

THE MESSENGER

July-August 2014, Volume 5 Number 4

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Celeste Hemingson, *Interim Rector*

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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A Message from Celeste...

Living as "Post-Pentecost People"

The 24 weeks between Pentecost, (June 8 this year,) and the first Sunday in Advent, (November 30) are simply referred to as "The Season after Pentecost." Because this season begins with the summer, marking the end of Sunday School, and the cessation of many church activities, this season tends to be seen as a time when nothing happens, a season named by default according to what it isn't: It isn't Advent, it isn't Christmas, nor Epiphany, nor Lent, nor Easter.

I urge us to take a second look, however; because this season accounts for roughly half of the Church year. We are not half-time Christians, any more than we are only Sunday morning Christians.

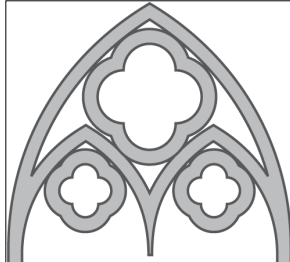
With that in mind I invite you to use the "Season after Pentecost" to consider what it means to be "people after Pentecost." Having received the great gift of the Holy Spirit, which we celebrate on Pentecost, we do find ourselves "basking in the love of God," the theme for this month's issue.

But that same Holy Spirit energizes us and equips us to do more than just bask. The All Saints' website describes this as a community where "Christ's love is experienced and shared." Post-Pentecost people share the love they experience through acts of loving-kindness, forgiveness, and hospitality, among others. Yet another way is by supporting the Church itself, which equips us to share God's love and to keep the Good News of that love in circulation.

For several months now I have been thinking and praying about the Church - not just this parish, but also the institutional body of Christ - and its value. In a time in which many are turning away from so-called "organized religion," it's important for us to consider how essential the Church is in insuring that the empowering, life-giving story of God's love continues to be told. We should not take it for granted.

Your sister in Christ,

Celeste+



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Christian Education

A Life of Abundance

“A garden to walk in and immensity to dream in – what more could he ask? A few flowers at his feet and above him the stars.” Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*

I opened my *Messenger* article from this time last year and sure enough, I wrote about gardening. I’ll admit it: this time of year, gardening occupies a lot of real estate in my head. I am fascinated by watching things grow. It feels miraculous because it is; it feels good because it is. God said so! This year, our garden has grown in orders of magnitude, and we have about a dozen different crops growing in a large new garden area. We also have another season of blackberries and raspberries beginning to emerge. Life is beautiful in the garden. My older son Jonah said to me yesterday, “Mom, can I go sit in the garden?” (We keep it fenced because of the deer but mainly because of the goats!) I told him of course he could go sit there. He said, “Thanks. It’s my favorite place to be.” I couldn’t agree more.

I have been reflecting a great deal on the spirituality of gardening since we began our trips to Otter Brook Farm. Otter Brook is a farm awake with an awareness of the deep spirituality associated with caring for the Earth. Following the practices of permaculture, Otter Brook strives to let the Earth herself dictate how the available space be used. Plants are arranged harmoniously, in combinations that are beneficial and efficient, and designed in a way that will flourish for years to come with minimal assistance from humans. The most impressive feature (aside from the massive high tunnel which grows food year round) is the edible labyrinth, which features vegetables, fruits, herbs and “friendly plants” to help nourish the soil. Its creator, Matthew Roy, who cares for the farm, had in mind a sacred space for people of every faith to come and be present to the co-creative mystery of gardening. Last week, my two boys and I visited again and walked the labyrinth, still in “seedling” stage, but already a sight to be seen. We planted green beans, climbed apple trees, ate the sweetest green beans right off the plants, and enjoyed the beauty of the space.

Locally, I see more and more people once again remembering our role in producing food – it is an aspect of life our grandparents never would have questioned. Yet, we have become so far removed from the process. Perhaps this is the reason it feels so darn good to return to it! We are *meant* to stick our hands in the dirt. It’s what we are, after all. Beautiful dirt infused with the breath of God. To be stewards means to take action. God has given us a bottom line – I will provide you with resources, but you must care for them. After helping me collect duck eggs and milk our goat, Merry, Jonah also said, “No matter what, Mom, we’ll always have breakfast!” This is true; so long as we take care of them, they will provide us with food. That is all the Earth asks of us: conscious care. That’s the other benefit of gardening – you reap what you sow. Hours of weeding and thinning carrots can mean sweet, crunchy treats in the fall. Gardening is the single greatest reminder to me to put in the hours for my spiritual growth as well. I want a rich bounty, a harvest of awakening, of feeling the presence of God in my life and in my relationships with others. So I will put on my boots and go to work.

