

REVELATIONS

Fall 2022

Newsletter of All Saints' Episcopal Church,
Littleton, NH

The Rector's Ramblings.....

All Saints' Beloved,

After time off in August I have jumped back into the full and active life of our parish. Thanks to the Rev. John Morrison (pictured here with Anthony Rodrigues) and Deacon Paul for covering for me while I was on vacation.

We are into the full swing of fall programs and parish events as reported in this newsletter. Truly a sign of a healthy and vibrant parish. Please take advantage of any and all of the various goings-on!

In my last seven months with you as your rector, I definitely do not want us to slip into a mode of just waiting around for the next person! Christ is calling us each day into mission and ministry and prayer and worship...and heck, we just have too much to offer for God's glory to just sit back and rest on our laurels. When the new rector arrives, I want the welcome to be, "Welcome, but hurry up and jump on board and grab an oar, 'cause God has sent us fishin' for folk, and there ain't a minute to waste!" Ha!

....and pray that God is preparing the heart of the next rector for our wonderful community! ...and use this prayer that Lisa Beausoleil wrote for us and was in your stewardship packages:

Almighty God, You have gifted All Saints' with a strong community of faith and helped us to build a firm foundation. We have many gifted and knowledgeable workers in our parish who donate their time, talent and treasure toward sustaining our community. Help us to be good stewards of the gifts you have given us and the gifts our members share each year. Because of your Grace, we are looking toward our future with hopeful hearts. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



The Deacon's Doodlings

Lisa Beausoleil, in her homily on Sunday Oct. 23, presented for us a heartfelt description of a 4th grade classmate who had been neglected and abused by the people in her young life that were supposed to love and protect her. Unfortunately, this wasn't a random case of a parents failure to do right by their child. Every city and town, from each corner of NH, and all parts of the country, is not exempt from daily tragedies of abuse and neglect of children from the newly born to late teens. Hidden from view, both children and adults walk side by side with us on Main Street, the grocery store, and everywhere our feet take us.

Much of the neglect stems from substance abuse by the parents but physical abuse and mental illness are also in play and sometimes a situation may result in a combination of two or more of the risk factors. In any event hundreds of children in NH and across the nation are removed from their parents' custody and put into the system until reunification or a permanent form of separation can be achieved.

Here in NH parents are given a calendar year to get their act together. They are provided with attorneys, a case worker and legal staff from DCYF as well as a Guardian ad Litem to represent the child, or in many cases multiple children. Parents also receive a host of social services to help them overcome the issues which led them to lose custody of their kids. In each case, DCYF and the court system issues a list of goals and objectives that the parents have to meet in order for reunification to take place.

You can make a difference in a child's life. That's right, you! I got involved with CASA to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate for neglected and abused kids in February 2021. After an interview, references, background checks and 40 hours of classroom time I received my first case. You become the voice of that child or children in court and have the same standing as lawyers. Currently there are about 600 hundred Advocates in NH and still a need for 20% more to represent hundreds of kids removed from difficult situations.

So, what's involved? Once handed a case you receive all the discovery background of how the case evolved. You reach out and meet the child or children where they've been placed and make contact with the parents. Initially there are two court hearings you attend, mainly to listen, and to see if the judge in the case, who makes the decisions, thinks the case should proceed. Once a case begins you meet with the child monthly, twice a month with teens, gather information on how they're doing, be it school, home life, adapting-- anything relevant to the child's progress. You also do your best to meet with the parents to see how they're progressing towards their goals. Add in teachers,

medical reviews, and anything else on the child's behalf, and then prepare a written report for a court appearance every three months. After a year a fourth report is brought before the court for a Permanency hearing where the judge will make the decision for either reunification, adoption or guardianship. Your work is crucial in that decision because you are the voice of that child or children in the courtroom. Your reporting is important because you get to know the child better than anyone else, maybe even better than the parents.

Each case is different. I can only reflect on mine - I put in a maximum of 20 hours a month and as few as 6 or 7 hours other months. For more information I'd be most happy to chat, because the need is great and what better way to serve the voiceless children of God.

