

THE MESSENGER

May 2015, Volume 6 Number 2

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

Parish Office: (603) 924-3202 Office Hours M-F 9 AM-4 PM

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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...

"...offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to the Lord."

Romans 12:1

Alleluia, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

One of my favorite words in our Easter acclamation, beyond Alleluia, is the word, *indeed*.

"Indeed" enthusiastically underscores that the Lord is risen, breaking open not only his grave, but our own graves as well, and at the same time, reminds us that Christ has acted, **in his deeds...indeed**.

One of our deeds as the community of believers is to be engaged with our worship services, our liturgy. Liturgy (in its origin meant the "work of the people") is our good work for God, public in nature, which will transform us and our world. Our liturgy doesn't belong to any of us; it isn't mine, yours, or even ours, but rather our liturgy is infused with the movement of the Holy Spirit, all for the glory of God.

Since God is never limited to our ideas of God, I think our liturgy, though thoroughly steeped in our Jewish roots, our biblical scripture and our early church practices, is also not limited by our ideas of liturgy. At All Saints', we have many ways we worship God on Sundays, and we experience them with Rite I at 8 AM and Rite II at 10 AM services which both take place in the church. And we have a third service, returning to its time at 10 AM which takes place in Reynolds Hall, which we have just named as Rite Now.

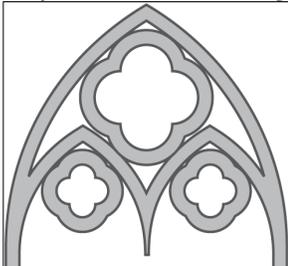
Rooted in our Episcopal liturgical tradition, Rite Now breathes into the space at Reynolds Hall, inviting the use of a free standing altar, a lit fire, and the morning light.

Transforming a space that is multi-purpose in function, those gathered are doing the good work of proclaiming God from a circle of chairs as the hymns are sung, the collects prayed, and the scripture read. After the scripture is read, those gathered comment on their ideas and reactions to God's Word, creating a communal experience of sharing in their faith. Expanding our vocabulary of prayer and the ways we name what is holy bears witness to the fact that the mystery of God transcends all categories of knowing. Reynolds Hall becomes sacred space. Or as Roxane Weddle explains, "It is a place where I feel *connection* happens - with God, others, and myself. It is very meaningful to personally share in the service, whether that be with a thought, a reflection, a question, a reading, a prayer, a laugh, or a song. There are sweet moments of silence, as well. And I always leave feeling lighter."

How blessed we are at All Saints' to be able to deepen and strengthen our encounter with Christ by offering so many different ways to praise his name.

O come, let us worship.

Yours in Christ.



**THE
MESSENGER**

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Christian Education

A King for All "Our Kids"

I would want you to know that you never need to feel shame and that there is nothing, I mean nothing, that you could do to separate you from the love of your Creator.

(Bishop Rob Hirschfeld, when asked by the youth of New Hampshire and what he would want for them.)

I spent most of April 11 at St. Andrew's Church in Hopkinton, worshipping, eating, playing and praying with about 30 youth from around the Church of New Hampshire. We had several parishes represented, along with their youth leaders, and Tina Pickering from the Bishop's office and of course, the Bishop himself. It was the first attempt at a statewide youth event in a few years, and it was the result of a lot of hard work and dedication from several devoted people. It was a huge success. Within minutes of arrival, all the kids, including six from All Saints', mingled with each other, recognized faces they had seen before, and were enthusiastically playing ice-breakers and eating candy. The day was fun, naturally, but also included serious, focused discussion using a World Café format and closed with quiet prayer, singing and blessing. Bishop Rob reminded the kids that in the upstairs room described in the book of Acts, Jesus revealed to the disciples the white hot center of God's love – a love that knows no boundaries, no limitations and no qualifications. It is not earned and it cannot be lost.

