



## The All Saints MESSENGER April 2021

All Saint's Church  
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So. Burlington, VT 05403  
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website [www.allsaintsvt05403.org](http://www.allsaintsvt05403.org)

On Zoom

10 a.m. Ministry of the Word - Rite II  
9 a.m. Adult Forum  
10 a.m. Christian Education for Children

The Rev. Canon David Hamilton, Rector  
The Rev. Peggy Mathauer, Deacon

Vestry:

Glenn Sproul     Senior Warden  
Whye Yap        Junior Warden  
Sandy Aldrich  
Josh Cheney  
Charles Conn  
Hilla Damm  
Susan Hartman  
Cheryl Hooper  
Katrina McGibney

Vestry Clerk: Julie B. Pierson

Treasurer: Marcia Corey  
Assistant Treasurer: Iris Darling

Pledge Secretary: Iris Darling  
Assistant Pledge Secretary: Laura Buel

Church Secretary/Administrator:  
Margaret MacLean

Young Children's Ministry:  
Katrina McGibney

Adult Education Leaders:  
Josh Cheney/Whye Yap

### It's not over until it's over!

Dear Parish Family,

Do you remember last March when we first heard about the Coronavirus and the first "Stay Home/Stay Safe" order came from our governor? That was on March 25, 2020. In the first couple of days thereafter, I heard several folks, in what I might call a "say it isn't so!" tone of voice, asking if the pandemic might last as long as a few months! Speculation that a year later we would be still be in this pandemic would have been too much to bear. But here we are!

I think that the folks of All Saints have been amazingly cohesive and faithful as a community during this year in which our building has been shut down. We can joke about seeing each other in our flat "Hollywood Squares" on Zoom, but seeing each other has been wonderful! No doubt we experience a degree of Zoom fatigue when some of us have several meetings on Zoom during a week, but Zoom has been a blessing!

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I am not using the term “blessing” loosely. Quite frankly, given the level of disorientation that goes along with isolation, what would our current lives be like spiritually and emotionally without Zoom? Is it too much of a stretch to believe, given the enormity of the worldwide cataclysm of Covid, that Zoom and other digital tools have been provided providentially by God? And, looking at another parallel emergent scientific “miracle”, could the speed with which the development of our currently available vaccines have happened without divine intervention propelling scientific inquiry and research? I doubt it. Yes, I can imagine these interpretations being criticized as being theologically naïve or simplistic. However, I would rather be faulted for over-belief than having these blessings construed as just “good fortune”, or “luck”.

However, as in so many other realms of life, the work of God toward defeating this pandemic cannot prevail without human conscience and commitment. Vaccines are not a panacea, especially if people refuse to get vaccinated. This foe is not surrendering, but instead keeps reinventing variants of itself. And ‘the instant gratification culture’, which we have fostered for decades, keeps erupting in Spring Break beach hordes and other refusals to distance and mask. The spread is surging again, with alarming numbers of infections rising, both here and in Europe (a few nations again on shut-down!).

When the spokesperson of the CDC, in speaking about this new fourth surge, says, "I'm going to reflect on the recurring feeling I have of impending doom", it is beyond time to recognize that it is possible for us to run out of time. Without discipline, the Coronavirus, with its increasing variety of DNA mutations, just might very well prevail.

We all want to be free from constraints on gathering, movement and travel. We all long to be able to gather when and where we found meaning and connection pre-pandemic. But, at present, the battle is joined, and we must double down, not so much for ourselves, but for those who cannot, and even for those who will not, suffer for the good of all. Isn't that WJWD?!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David" followed by a small plus sign.

Happy Easter!

Our 'Saints in Training' are growing in number and in wisdom! We now have 15 children participating in our parish program!

Themes and Lessons for April:

April 4: In the Garden Easter Story  
Activity: Egg Object Lesson

April 11: The Way a Butterfly is Born  
Activity: Butterfly Symmetry

April 18: Going to Emmaus  
Activity: Breaking Bread - Object Lesson (Fractions)

April 25: The Seed is Itself Upon the Earth  
Activity: Blossoming Tree



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### Easter Beauty!