The Rev. Paul Higginson

Building and Grounds

Toward the end of the summer we finally got the new metal roof on the Church Hall done! Thanks to Ross Veilleux and Anthony Rodrigues for seeing this project through to the bitter end! One remaining thing that needs attention is the replacement of a gutter system, especially for heavy rain. We are still working on getting quotes and ideas!

Hilary Veilleux has been diligently adding to the grounds and this fall put in some plantings near our mailbox on School Street, and planted a bunch of lily bulbs saved from Easter.



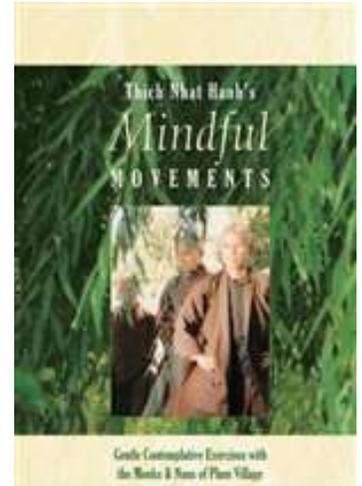
Fr. Curtis and Norma St.

John have been deputized for mouse patrol in the Food Cupboard....don't ask!

Christian Formation

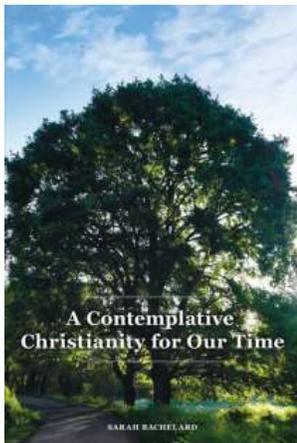
We have had a variety of things going on over the last several months as indicated below.....

The Centering Prayer group watched an interesting video by the late Zen Buddhist Master, Thich Nhat Hanh, on mindful movement.

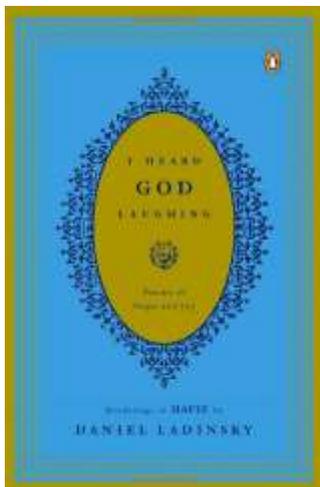


We also have been reading as usual, and sometimes we have people join us for our book study after Centering Prayer on Tuesdays. The recent book was....

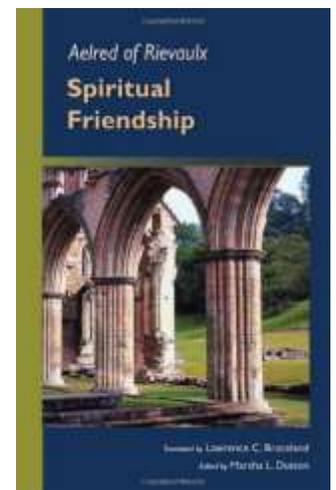
A Contemplative Christianity for Our Time



This slim volume was written to help people who practice Christian meditation understand their experience within Christian tradition. We found it very helpful! It was written by Sarah Bachelard, an Australian Anglican priest, who shepherds a contemplative Church community and has written and presented world-wide on Contemplative Christian practice, and is part of the teaching staff for the World Community for Christian Meditation (<https://wccm.org/>).



For our next books we are going to be reading two very diverse ones at the same time: *Spiritual Friendship*, by 12th century abbot, Aelred of Rievaulx; and *I Heard God Laughing*, a book of poetry by Sufi mystic, Hafiz, of the 14th century. We will probably begin discussing the first chapter/poems on November 15th. Contact Fr. Curtis if you're interested in joining the discussion.



Rev. Fred Anderson's Bible Study

Fred has been good to keep his series of different Bible Studies going. He finished a study of Galatians in July that had been postponed over COVID, and then began teaching a series of 'intro' courses on the Bible this fall: The Structure of the New Testament, The Gospels and the 'Synoptic Problem', The Epistles of Paul, Revelation.