The driving force behind yesterday's event is a desire to bring youth to the very center of the discussion of our identity as a church. This year's diocesan convention will be devoted to youth ministry – lifting up what we already do and celebrating our achievements as well as discerning where our blind spots are and how to address them in the future. Informing this discussion is a recent book by Robert D. Putnam entitled "Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis." The book explores how we define who "our kids" are – we know our own biological children and, of course, we can recognize the kids in our own church. But how about the kids who never make it to church? How about the underprivileged kids of our community, the disabled kids, the LGBT kids, the kids who will die of heroin overdose this year, the kids who have never seen the inside of a church? Are these also *our* kids? If they are, what are we doing to care for them? Tina Pickering preached and she described how sometimes, these questions feel so impossible, so heavy, that we feel trapped in the tomb. Who could possibly roll away a stone this big? Only the Risen Lord, whose life conquered death, could move these stones and prove the impossible is possible after all.

I ask your prayers for all the youth of our church, all "our kids," those who have found their way inside our doors and those who are still beyond our grasp. Over the coming year, we hope to shed light on those we have overlooked and also to enthusiastically honor the incredible, the truly marvelous work that our kids are already doing in this community and across New Hampshire. If you would like to help in any way as we begin planning our participation in this year's convention, please let me know. God bless!

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Alma's Poem

Mother's Day

How was your childhood?
Was it pleasant and good?
Did your Mom see that you had enough to eat
and send you to school clean and neat?
That's what mothers do
The whole world through
They reflect God's love and care
Let's hear it for Mothers everywhere

Alma Ruth

May Saints' Days

5/1	Dick Wilson	5/9	Jonathan Juarez	5/26	Ramona Branch
5/2	Judy Collier	5/10	Augusten Dreher		Michael Scott
5/3	Mary Lee Leedham	5/13	Thomas Warren		Montana Schultz
5/4	Ellen Avery		Anna Guinard	5/27	Anne Peirce
	Mary Gregory	5/16	Priscilla Bourgoine		Clifford Jarest
5/6	Pat Row	5/19	Anne Webb	5/28	Arthur Stevenson
5/8	Iona French	5/20	John Kerrick		Lucy Beyer
	David Dodge	5/25	Natalie Deschenes	5/31	Lorraine Bishop

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

Saintly News

Congratulations to...

- ❖ Meredith White for being nominated as a finalist for "Woman of the Year" from the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Patty Wheeler on her new home
- ❖ Laura Campbell and Mike Augustyn in celebration of their marriage in March
- ❖ Michelle Tourgee and Grace Bowman for being part of the ConVal High School German Exchange Program that included a trip to Austria this Spring
- ❖ Joe Schultz in celebration of his upcoming 75th Birthday

Gloria Schultz



By the Grace of God and the People consenting,
the Bishop of New Hampshire,
the Right Reverend A. Robert Hirschfeld,
will ordain

W. Timothy Brooks

William Clayton Cruse

Reed Julian Loy

Kelly Sundberg Seaman

Winifred June Skeates

to the

Sacred Order of Deacons

In Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

Saturday, June 6, 2015

at 11:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

21 Centre Street, Concord, NH

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Book Note

Krista Tippett is a familiar voice to many of us, I imagine. We have heard her interviews on National Public Radio for years, on an hour-long program first called *Speaking of Faith* and now *On Being*. Many intriguing personalities and areas of thought have been brought to our attention by these quiet, vibrant, thoughtful conversations between a seasoned journalist who has clearly prepared for her guests and a very diverse company of seekers, thinkers, pioneers, provocateurs, to whom Tippett puts the well-placed question.

In *Einstein's God: Conversations About Science and the Human Spirit* (Penguin, 2010), Tippett discusses everything from Charles Darwin's anxiety over publishing *The Origin of Species* to Einstein's reluctance to accept the unpredictability of the universe established by his own work. A recurring theme of these interviews is the enforced humility of scientists, much of whose work turns out to be wrong, or at least incomplete. But this humility seems often to promote wonder, hope, and even reverence – not necessarily of a specific religious form.

