

# REVELATIONS

Spring 2023

Newsletter of All Saints' Episcopal Church,  
Littleton, NH

## The Rector's Ramblings....

*All Saints' Beloved,*

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We have had a wonderful seven years together with me as your rector and priest. You have been wonderfully generous to me in so many ways and we have accomplished amazing things together- for our buildings, our worship and mission, and our spiritual life together!

Though it wasn't planned, it was a nice bit of serendipity that my last Sunday where I was presider and preacher was Pentecost Sunday, the same Sunday I was ordained a deacon 37 years ago. It was a full-circle kind of feeling. And, in a sense, a reminder and a blessing that the Spirit given to the church at Pentecost is still blessing and guiding the church universal and our parish too.

I never would have survived these years, and especially the COVID years (!), if it wasn't for your loving support, the support of the Vestry, and my colleague in ministry, Paul. My deep appreciation, thanks and gratitude does not begin to express what is in my heart!

As mentioned on several occasions and emails, even though Doug and I are staying in the community for our retirement, it is customary and courteous for me to 'lay low' for a year or so in order to give room for you and your next rector to settle into a pastoral relationship. I'm sure we'll bump into one another in the community, but I won't be worshipping with you or providing pastoral services for this time. I know you will respect this. Doug and I will look forward to a time when we can more regularly enjoy your fellowship again, and I can offer my assistance to your next rector.



Remember I am ever-praying this blessing on you....

*Go now to the place where God has given you responsibility. Remember the peace and love we have celebrated; and do not fail to show to all people the new life that is already among us.*

*Have courage. Hold on to what is good.*

*Return no one evil for evil, but overcome evil with good.*

*Strengthen those who fail, support the weak, and honor all the Creator has made.*

*And the blessing of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, go with you and remain with you now and always.*

*Fr. Curtis+*

## **The Deacon's Doodlings**

To everything turn, turn, turn, there is a season, turn, turn, turn there is a time for every purpose under Heaven. So sang the Byrds in their 1960s take on the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. This coming Sunday will mark a change in seasons here at All Saints' as Fr. Curtis formally leaves us for his, well-earned retirement. As the seasons change for us all, both in the natural world and within our physical adaptations, each season will bring us loss but beyond that comes new expectations and excitement for the coming season. Though many of us will truly mourn his departure we must keep in mind that this is God's parish and that the gift of the Spirit that we celebrated last Sunday will carry us onward.

Bishop Rob has graciously allowed me to continue as your Deacon in this time of transition - Deacons serve directly under the Bishop and are supervised by the Rector. For me this is the 3rd time a Rector has moved on from All Saints'. At each and every move I've felt a deep sense of loss, and yet there is an excitement in the air as to who might come and fill his or her shoes. The Lord is faithful and with that knowledge I encourage all of us to lean on our faith and prayers that God indeed will provide a new leader as the seasons roll on.

*Deacon Paul Higginson*

## **Transition Team**

The Transition Team has been working diligently since November polling the parish, articulating our needs, collaborating with the New Hampshire Diocese, reviewing prospective candidate files and conducting interviews. Presently the Transition Team and the Vestry are working closely together in the final phases of the interview process with a very strong candidate. The Transition Team is grateful for the continued prayers and support from our Parish community.

## Sheelagh Higginson Turns 60!

We had a fun surprise birthday party for Sheelagh in March when she turned 60! We even had a bunch of sparkling cider for a toast.

she



“But I’m gonna drop it, I know I will!”



## Lenten Program

Sheelagh Higginson and Terri Fillion found an interesting online Lenten devotional program and encouraged the whole parish to participate. In this family-friendly Lenten devotional full of Scripture, art, and activities, they took this adventure with Henri Matisse, one of the most daring and beloved artists in modern history.

Week by week, with the words of Scripture and the art of Henri Matisse as our guides, they headed into the wild - all the way to the beautiful, joyful love of Easter morning.