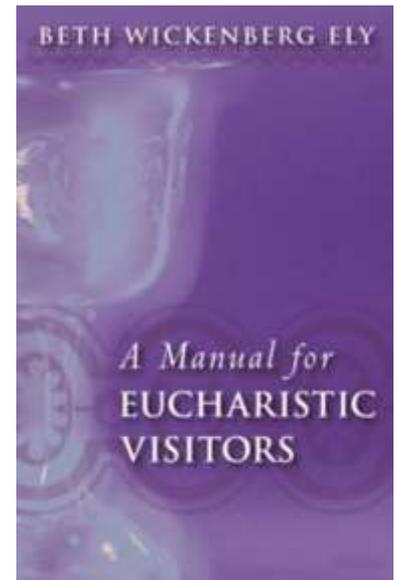
The attendance thinned a bit in July (this photo), but Mel Brooks has been faithful in attending from Portugal through Zoom as pictured here. A more robust group has been enjoying the fall series.

EV's and AG's Commissioned Sunday, September 11th!

No, not electric vehicles and attorneys general, rather Eucharistic Visitors and Altar Guild members. We have been blessed with new people stepping into these roles. Fr. Curtis trained the Eucharistic Visitors using the book you see here: *A Manual for Eucharistic Visitors*, and various experienced Altar Guild members trained the new members. Congratulations and thanks to the new members of both teams!

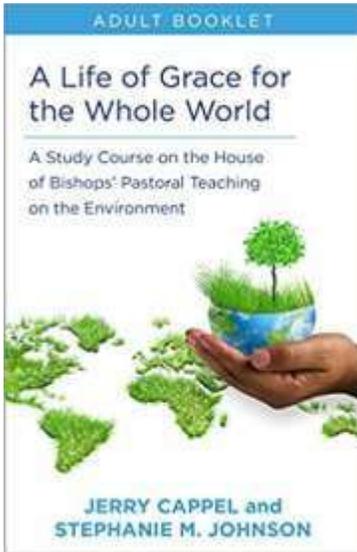
New Altar Guild: Gina Kuzmeskus, Questa Anderson, Deb Davison, Kathy Cook, and Katherine Darges.

New Eucharistic Visitors: Questa Anderson, Victoria Cole, Mary Sturtevant, and Lisa Beausoleil....and formally commissioned Jody Flescher who has been helping in this capacity for some time!



House of Bishops Teaching on the Environment

This fall Fr. Curtis led a 6-week study of *A Life of Grace for the Whole World: A Study Course on the House of Bishops' Pastoral Teaching on the Environment*. As science and politics engage in a never-ending battle over the environment, *A Life of Grace for the Whole World* re-claims the theology of salvation and redemption for all creation. Using the House of Bishop's Pastoral Teaching on the Environment -- the first statement on the environment from The Episcopal Church leadership -- as a guide, *A Life of Grace* engages participants in understanding how the call to care for creation informs and deepens appreciation and love for God and God's work in creation, and how that finds expression in the faith life of individuals and churches. The group found the course fairly elementary and most who signed up were more interested in what we as individuals and a parish can be doing for the care of creation. So, for our next step, on Saturday, November 12th, from 10am to noon, we are inviting everyone to come and help brainstorm some action items – both large and small, and see if we have the leadership and capacity to take some actions! We envision this as an ongoing effort in the parish. Please come and help *Care for Creation!* Refreshments will be provided.



Diocesan Convention

This year at Diocesan Convention, on Saturday, November 5th, our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, will be with Convention delegates and many other Episcopalians who are travelling to see and hear him at Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord! You can look forward to first-hand accounts from a number of us! The service will start at 10 am and the event will also be live streamed on the diocesan [YouTube page](#).



Parish Life



A Women's Night Out Group on a coed outing for the *Jesus Christ Superstar* performance at the Weathervane Theater on September 4.

Next: You are invited to join the WNO group for a class in Yoga Nidra at the DustOff Yoga Studio in Littleton (The Tannery Marketplace, 111 Saranac Street, #150). "Relax and Release with this special restorative practice, it's the ultimate self-care practice.