Along the way, we encounter the likes of Mehmet Oz, a practicing cardiologist as well as television personality; Parker Palmer, Quaker leader and author familiar to All Saints' people; John Polkinghorne, physicist and Anglican priest; Michael McCullough, psychologist with insights into the uses of revenge and forgiveness; Esther Sternberg, rheumatologist, who actually knew the man who borrowed the word "stress" from physics and turned it into an omnipresent psychological term; and Janna Levin, author of a novel about mathematics, *A Madman Dreams of Turing Machines* (after Alan Turing.) We hear about the biology of the spirit, how Hinduism and science can speak to each other, and about the theological implications of clinical depression.

This is a very rich stew, to be savored, not gulped or skimmed. Since much of it is transcribed from speech, I found it easier to grasp the meaning by resorting to the ancient practice of reading aloud, or at least "tasting" the words. This masterful and careful broadcaster covers much ground, but accessibly and entertainingly. A very rewarding overview.

Cassius Webb

Praying for You

The Bible is filled from start to finish with encouragement and urgings to pray. Our innermost being longs to connect intimately with the One who made us and loves us. He made it possible through Jesus to know and experience this life-giving and sustaining relationship. Jesus said to ask, seek, and knock – to always pray and not give up. God desires to bless his followers bringing purpose, meaning, and hope as we live our lives with all the joys and challenges that come our way. Prayer is our declaration of dependence.

The Prayer Group at All Saints' gathers weekly to pray for the needs of the Church family – your

specific requests – always keeping strict confidentiality.

We also pray for parish concerns – clergy, vestry, Sunday School, youth group, the sick, Centro Victorio, and other needs we know of. We ask God to bless and use His people through the power of the Holy Spirit to grow and equip us for the work of serving Him and one another.

Prayer request cards are located next to the prayer box near the Church entrance. In Reynolds Hall they are by the prayer box across from the bulletin board. Put your request cards in either box. We



Parents in Conversation

My wife Kelley, my son Josiah (6), my son Oliver (5), my daughter Corrinne (3) and I recently moved from Asheville, N.C. to Peterborough in pursuit of our family's next adventure. We knew very little about New England, but we were drawn by the natural beauty of the area. We quickly found All Saints' and it has already become a significant part of our family's life.

At Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville, we participated in a *Parents in Conversation* adult education class each Sunday morning. It was truly one of the highlights of our week. The class was loosely based upon the church calendar and the lectionary readings for that Sunday's service. What it really was about was sharing experiences with other parents. Attendees of *Parents in Conversation* range from expectant parents to grandparents and everything in between. It was wonderful to hear how families were addressing the challenges and joys of whatever stage of life they were in.

Jamie has been good enough to provide Kelley and me the opportunity to start a similar class at All Saints'.

The first *Parents in Conversation* will be on May 10 in Reynolds Hall from 9-9:45 AM. Babysitting will be provided. We will meet each Sunday through June.

Jaime Conley



The Jesus Prayer

This is a prayer that came from the Eastern Church – the Eastern Orthodox tradition. It is usually employed repetitively to help enliven devotion to, openness to, or contact with the Divinity. It plays a role in the classic book *The Way of the Pilgrim*, where it is the prayer used when the pilgrim is instructed to “pray unceasingly.”

Here it is:

*Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of God,
Have mercy on me,
A sinner*

Yes, it's very short and much to the point.

However, most scripture and holy writings can have meaning on different levels. The surface or face value meaning of this prayer is pretty obvious: As a sinner, one is asking for Christ's mercy.

While the meaning, as we see the prayer at first glance, seems straightforward enough, I have looked at it, contemplated upon it, over the years, and have come up with another way of seeing it. I do not imply that the face value is in any way not valid, or that my interpretation is 'better.' I simply have seen these words in a different way, in a different light.

I have taken to looking at the words along the following lines ...

Lord – There are no bones about it, Jesus the Christ is God, is the Lord of All

Jesus – The earthly name of the vehicle, the human body which contained, or manifested the

Christ – The Alpha to Omega, unbounded, eternal Divinity

Son of God – the Godhead made knowable in the Incarnation

Have mercy – What comes to mind when we hear this word ‘mercy’? Is it a boon or benefit granted by the creator, doled out by grace, implying forgiveness? Yes! But I like to augment that idea of mercy, by seeing the mercy of the Creator as Love in action. Mercy is the lively, vibrant, active principle of Divine Love, which is available to us immediately.