Terri Fillion & Sheelagh also invited participants to chat about their Lenten journey with Matisse on Sunday, March 12 and/or

Sunday, April 2 (Palm Sunday) after the

10:00am service. This

was also an opportunity to put paint to canvas or pencil/crayon to paper.



to



## A New Organ



With a hastily developed fundraising campaign developed by the Finance Committee and with the approval of the Vestry, we swiftly raised over \$60,000 to buy a new digital organ and, surprisingly, had it quickly in place the day before Joyce Roy's memorial service, which was so fitting for our former organist! Here are some nice shots of it and our organist Jim Roan having fun getting acquainted with the new instrument. After working hard to keep our old organ working with much exasperation, dare we say, he is 'singing a new tune'!



## Holy Week

Our Holy Week services were wonderful and diverse- and plentiful! We had 8 services between Palm Sunday and Easter! We didn't seem to get many photos this year, but we celebrated:

- ❖ Palm Sunday with procession as shown here
- ❖ A contemplative Eucharist in the hall on Holy Tuesday
- ❖ Tenebrae in the church on Wednesday Evening
- ❖ Maundy Thursday with foot washing in the hall
- ❖ Good Friday liturgy at noon and 7pm in the church
- ❖ Holy Saturday with the lighting of the Holy Fire (outside!) and procession into the church for the Great Easter Vigil
- ❖ Easter Day with our festive 10 o'clock services





## Earth Day, April 22

With thanks to the Creation Care Team and especially Donna Alexson, we put on an Earth Day event in the parking lot and welcomed anyone who wanted to come and play 'Green Games' (games made from things around home with a view toward recycling and repurposing things on hand), and enjoy some healthy food and fun! Thanks to the Community Center for the use of their parking lot!



## Farewell to Bishop Dorsey and Betsy

We bid farewell to Bishop Dorsey and Betsy as they headed off to Orkney for another six-month stint in ministry. Bishop Dorsey preached for us one last time before their departure. Thanks, and many blessings in your ministry among the Scots! *Beannacht Dé ort!*



## Women's Night Out

Mary Sturtevant hosted the one of the regularly scheduled women's events (that included a man, Gasp!) and held a workshop on Reiki. Mary is a Reiki Master.

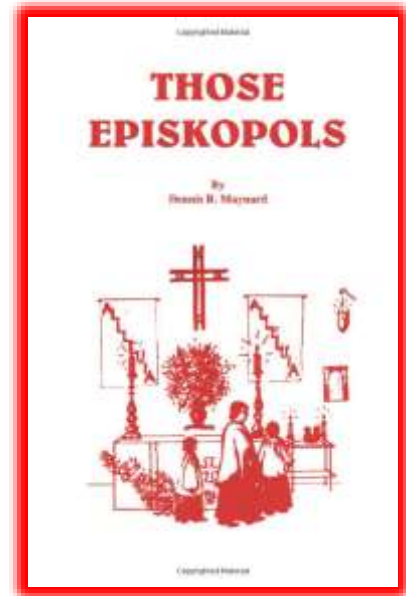
....and it being March, Camille got stuck in the mud and they had to call a tow truck. Sigh!



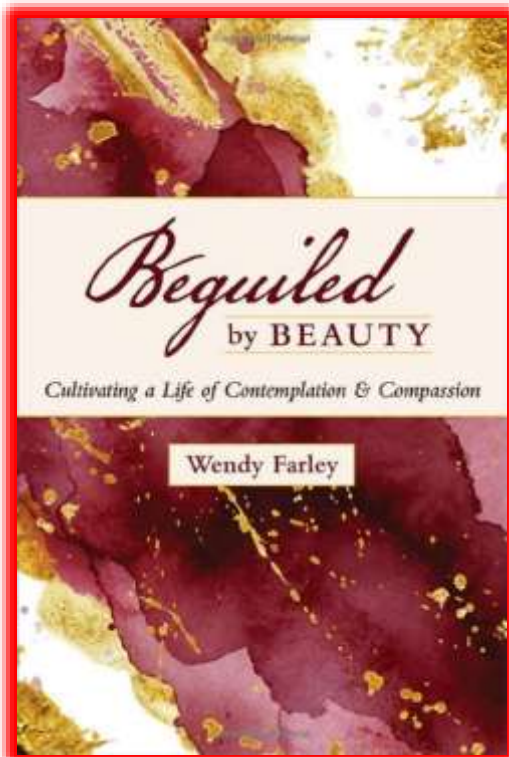


## Inquirers Class

Fr. Curtis offered an Inquirers Class for those interested in being confirmed and becoming members of the church. We used the simple and humorous book “Those Episkopols” as a simple introduction to the church, from which we launched off into wide-ranging conversation about our church. We will be presenting those people when the Bishop comes on June the 4<sup>th</sup>.