If you would like more opportunities to explore the spirituality of growing things, please contact me about coming with us to Otter Brook Farm. Also, feel free to read about the work of the Rev. Steve Blackmer and his Church of the Woods in Canterbury, N.H. by visiting <http://kairosearth.org/church-of-the-woods>.

Becky Goodwin, Director of Christian Education

Alma's Poem

Thanks to the artists

The circle in the grass
Which on our way to church we pass
Is the work of artists, no doubt
Sally and Carol bring it about.

The tulips that heralded spring
Makes us wonder what summer will bring
The artists are readying their brush
To fill the circle with colors lush.

When colors change they give to all
The lovely mosaic of fall
Helped of course by heaven-sent showers
But the canvas full of flowers
Is the result of laboring hours.

Let's vow to give them their due
And say a heartfelt, "Thank you!"

Love, *Alma*



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The Search for Our New Rector

Last month we reported that we had just begun to review applications from some excellent candidates for rector. In late May we received names and files from the Reverend Canon Hannah Anderson, Canon to the Ordinary and Diocesan Transition Officer, who along with Bishop Hirschfeld had done some initial screening. Since then each of us on the search committee has been doing homework, reading letters, profiles and resumes. We have conducted research online, where we have found websites with links to sermons, blogs, parish newsletters and more. We have met as a group, prayerfully and carefully considering which candidates we believe are most likely those God might be calling to our parish.

Thanks to modern technology, we became acquainted with some very impressive candidates via Skype interviews, in just two very full weeks of meetings. While protecting the confidentiality of candidates, we can share some of the questions we asked each one in that first round of interviews.


We started by asking them to share with us their journey to becoming priests, what leads them to consider new calls at this time and what draws them to All Saints' and Peterborough. We also asked them to tell us stories about their core beliefs and how those have surfaced in their ministries. Using the language of our own parish mission statement, we asked how they have helped build "a community in which God's love is experienced and shared." We asked about times when they had to make a controversial decision or take a difficult stand. Then lightening up a bit, we asked "What do you for fun?" Finally we asked what questions they had for us and what they had thought we might ask but did not.

Beginning at the end of June, two or three of us at a time will go visit candidates in their current ministry settings, hear them preach, interview them in person and talk with their references. Then according to diocesan guidelines, we are to narrow the field to three candidates at most. We will invite them to visit All Saints', meet with the entire Search

Committee and Vestry and tour the buildings and area. The Vestry will make the final decision about the call of the new rector, and Bishop Hirschfeld will issue the call. Thanks for your continued prayers for all concerned in this holy work of discernment.

Betsy Fowle for the Search Committee: (Rick Simpson, John Catlin, Judy Collier, Joan Cunningham, Andrew Graff, Chris Howe, John Koch (Vestry Liaison,) Jack Lewis, Sally Steere, Chris Tourgee

Summer Saints' Days

JULY			
7/2 Ewan Finser	7/18 Tom James	8/1 Bev Kemp	8/19 Eleonore Bayles
7/3 Gail Wilson	7/19 Carl Wagner III	8/2 Olivia Krommes	8/20 Haley Spitzfaden
7/5 Amédine Bella	7/23 Peter DeVinne	8/5 Marilyn Hill	8/22 Ellie Peterson
7/6 Tracy Wagoner		8/7 Ivy Vann	8/22 Mckayla Kelly
	7/24 Cindy	8/10 Barbara	8/23 Dorrie Richmond
	Engelhardt	Clinkenbeard	Mark Lapham
7/8 Karl Betz		8/11 Kathryn Dodge	Dee Thomas
7/10 Beth Healey	7/26 Susannah Parish	8/12 Mary Liz Lewis	8/25 Jean Gogolin
	7/28 Robert Steinert,	8/13 Jack Lewis	8/27 Arthur Eldredge
	Jr.	Lily Juarez-Rivas	Swift Corwin
	Lora McClintock	Winnie Skeates	8/29 Sally Steere
7/11 Eleanor Erickson	7/29 Boo Martin	8/14 Linda Lapham	Emily Smith
	7/30 Sam Scheinblum	8/15 Peter Row	8/31 Evan Wagner
7/12 Barbara Eckert	7/31 Jennifer Davis	8/16 Alistair George	Hadi Lancaric
		Armstrong	
7/16 Linn Perkins		Eloise Catlin	
		8/16 Jay Hale	
			
7/17 Addie Catlin	AUGUST	8/18 Anthony Gatto	

Vestry Update

The Vestry "Ears to Hear" visiting initiative is off to a great start. Thanks to all who have agreed to share what's important to you about All Saints', your faith and our future. Over the next year or so we will invite every parish family to be part of these informal conversations, but if you don't want to wait for us to call you - please feel free to contact one of the Vestry members today.

