet and his daughter at Touchstone Farm (permission granted).

If you are a veteran, give us your advice as we build our programs. If you want to help veterans, lend us your hands and keep us in your prayers. If you know a veteran, tell him or her about us.

Together, we can and will make a huge difference in many peoples' lives.

Isabella (Boo) Martin, Founder and Executive
Director, Touchstone Farm

Book Note

Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography by Richard Rodriguez (Viking, 2013) is not linear, it is safe to say. In fact, it appears to be a lightly reworked series of essays written for different occasions or publications in the years since 2001. If you are expecting an account of how the author's relationship with God has changed over time, you will be disappointed.

On the other hand, if you are willing to enter into the musings of a Mexican-American homosexual practicing Roman Catholic whose eye and ear seem as focused as his prose, this is a book to make you laugh, shudder, and think new thoughts. Rodriguez is new to me, but he has an established reputation as an essayist; his book *Brown*, dealing with race in America, met with acclaim. (The color brown appears again in *Darling*, in a startling and amusing piece.)

There are aphorisms aplenty here: "The paradox of monotheism is that the desert God, refuting all other gods, demands acknowledgment within emptiness. The paradox of monotheism is that there is no paradox – only unfathomable singularity." The context is the author's visit to the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

There is more travel description than aphorism here, and extended meditation on biblical and historical events. Also art, family history, politics, a visit to Las Vegas to visit a dying friend during Holy Week.

This is a voice it is difficult to describe: spare, elusive, often devastatingly concrete, as in the parallel descriptions of Mother Teresa and Christopher Hitchens. I shall look for it in future.

Cassius Webb



When NHPTV Came to All Saints'

For two days in November, a crew from New Hampshire Public Television was set up in the Old Parish House interviewing and filming people of Peterborough for a new series that is starting soon. "Our Hometown" will feature one New Hampshire town per program and Peterborough was chosen to be the first town in the spotlight.

The NHPTV crew was in town in October at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture for a day of interviewing. There were so many people interested that they needed to come back for a second day. The parlor, Classroom 2, and Classroom 3 fit the bill for their set-up requirements.

November 12 was a day for setting up equipment and interviewing one person, and November 13 was a full day of interviews and taping. Two NHPTV banners were outside announcing the public television station's presence on campus along with two vans in the OPH driveway.

Many thanks to the ambassadors who were on hand those two days – Jack Lewis, Chris Howe, Pam Everson, Bev Kemp, Cindy Naudascher, and Jerry Branch, and thanks to Jamie, Diane, Pam and Deb for their support. The NHPTV folks felt very welcome and grateful for our hospitality.

For more information on this project, visit www.nhptv.org/hometown.

Give and Ye Shall Receive

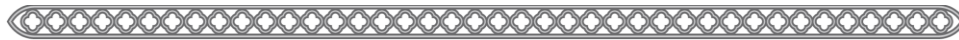
On November 16, our In-Gathering Sunday at All Saints' Church, our pledges were lifted up to be blessed. Our pledges for 2015 are a tangible expression of our faith and our deep appreciation of God's blessing in our lives.

At services in October and November we heard personal stories from parishioners on why Worship, Family, Formation, and Outreach have deep meaning in their lives.

There are many ways to give back for what we receive, and All Saints' Church needs our financial support. Even giving a little means a lot - it's the giving that matters as the children of our congregation are learning. An alms basin full of their pledges written on colorful paper was included in the blessing during our In-Gathering Sunday service.

This year the goal for Stewardship is 100 percent participation in the spiritual practice of pledging. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to offer their pledge, it is not too late. Your offering is welcome at any time.

Marilyn Weir, for the Vestry



View from the Bench

Twelve (12) is significant in the Bible: we read of the 12 tribes of Israel, Jesus' 12 apostles, and references in Revelation to 12 gates and 12 angels. Beyond the realm of religion, we count 12 eggs in a dozen and 12 inches in a foot. In the Western musical world, an octave comprises 12 half-steps, and there are 12 days of Christmas. Here are "twelve All Saints' musical moments" to note in the coming weeks.