## Book Study



The Centering Prayer Group has recently read *Beguiled by Beauty: Cultivating a Life of Contemplating and Compassion*, by Wendy Farley. This was a wonderful guide to doing exactly what the title suggested. At the time of writing there was still one copy for sale in the All Saints' bookstore on the bookcase outside the office door.

## IN MEMORIAM

Robert Peraino, M.D.  
November 13, 1944 –May 11, 2023

We lost Rob suddenly after a recent surgery. He and Lois have been faithful at the eight o'clock service for many years. Rob would occasionally play a prelude before the service on our wonderful new piano. His memorial service packed the church and the parish provided a wonderful reception for Lois, the family, and attendees after the service.



## Jayce Carbonneau Graduates

On Pentecost Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Jayce's graduation from High School.

Somehow he went from this.....



To this!.....

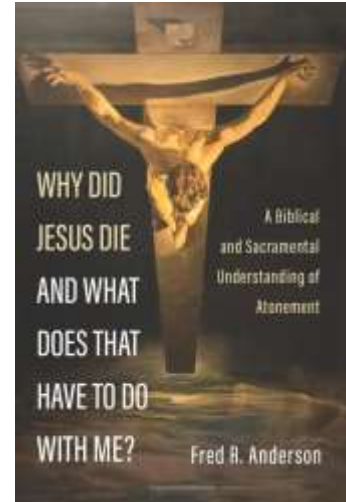




## Published Authors in our Midst!

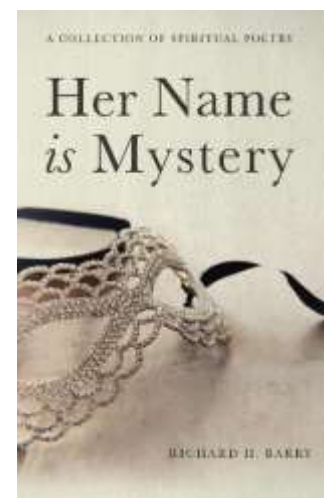
Did you know we have authors among us?!  
Congratulations to all three!

The Rev. Fred Anderson recently had a book published that he has been working on for many years: *Why did Jesus Die and What Does That Have to Do with Me?*. "This book looks at atonement biblically, theologically, historically, and sacramentally." It examines how we have often misunderstood the meaning of Jesus' death. It is available on Amazon and also through [www.wipfandstock.com](http://www.wipfandstock.com)



Gail Kimball recently authored a graphic novel about the Old Man of the Mountain: *What Really Happened to the Old Man?* It is a fun and humorous look at our own icon, and how he lives on. You can find copies at Little Village Toy and Bookshop here in Littleton.

Another parishioner adopted a *nom de plume* (to be anonymous!) and has recently published a wonderful book of spiritual poetry: *Her Name is Mystery*. It has such delightful insights into a relationship with the Divine! It can be found on Amazon.





## Kudos!

- The Transition Team who have worked tirelessly in the search process for our new rector.
- All those who helped with the service and the reception after Joyce Roy and Rob Peraino's Memorials~ such welcoming and caring events.
- Anthony Rodrigues, Mark St. Hilaire, and Ross Veilleux for facilitating the movement of pews and working with the electrician for the installation of the new organ.
- The many helping hands who decorated for Easter, and then put it all away and decorated for Pentecost.
- Fred Anderson for leading the ongoing Bible Study.
- Questa and Fred Anderson for tackling our recycling.
- Don Perlee, Carlos Ortiz, Deb Davison, and Verna for managing the Food Cupboard inventory and ordering so well in a time when resources are more scarce.
- Lisa Beausoleil for getting through six years of discernment and training to soon become a newly 'minted' deacon of the church at St. Paul's, Concord, NH, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1pm. All are welcome!

As I leave you as rector and pastor, remember all the good, please forgive those things 'done and left undone', and be filled with the Spirit in all that you do!

Fr. Curtis+



### *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.*