"dustoffyoga.com Please join us on Friday, **November 4 at 5:30 or/and Saturday, November 12 at 2.** You may bring your own mat if you wish, but Jennifer has mats to borrow. The cost per class is \$10. There is a minimum of three people required to hold it. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. You may read more about DustOff Yoga at dustoffyoga.com. It truly is a class for EVERYBODY. Feel free to contact Terri Fillion at 603-616-7532 with any questions.

Visitors from Canada

Fr. Curtis went to seminary in Canada, and while in seminary he lived in an 'intentional Christian household' with others, some in seminary or doing doctoral work. Some of his housemates visited this fall. Pictured with him are (left to right): Tim Wainwright and Cathy Goring, and The Rev. Susan Storey).



Ladies Luncheon

Bunny Stoddard had a great idea to hold a Ladies Lunch, particularly for those who don't really like to go out at night. Their first was Thursday, July 27th. A team consisting of Lisa Beusoleil, Sheelagh Higginson, Jody Flescher, Deb Davison, and Questa Anderson pulled the event together. Sixteen women gathered in the church hall for a summer luncheon. They dined on sandwiches and salads and had a wonderful time catching up with old friends and making new ones!

Another one was held just recently on Wednesday, October 26th. Here are some photos of the Lunching Ladies!



Newcomers Brunches

After a hiatus for COVID, Newcomers Brunches are back....and boy do we have a lot of folks to invite. At last count there were about 26 new people who have started worshipping with us since COVID. Fr. Curtis and Doug hosted one in July and another in October with co-host help from various parishioners ('old timers!'). Here are some photos....



Above (left to right): John and Cindy De Santis, Cathy Roan, Milton Bratz, Jim Roan.

Left : Cathy and Jim Roan, Milton Bratz, Doug Hartford.

Below: Mark St. Hilaire, Brian Cook, Gail Kimball, Gayle Scheltmeyer (newbie Mike's mom), Paul Thorndike.



Left to Right: Shep and
Betsy Holcombe, Bonnie
Wyvill, Hemmie
Gilmore, Suzanne
Hopgood, Joan Bratz



Left to Right: Hank and
Karen Cheney, Tony and
Michele Garges....and a
variety of sherry of course!

Christmas Card Workshop

Hilary Veilleux has organized a card workshop which will be led by our own Verna White, who makes wonderful greeting cards! The workshop will be on Wednesday, Nov. 16th at 5:30 in the Parish Hall. The cost is \$10.00. You will make 4 homemade Christmas cards, and materials and instructions will be provided. No special skills are needed.



Optional: Bring snacks (not messy, you will be working with your hands), to share. Bring drinks, preferably that have covers.

Christmas Wreaths

Norma St. John is leading the wreath project again this year. If you would like to help with decorating the wreaths, this will take place at Norma's house (36 Ivie Lane, Bethlehem) on the following days and times. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

- Monday November 14: 10 am – Noon, and 1-3pm
- Wednesday, November 16: 10 am – Noon
- Monday, November 16: 1-3pm
- Friday November 18 (if needed): 10 am--Noon



Christmas Baskets



We are planning to put together Christmas baskets for those in our parish we don't see on a regular basis. We are not going to be as ambitious as last year when we were still in the grips of COVID, but we will be assembling and delivering approximately 15 baskets for the holiday season. Last year's baskets were very much appreciated by the recipients. A sign-up sheet to provide goodies will be posted soon.

YES! (Youth Engagement and Support)

Our YES! program could use some more support for the partnership with the Littleton Parks & Recreation after school program. No special training is required. If you are interested in helping kids with homework, playing games, reading to young ones, please let Fr. Curtis or Terri Fillion know.

Christmas Choir !

Jim wants to have a choir for Christmas! Hooray! The first meeting will be after coffee hour on Sunday, November 13th, for an initial organizing meeting. If you can't make that, please reach out to him.



All Saints' Potluck and Silent Auction



Who doesn't love a great church potluck lunch on a fall day? Sunday, **November 20**, right after the 10 o'clock service, join the Care Committee in the Parish Hall for some fantastic food, and fun. Homemade crafts, foods, and talents will be auctioned off to benefit a local non profit organization. You will even have the opportunity during the event to vote for the charity! Bring your favorite dish to share and see you in there!