1. **Advent I:** *Rorate caeli* Suite by Pietro Yon (Organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC, from 1926-1943), built on a plainsong setting of Isaiah 45:8, *Drop down, ye heavens from above.*
2. **Advent II:** "Comfort, comfort ye my people," Hymn # 67, the 16th c. Genevan Psalter tune of Louis Bourgeois, sung and an organ voluntary by Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)
3. **Advent III:** A gorgeous anthem setting of the text from Baruch, "Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you" by American composer Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1962)
4. **Advent IV:** Hymn #56, *Veni, veni Emmanuel*, the plainsong setting of the Great "O" antiphons - *O Sapientia* (O wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O root of Jesse), *O clavis David* (O key of David), *O Oriens* (O Dayspring), *O Rex gentium* (O King of nations), *O Emmanuel* (O God with us)
5. **Festival of Lessons and Carols:** *In the bleak midwinter*, the familiar Christina Rossetti text in a hauntingly beautiful setting by young Scottish composer Chris Hutchings (b. 1979)
6. **Christmas Eve - Pageant of the Nativity:** "Hallelu!", a traditional text the Pageant Choir will sing in a setting by gifted American composer Stephen Paulus (1949-2014), who died this past October
7. **Christmas Eve - Holy Eucharist (7:30 pm):** The glorious two-movement setting of *Vom Himmel hoch* (From heav'n above to earth I come) by Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)
8. **Christmas Eve - Music for the Feast (10:30 pm):** Extracts from the *Christmas Oratorio* of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), with the All Saints' Choir, organ and string players from Symphony NH
9. **Christmas Eve Midnight Mass (11:00 pm):** An "echo" setting of *Joseph lieber, Joseph mein* by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621), a dialogue between the All Saints' Choir and Symphony NH strings
10. **Christmas Day:** Not for the first time this Christmas, but for the last - *Adeste fideles*, "O come all ye faithful," the 17th c. text attributed to King John of Portugal set to an 18th c. tune by John Francis Wade.

11. **Christmas I:** Hymn #82, *Divinum mysterium*, or "Of the Father's love begotten," the 5th c. Latin text set to a 10th c. plainsong, first appeared in print in 1582 in the Finnish hymn collection *Piae Cantiones*
12. **Christmas II:** *Wie schön leucht' uns der Morgenstern*, or "How bright appears the Morning Star," in Sigfrid Karg-Elert's chorale fantasy setting for organ, and also sung as Hymn #497

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster



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Editor's Note

I just love it when *The Messenger* has to expand to 12 pages - it means that the Saints are Alive and spreading the Good News through action and words! What could be better? (Speaking of which - congratulations to Becky and Cassius, whose articles from previous *Messengers* appeared in the November *New Hampshire Episcopal News*!)

My favorite place in the world (aside from being near my family) is our Lady Chapel, and Jamie opens her article this month right there, inviting us to partake of the sacrament of the moment. Later, she invites us to spend "Tuesdays with Mary..."

As we move from Advent to Christmas, Becky asks us to think of the journey we are on from darkness to light.

Alma's poem is indescribably touching this month. You might get tears in your eyes...

Megan writes of how she came to love All Saints' and Laura reminds us of what is truly important at this busy time of year. Cindy brings us her perspective on the workings of the Vestry and Meredith explains the history and work of the Food Pantry.

Deb invites all of us to learn about the Circle of Trust, and Boo writes of an important new program at Touchstone Farm, one in which All Saints' plays a vital role.

Cassius offers an unusual book for our consideration, and Marilyn speaks of what we have done and what we can do for All Saints'. Jeff entices us with promises of fabulous Christmas music ahead.

The deadline for the January *Messenger* is December 17. The theme will be "New Beginnings." Please send your contributions to me at chow6569@gmail.com.