Renovations on the Rectory are underway. In preparation for a new rector, we're buffing the floors, painting the walls, installing new appliances, repairing the bathrooms and renovating the kitchen. Our thanks go out to Dick Wilson for managing the contractors for this work.

Also, keep your eyes open for an All Saints' ad every week in the *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript*. They have started a regular section for churches and we're in it!

Special thanks to Beth Healy for volunteering to lead the ASC External Communications efforts and to Margaret Baker for generously donating her design services.

Please continue your prayers for our Search Committee as they interview candidates for a new rector. We extend our deep appreciation to everyone who volunteers at All Saints'.

Bishop Rob Hirschfeld will be at All Saints' on September 7. There will be one service at 9:30 AM. If you would like to be confirmed, reaffirmed or received into the Episcopal Church at that time, please contact Celeste Hemingson.

Deb DeCicco, Jr. Warden

Our Search Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, giver of wisdom and truth, look favorably upon us, the people of All Saints' Church, as

we search for a new rector. We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be guided by you and strengthened in our mission to be a church community in which Christ's love is experienced and shared. We pray for members of the search committee, that they listen to your Spirit with humility, patience and joy. We pray for all priests in discernment and that you call one to us so we may minister together in this parish, the diocese and the world. Give us your grace to follow where you lead us, and grant us your peace. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

Book Note

The Civil War was not the only thing going on in the United States between 1861 and 1865. It was not even the only thing on the minds of Abraham Lincoln and his Administration, in fact: land-grant colleges and railroads come to mind. But in *Lincoln's Bishop: A President, a Priest, and the Fate of 300 Dakota Sioux Warriors* (HarperOne, 2014), Gustav Niebuhr reminds us of another event of those years, and explores how the young Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota brought his clear moral and theological focus to bear on the outcome.

Niebuhr (grandnephew of Reinhold and grandson of H. Richard) is an eminent journalist of religion in American culture. He here recounts the history of an outbreak of violence and atrocity (on both sides) known as the Dakota War, which devastated southern Minnesota for five weeks in August and September of 1862. When it came to an end, more than 300 Dakota men were arrested, tried by a military commission that convicted them with breathtaking dispatch, and sentenced to be hanged.

The pivotal moment in the story is when Henry B. Whipple, the very young bishop of a new diocese in a new state, was able to call on the President personally and ask him to review and, if possible, commute the death sentences. But we are given much background on Whipple, and on the sorry history of European and native dealings that led to the outbreak, one that many of the Dakota leaders knew would be futile.

Since Andrew Jackson had introduced the spoils system of appointments to government positions, the Office of Indian Affairs had become a particularly noxious pit of cynicism, ignorance, and corruption. Bad treaties were administered primarily to enhance the power and wealth of the agents, while Native populations were exploited, dishonored, and left to the mercy of rapacious traders, disease, and starvation.

But moral outrage is cheap, especially at a safe remove. What Niebuhr shows us so ably is a society as it was, complex and stressed, with individuals willing to look beyond the immediate in order to act responsibly and courageously in accordance with what they would have called Christian principles. One of those was Bishop Whipple, whose background and pastoral experience contributed to a long-standing outrage at the treatment of Native Americans and demand for reform of the Office of Indian Affairs, while he also toiled to relieve the suffering and grief of white Minnesotans who had suffered during the Dakota War.

Whipple, President Lincoln, the Mdewakanton chief Little Crow, and many others are invested here with dignity and understanding, in a fascinating history that continues to resonate in the struggles for civil rights and justice in our own era.

Cassius Webb

Education for Ministry: A Halfway Perspective

I've just completed my second year of EfM, an eight-year All Saints parishioner and former Roman Catholic. Cradle Episcopalians, former Lutherans, past seminary attendees, long time All Saints' parishioners, Thursday Bible students and those new to All Saints' have been my fellow participants these past two years. I love the variety and varying perspective each brings!

In Years One and Two, we read the Old Testament and the New Testament. Each week we were asked to share just one or two things we learned from the readings, encouraging us to think about their impact on what we believe. Not only have I enjoyed the chance to "brush up" on my 8th grade Bible study but the real benefit has been making Sunday service readings and sermons more accessible, enabling me to apply them to my daily life.