On me – We are the individual reality, the Divine is infinite. Yet, we ‘contain’ the Divine in us.

A sinner – Much has been said over millennia about sin, and why we are sinners. The idea of sin that I embrace, is that sin means not reaching our full potential for holiness. Sin is not realizing that we are in our essence divine. Sinless actions are those that take us towards the realization of God. A sinner would be anyone not completely living in the fullness of the Light of the Divine.

So another way of seeing or interpreting this prayer, might be:

Almighty, eternal God

Made manifest in Jesus

Uplift me, shower me, in your infinite love

As I desire to realize my holiness

Amen

Greg Spitzfaden



A Message from Winnie

Seven years ago as I approached my 50th birthday, I wondered whether it was time for something different. Our son John was nearing high school age, and I had been running my own human resources consulting practice for a while. I liked my work – it is intellectually engaging, the clients and projects are varied, I can shape my schedule around my other activities, and I get to engage with employers about how they value their employees. And yet, the work was not fully satisfying to me. And I wasn't sure it was what God wanted me to be doing for the rest of my life.

I remember watching Chris Howe as she said "Yes!" to a lifetime dream and went back to school, ultimately retiring from a teaching career to become what she had envisioned herself a long time ago, a nurse. That required courage and determination and commitment, and I was inspired. And as I did a lot of reading, thinking and praying, I realized that I needed to finish what I started decades ago. I was a Divinity School graduate who had found a job doing consulting, while spending a lot of hours doing lay work within the Church. It was time to change the mix, and make ministry my primary work. I did not know what this would ultimately look like, but I resolved to start the process toward ordination to the priesthood.

A lot has happened since then. Undoubtedly, the most challenging was the loss of my husband Eric to cancer in April 2010 (only six months after he had been diagnosed), which necessitated my learning how to be the sole parent of a teenage boy, and managing our household on my own. It took me a couple of years to find the energy and focus to resume the ordination process.

Now here we are, five years after Eric's death. I have taken some courses at the Episcopal Divinity School (to supplement my long-ago degree), completed a chaplaincy internship at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, demonstrated proficiency in seven areas designated by Church Canons through General Ordination Exams and other writing, served an internship with The Reverend Bill Exner and the wonderful people at Saint Matthew's Church in Goffstown, and done lots of discernment and prayer.

I will ever be grateful to you, my All Saints' friends. You have played a critical role in my formation as a Christian, a leader, a teacher, a friend, a singer, a pastor and a priest. You have demonstrated to me and John the meaning of lovingkindness and care. You held us up when we needed it, and even while I have been absent from you since September, I find myself grounded in that support and love from you.

So I thank you with all my heart and soul, and I invite you all to join me and four of my colleagues at Saint Paul's Church in Concord on June 6 as we celebrate the beginning of our ordained ministry.

Winnie Skeates

Come Visit EfM!

The members of the 2014-15 Education for Ministry group are inviting you to come visit!

What is EfM? It is a four-year program that 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.

Anyone who is curious about EfM or would like the experience of attending a session is welcome to join us at one of our regular meetings. We meet every Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the parlor of the Old Parish House.

Please contact Marilyn Weir at 924-3405 or photos4u@galaxy.net ahead of time so we know when you are coming.

We would love to have you join us!

View from the Bench

Things change... Things have to change

Most of the snow is gone. As of this writing, I've not yet seen a crocus, but I have seen the first green of what I think are day lilies pushing up through the earth. At Easter the metaphorical despair of winter has been transformed into hope with the promise of spring and renewal. The mergansers have come back to the pond at Noone Falls and the birds are singing joyously.

And so a touch of despair returns. Joyous singing has all but lost its place in our modern culture. Even as we've struggled to maintain a sense of community, it seems the only communal singing we share in the 21st century is an occasional chorus of "Happy Birthday." Only rarely do we even sing the National Anthem at a public event; instead, we relinquish that privilege to a heavily-miked soloist, who sometimes even knows the words.