Though we were still not able to worship inside our building on Easter Day, due to the Pandemic, a faithful parishioner felt that the outside of our church should, nonetheless, reflect the joy and beauty of Easter. She brought beautiful flowers to adorn the front of our church entrance. Many thanks!

**Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



Good Friday Offering for support of  
The Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

For many years on Good Friday at All Saints we have asked everyone to place a special Good Friday Offering in the alms basin as we left at the service. We were not able to participate last year due to the pandemic. Again, this year we were not able to hold an in-person service in our church.

**However, please note the following message received from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry encouraging us to participate this year if we are able.**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Good Friday Offering was first gathered in 1922 as an intentional response by The Episcopal Church to the devastations of World War I, the Spanish flu pandemic, and political and social unrest affecting Armenian Christians and others throughout the Middle East. This effort to establish strong relationships with indigenous Christians in the Holy Land continues to bear fruit.

That era a century ago reminds us that ours is not the only time in which forces beyond our control affect the lives of God's people. We are all aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected virtually every person on the planet in one way or another. Economists and medical professionals suggest that recovery from the pandemic's impact will take years. The churches, schools, and medical programs sponsored by our Anglican sisters and brothers in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East have been, as is no surprise, critically affected. The Good Friday Offering has served as a lifeline of hope in times of genuine need in the past, and continues to do so today.

I am sorely aware of the needs of our own families, churches, and communities in this most difficult time. For those who are able to give, the Good Friday Offering is a reminder that the Episcopal Church stands in solidarity with our Anglican brothers and sisters in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Thank you for considering this important witness to the love of Jesus across our Church. May God bless you and keep you always. I remain

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry  
Presiding Bishop and Primate  
The Episcopal Church

**Please make checks payable to All Saints, ear-marked Good Friday**



We are invited to join virtually the 32nd Annual COTS Walk, presented by Rice Lumber.

Virtual COTS Walk kicked off April 1<sup>st</sup> with new interactive activities weekdays, culminating with a new online COTS Walk experience (and virtual tour) on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Places of worship are instrumental in COTS' success, help is needed, especially this year.

The COTS Walk theme this year is “our community takes flight together,” as symbolized by kites. Kites rise against the wind, much like the COTS community has this past year amid the COVID-19 pandemic. When looking up at a kite, you can't see the forces at play keeping it in the sky. You are only let into the mechanism when you hold onto the string and feel it yourself. There is no one face of homelessness, and because of this, people experiencing homelessness are often invisible. The COTS Walk immerses us in what is usually unseen, like the forces keeping a kite in flight.

Shelters have remained open throughout this pandemic. Services have been adjusted to keep guests and staff healthy and safe. The COTS Walk is a critical annual fundraiser – especially now. The COTS Walk goal is to raise \$205,000 through peer-to-peer fundraising.

On COTS Walk Day (May 2<sup>nd</sup>), you can walk with entirely online from your own phone or computer to take an interactive virtual tour of COTS shelters, housing, and program spaces.

The COTS Walk has two purposes: To raise public awareness about homelessness in our community and to raise money to support COTS shelters and services for Vermonters who are homeless or are at risk of losing their homes.

Register today as a team or as individual: <http://give.cotsonline.org/COTSWalk2021>.

If you would prefer to give to COTS through our church, rather than register for the virtual activities and the walk, you may write a check payable to All Saints with a notation “for COTS” on the memo line.

Romy Theisen is COTS Community Outreach Specialist. You may reach her at [romyt@cotsonline.org](mailto:romyt@cotsonline.org); (802) 343-6903

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 Aaron Welch  
4 Shanti Mathauer  
5 Eddie Hockenbury  
6 Betty Packer  
Becky Herbig  
8 Bruce Bosley  
16 Joe Nieters  
17 Cheryl Kail  
22 Meg Huffman  
Dan Staples  
23 Glenn Sproul  
27 Jackie Duval  
28 Dot Edgerton  
29 Michael Premsagar

IN MEMORIAM

28 Evelyn Munson



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“Find your roots in the rituals and traditions of a people with a history.”