Many weeks we do a "theological reflection." We choose an experience, belief or scripture passage. We talk about it mindfully in the context of what we know of Christian tradition and scripture, and today's culture and society. We try to determine what it means for our lives, our ministry here on earth, choices we make, and ways we act.

I'm a seeker and my guess is that many in our group may be too, each in our way. My hope at the end of four years, given our reading and reflection and camaraderie, is to be clearer on God's plan for me.

Beth Healy

Explore and Learn

Sign up for Education for Ministry!

What is EfM? It is a four-year course that participants sign up for one year at a time. Year One covers the Old Testament; Year Two, the New Testament; Year Three, the history of Christianity; and Year Four, theology.

But EfM is different from an academic course. There is no lecture. Participants bring to each session what they've learned from their weekly lessons and the mentor guides the group in a discussion or theological reflection. This creates an opportunity for participants to explore beliefs, life, and theology in a safe environment, and helps to refine and strengthen our faith, helping us to become better ministers of Christianity for each other and in our world, which is what Christ wants us to be.

For new EfMers and continuing participants alike, summer is the time for registration. It takes a few weeks to get the materials so we need to have everyone registered by mid-August. The first session for the 2014-2015 year will be Monday, Sept. 8. The group meets weekly through May.

To learn more about the course, contact Marilyn Weir or anyone who has participated in EfM. To sign up, please contact Marilyn at photos4u@galaxy.net or 924-3405.

View from the Bench

What Did the Madwoman Say to the Ferryman?

(No, this is not a bad joke...)

With blue skies, warm sun and beaches to preoccupy us during the summer months, I suspect many among us are unaware of or simply forget that virtually every summer, All Saints' is the host site for one of the Monadnock Music Festival's **Village Concerts**. Not only are Village Concerts (all held in churches and meeting houses across the region) free and open to the public, but they are often programmed to suit their setting. In recent seasons All Saints' has hosted Village Concerts featuring Renaissance polyphonic vocal group *Blue Heron* and internationally renowned organist John Weaver, among many others.

I mention this to draw your attention to the Village Concert at All Saints' Church on Saturday, August 9, at 7:30 PM. *Curlew River: A Parable for Church Performance* by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) [parable is Britten's term for this opera-like work] is one of three he wrote for church performance; the others are *The Burning Fiery Furnace* and *The Prodigal Son*. *Curlew River* is based on *Sumidagawa* (Sumida River) by Japanese playwright Juro Motomasa (1395-1431), which Britten saw performed on a visit to Japan in 1956, and which had an impact on his musical output for the remainder of his life. At Britten's request it was recast by librettist William Plomer (1903-1973) as a medieval tale set on the banks of the fictional *Curlew River* in East Anglia. As do many of Britten's operas and other dramatic works, *Curlew River* focuses on the hostility an "outsider" protagonist faces from others.

If you know Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, *Rejoice in the Lamb*, *War Requiem*, or *Billy Budd*, you know his music to be dramatic and rhythmically challenging, but often with beautifully haunting themes. *Curlew River*, premiered in 1964, is among Britten's later works and is a departure in terms of musical style. He uses *heterophony*, rare in Western musical traditions, but quite common in Arabic classical music, Japanese music, and music of the Philippines and Thailand. Where Western *polyphony* – as in the great motets and masses of Palestrina – involves many vocal or instrumental lines woven together into a whole, and *monophony* – as in Gregorian chant – is a single melodic or thematic line realized in many voices simultaneously, i.e., in unison, *heterophony* involves a single melodic line sung or played at the same time, not in unison, but in rhythmic variation, at different *tempi*, with differing embellishments or as variants.

Curlew River was originally written for male voices – the Abbot, the Madwoman, the Ferryman, the Traveller, the Voice of the Spirit, a small chorus of pilgrims, three acolytes – and flute, horn, viola, double bass, harp, percussion and organ. We shall have a rare opportunity this summer to see and hear an infrequently performed work right in our own parish church. I highly commend this Village Concert to you. Come find out what did transpire between the Madwoman and the Ferryman!

[Note: Village Concerts are quite popular: don't plan to arrive at 7:25 PM on August 9 if you want to sit inside the church.]

Jeffrey Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster

Glorious Gloria

Gloria Lipson was probably one of the first people I met when our family moved to Peterborough in August 2004. I remember how much she wanted us to enjoy living in the rectory and told us of the labor of love that Laura Campbell, her daughter, and then chair of building and grounds, had poured into the rectory to make it just right for our arrival.