Speak to Lisa Beausoleil if you have questions about items you may want to contribute to the auction. A sign up sheet for the potluck is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room.

Stewardship – T3

Stewardship packages have been made available as we begin our 4 week Time, Treasure, and Talent (T3) campaign for 2023.

As the T3 Committee pondered this year's stewardship campaign we acknowledged that with Fr. Curtis's planned retirement next spring, there will be feelings of sadness, uncertainty, and fear. As we look to the future we recognize All Saints' as a strong and vibrant community, one that is ready to prayerfully undertake the process to find our next rector. This period of transition and change will provide many opportunities for us to explore, grow, and strengthen our Christian faith.

Here at All Saints' we have much to be thankful for; the beauty of worship – gathering together in the midst of a world full of distance. The wonder of music – singing together in the midst of a world full of silence and loneliness. The sweetness of sacraments – celebrating together the waters of baptism and the nourishment of Communion in the midst of a world full of dust and hunger. And the joy of service – working together in the midst of a world full of broken systems and broken hearts.

Hope will propel us into our new future!



Tidbit from the Archive (Deb Davison's Archival Work)

On 11/30/1940 we received an invoice for \$15 for 2000 pounds of stove coal!

Community

Kids in the Kitchen

A small group of kids from Littleton Parks & Recreation were invited into our kitchen this summer on Monday mornings, with our parishioner-chefs (Cynthia Lanchester (2x), Deb Davison, Jody Flescher, Brian and Kathy Cook, Elaine Winters and Terri Fillion) who taught the kids a fun recipe they could gobble up when finished or take home to share. The kids were enthusiastic and engaged throughout the summer and had a great timeoffice staff were the beneficiaries of their goodies too!



North Country Chamber Players



This past summer we were hosts to the Chamber Players for their rehearsals. They loved being here and it was a good little source of income for us too!

ChIPs – Children of Incarcerated Persons

Jody Flescher and Terri Fillion led another successful ChIPs campaign – and it was nice to have it back after a several year hiatus due to COVID. They collected over \$1500 for presents, which they bought at The Little Village Toy and Book Store on Main Street. Some parishioners also purchased gifts on their own and contributed them. The whole lot will be delivered to the diocese (this is a diocesan-wide effort) for distribution to several prisons throughout the state.



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

We are hosting the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service this year on Tuesday, November 22nd at 6:30pm. There is a new pastor at St. Rose, Fr. Ryan, and new interim pastors at the Methodist Church, Rev. Kirk Thompson, and the UCC/Congregational Church, Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz, so there will be new faces and voices in sharing in the service. Please plan to attend.



Kudos!

Thanks to:

- Ross Veilleux for further attention to roof and toilets, with help from Anthony Rodrigues.
- Lisa Beausoleil, Deb Davison, and Terri Fillion, with others for the Ladies Luncheons.
- Hilary Veilleux and Verna for organizing the office supply closet.
- Terri Fillion and Jody Flescher for leading another successful ChIPs campaign.
- Victoria Cole for covering for Jim while he was away.
- Chefs for Cooking with Kids: Cynthia Lanchester (2x), Deb Davison, Jody Flescher, Brian and Kathy Cook, Elaine Winters and Terri Fillion.
- Fr. John Morrison and Deacon Paul for covering while Fr. Curtis was away.
- For the Dinner Bell crew who are up and running again.
- Don Perlee and Carlos Ortiz for a variety of help with the Food Cupboard, driving to Manchester to pick up food; and all the volunteers of course!
- Deb Davison, Gail Kimball, Jim and Cathy Roan, Milton and Joan Bratz, Hemmie Gilmore, Brian and Kathy Cook for help with Newcomers Brunches in July and October.
- Hilary Veilleux for plantings and tending to the garden.
- Norma St. John and team for another Christmas Wreath Project fundraiser.



Mission

*The mission of All Saints' is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ
by practicing our Christian Faith
through prayer and acts of love and
unconditional kindness.*