In a recent article in *The American Organist*, noted recitalist and church musician Quentin Faulkner suggests that the only place where we are expected to sing these days is in church. Faulkner further suggests that, even in church, "singing impairment" is increasingly noticeable: the number of worshippers who don't sing seems to be increasing, and confident, vibrant congregational singing is declining.

Let me say that I am constantly astounded by the extraordinary congregational singing at All Saints' and, before you start citing examples of how communal singing is alive and well around us, let me just say that neither All Saints' nor the Monadnock region in general is typical in this regard.

But to the point: *How did this happen?*

Recorded music is now four generations or about a century old. For all the wonderful opportunities and benefits that the electronic age has brought us, an *enormous* number of individuals have little or no experience of live acoustic music. For increasing numbers of children especially, music is at best a passive activity, not so different from parking in front of a television screen.

Fewer and fewer of us have learned to *make* music. Over the past 40 years we have become fact-deniers, convincing ourselves that cutting support for the "frills" of music and visual arts education in our school systems is justified, despite an enormous body of research that demonstrates the positive connection between the arts, cognitive development and academic achievement. All the while we turn a blind eye to the fact that what we tout as the finest education system in the world is at best 14th or 15th among the world's developed nations.

What does it mean?

More children are growing up *not* singing than singing. No one expects them to sing. Few among us grow up singing as a normal part of everyday life. Many younger mothers and fathers never sing to their children – even their infants. Our modern culture works in many ways to inhibit singing. People expect *not* to sing themselves, but rather to be sung to and performed for.

Increasing numbers of younger and emerging adults are firmly convinced that they are unable to sing. A recent survey conducted by John Bell (of the Iona Community) found that one in four adults claimed to be tone-deaf or to have no sense of pitch. In reality, true tone-deafness is relatively rare. But in our modern society, those who have never developed basic musical skills in early childhood – matching pitch, hearing harmony, perceiving dynamic shifts – will leave for the next generation a very sad legacy.

Why do I care? Why should you care?

My role at All Saints' as your organist and choirmaster is to support and encourage singing in our liturgies, to nurture singing as part of our communal life. If, as Quentin Faulkner suggests, such singing is "the last widespread vestige of communal singing in modern culture" – singing where there is no audience (except God) and singing in which everyone – the musically gifted, the enthusiastic, the indifferent, the vocally-challenged – are encouraged to take part, then we are all that stands between communal singing and its extinction.

Things change... all is not lost. More than one species on the verge of extinction has bounced back to health. So too could communal singing, if you do your part. In this joyful Eastertide, here's where you can start: "Sing ye faithful, sing with gladness." **Every last one of you!**

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster



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Editor's Note

How very fortunate we are at All Saints' to have our three (very different) Eucharistic services on Sunday mornings. Sometimes people refer to themselves as being affiliated with one or another of the services. But really, we are all members of the Body of Christ. When I am lucky enough as a Eucharistic Visitor to bring Home Communion to someone who can't get to the church campus, the invitation includes the words, "We are all members of one body because we share in one Bread." In her opening letter, Jamie writes beautifully of the profound "work of the people" that is liturgy, and invites all of us to participate.

Becky asks us all to pray for "our kids" - all of them, those within the doors of All Saints' and those outside. The opening quote by Bishop Rob is reminiscent of the beautiful Romans 8 passage: *nothing* can ever separate us from the love of God. Amen.

Alma's poem reminds us that May is the month of Mother's Day, and Gloria catches us up on parish news. If your birthday isn't listed in the

Cassius's calls our attention to Krista Tippett's new book *Einstein's God*, which certainly sounds intriguing, and Gail explains the work of our parish Prayer Group.

Jaime and Kelley are starting a new Sunday morning group, "Parents in Conversation," open everyone on Sunday mornings at 9, starting May 10.

Greg did one of my favorite things ever: he came up to me at coffee hour and said, "I've been thinking..." and agreed to write a *Messenger* article about his thoughts on The Jesus Prayer.

Jeff reminds us to sing! And our dear Winnie shares wonderful news.

The deadline for the June *Messenger* is May 20. The theme will be "Growing in Faith." Please send your contributions to me at chow6569@gmail.com.

With much gratitude and great joy,

Christine