I immediately felt a kindred spirit with Gloria. Both of us were born in the Midwest, were the children of ministers, and were fans of the Cornhuskers. We also both had lived in Providence at one time. I adored her easy way of just stopping by for a cup of tea that might then quite naturally morph into dinner, and then into some sort of wonderful after-dinner shenanigans like singing – or the children putting on a raucous play to their biggest fan. In the summer, those evenings would end out on the porch or the family room and frequently the television would be on and our conversation would then be punctuated by the voices of Jerry Remy and Don Orsillo commentating on Gloria’s favorite baseball team.

Gloria quite quickly became our go-to babysitter. This is how a typical babysitting evening would play out: we would leave general instructions about dinner already prepared and bedtimes and things like that only to come home to dinner largely uneaten, candy wrappers on the dining room table, and the sound of fits of giggles and no children and no Gloria in sight. Upon climbing the stairs, we would hear that both children were wide-awake, convincing Gloria that they really needed at least one more story. As you entered the room you would see both children sprawled all over Gloria and 40 books stacked one on top of the other, and Gloria smiling with that look that conveyed, “I should have gotten them to bed earlier but we were having too much fun.” It just proves the point that sometimes you do get both what you want and what you need.

I am convinced that both of my children are extroverted and love to be around people and are at ease in the world because of people like Gloria who just loved them. Full stop. No strings. Naughty? Not a problem, it’s just high spiritedness. Cranky? They have been working too hard at school. Water pistol fight in the house? Uh, maybe take it outside.

What I know from Gloria is that the world is a gentler and kinder place when you have a person in your life – especially when they are not related by blood – who really believes in you and supports you whether you succeed or fail. That was not only true about her affection for our children, but towards Adrian and me as well. She was never stingy with a kind word about our parenting or ministry (or my dogs who are sometimes hard to love). And even when she no longer remembered our names, we felt her unadulterated affection towards us.

It was during and after the ice storm when we started to see Gloria succumb into the recesses of Alzheimer’s. The kindness that Gloria demonstrated throughout her life was clearly inherited by Laura. Laura’s steadfastness and care of her mother over these last several years was a testament to “honoring your mother.” Many of us will remember Laura and Gloria’s Sunday lunches at Nonie’s and the drive-by visits to friends in the community. Laura carefully discerned what was best for her mother at every stage of her decline and delivered on her decisions and commitments. Gloria loved deeply and broadly but it was Laura who was truly the apple of her mother’s eye.

I just want to leave you with this one short anecdote. Every time Gloria would come over and one of us was sick, I would warn her, “Oh, you may want to stay away from Will (or Elizabeth, or me or Adrian) because he or she has a terrible virus.” She would quite quickly respond, “You can’t catch a cold from someone you love.” I think, for her, that was true.

Sarah Robbins-Cole

Saintly News

Congratulations to...

- ❖ Our recent Conval High School graduates: Ryan Betz, Larkin DeVinne, Marguerite Krommes, Montana Schultz and Electra Thomson
- ❖ Dottie and Carl Wagner in celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary
- ❖ Paul Kaufman for receiving an award from Virginia Wesleyan University for volunteerism and feeding the homeless in Norfolk

- ❖ Mary Armstrong for her dedication and help to Keene High School and receiving a two-page acknowledgement in their yearbook

Gloria Schultz



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Editor's Note

In the magnificent *Epistle to the Romans*, St. Paul writes, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (8:38-39.) To me there are no more beautiful or uplifting words. To me, this is what it means to "bask in the love of God."

Unlike basking in the summer sun, which is season- and weather-dependent, basking in God's love only requires from us awareness, an opening of our hearts and minds.

Unlike basking in glory – one's own or reflected – basking in God's love does not require human accomplishment.

God's love to us is free, available and eternal. What a gift we have been given. We have only to accept and respond with a smile and a nod and a grateful heart.

Our *Messenger* this month is full of news of how our Saints here are accepting God's love and then reaching out to others. Celeste asks us to think

Becky asks us to relax in the pleasure of the garden and gardening. Deb reminds us of all the activities – listening and renovating and communicating – going on throughout the summer.

Both Marilyn and Beth remind us of how *Education for Ministry, EfM*, serves a crucial role in helping some of us discern what our roles in the church and the world are to be.

Cassius, once again, challenges us in his choice of book to review. *Lincoln's Bishop* shows one who was called to "look beyond the immediate in order to act responsibly and courageously in accordance with what they would have called Christian principles."

Reading Jeff's "View from the Bench" in this issue will prepare you for an exciting Monadnock Music concert here at All Saints' on August 9.

And there's more...

The deadline for the September *Messenger* is August 20. The theme will be "Working for the Lord." Please send your contributions to me at chow6569@gmail.com.