



The All Saints MESSENGER June 2021

All Saint's Church
1250 Spear Street
So. Burlington, VT 05403
Telephone 862-9750
allsaints16@gmail.com
website 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

Welcome to a Q and A session with Marga Sproul MD your friendly chief health officer

Q: When can we get back in the church building for in person worship?

A: We don't know yet. It won't be right away.

Q: Why????

A: All Saints is governed by the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, which has established a process for re-opening our churches. We have to follow the requirements of the Diocese.

Q: But the State of Vermont is on the verge of lifting all pandemic related restrictions. Why can't we resume in person worship now?

A: The Diocesan requirements have been established out of an abundance of caution and a position of regard for the health and safety of all worshippers. Their requirements are much more stringent than the soon to be lifted requirements of the State of Vermont.

Q: But more that 77% of eligible Vermonters have been vaccinate! Doesn't that make a difference? Almost everyone in our parish, except those under age 12, is probably vaccinated!

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A: The Diocese does not consider the vaccination status of worshippers. The current Diocesan requirements provide for maximal protection of all worshippers, including those who are not vaccinated.

Q: But when will this change so we can get back in the church?

A: We don't know. We have to accept uncertainty.

Q: Who makes these decisions?

A: The Diocesan Restart Committee, which reports to our bishop, has established the requirements for the various phases for reopening our churches.

Q: What phase of reopening are we in now?

A: All Saints is in Phase 3. In Phase 3 we are authorized to hold in person worship outdoors on the grounds of the church with strict requirements for masking and social distancing. We exercised this option last fall for the committal service for The Reverend Richard Adams.

Q: So why aren't we having outdoor services now? The weather is great – at least sometimes.

A: The All Saints Phase 4 Reopening and Planning Team recommended against this option because of concerns about lack of sufficient accessible space, excessive traffic noise which makes it difficult to hear, and the small number of worshippers who would be able to attend because of stringent social distance requirements. In addition, there would be no access to restroom facilities and no option for sheltering in the case of inclement weather. The Vestry agreed with the team's recommendation against transitioning to outdoor worship now.

Q: Wait! Who is this Phase 4 Reopening Team?

A: The Phase 4 Reopening and Planning Team includes our clergy, our senior warden, four additional members of the Vestry, our warden for property, and our three health officers.

Q: So, who are the members of the team?

A: Clergy: David Hamilton and Peggy Mathauer

Senior warden: Glenn Sproul

Vestry members: Chuck Conn, Hilla Damm, Cheryl Hooper, and Katrina McGibney

Warden for property: Julie Bonnano

Health officers: Laura Buell, Glenn Sproul, and Marga Sproul

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Q: So, what comes after Phase 3?

A: Phase 4 is next. Phase 4 allows for in person worship if (and only if) stringent Diocesan requirements are met and adhered to.

Q: When can we move to Phase 4?

A: The Phase 4 Reopening and Planning Team is recommending to the Vestry that we submit an application for Phase 4. The Vestry will decide whether to accept this recommendation when it meets on June 9. If the Vestry says yes, we will submit our application to the Diocesan Restart Committee as soon as possible. Once the application is approved we can implement Phase 4.

Q: How long will that take?

A: We don't know. They responded quickly to our Phase 3 application.

Q: So, what does Phase 4 in person worship look like?

A: Salient requirements for indoor worship in Phase 4 include

- Everyone must wear masks.
- Social distancing of 6 feet between individuals or family groups must be maintained.
- There must be at least 100 square feet of floor space for each person or family group.
- Communion might or might not be included in the service. If we have communion, it will probably be offered using pre-consecrated communion kits like those we have been using.
- There may be no singing by the congregation. A soloist (or choir, if we had one) may sing, and may be unmasked.
- There may be no consumption of food or beverages.
- Which means there will be no coffee hour.
- Handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, and elbow bumps are prohibited except within a family group.
- Attendance will require advanced registration with confirmation of contact information.
- The maximum attendance allowable is 23 individuals or family groups. The number 23 is derived from the 2354 square foot area of the nave.
- Clergy, health officers, musicians, ushers, and videographers are included in the count. When these people are accounted for, there will be an ability to accommodate a maximum of approximately 15 individuals or family groups.

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Q: What about the church school?

A: If church school is held in the DeForest Room, about 4 people or family groups (like siblings) could attend. If it is held downstairs in the Louise Room, 6 people or family groups could attend. The undercroft cannot be used because of inadequate ventilation. Advance registration will be required.

Q: What if I don't make it into the lucky 23 who get to attend in person?

A: We plan to continue online worship through a process of live streaming and Zoom. There are lots of details yet to be worked out!

Q: This sounds **FANTASTIC!!!** I can't wait to mask up and get back in the building (socially distanced of course). **When** can we start?

A: We don't know. **IF** the Vestry approves a Phase 4 application, and **IF** the Diocesan Restart Committee approves that application, we *might (but might not)* decide to do a trial of in person worship in mid-August, after David returns from his July vacation month.

Q: What if the Diocesan Restart Committee changes its requirements?

A: Our All Saints Phase 4 Reopening and Planning Team will reconvene rapidly and advise the Vestry about possible changes that would allow more extensive in person worship.

Q: Okay. I understand that it is complicated. But **WHY** does it have to be this way? If the State of Vermont and all the USA are reopened on or before July 4, why can't our church be open **NOW**? Why can't it be the way it used to be? Why can't we just get back to normal?

A: This brings us back to where we started. The Diocese of Vermont is exercising an abundance of caution and loving concern for the health and safety of all worshippers, those who are vaccinated and those who are not.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The last class for this season will be **Sunday, June 13th**. Then we will take a break until September. Watch for more information in the September newsletter.

ADULT FORUM

The current Adult Forum topic is a 13-week program on N.T. Wright's reflection on Philippians which will end on **Sunday, June 20th**. We will then take a break for July and August.

Please look for next season's entire program in the September newsletter.

The following is a letter asking for help to find housing for a family seeking asylum.

Hello, friends,

Some exciting news shared at the quarterly meeting last Wednesday is that CASAN is welcoming and assisting a new family – a mother and her baby and preschool child!

We are seeking housing, for a year and more, in the greater Burlington area – a one (or two) bedroom apartment, a mother-in-law apartment, or something similar. And near a bus line.

As someone in the asylum process, the mom is not allowed to receive many kinds of public assistance, nor is she authorized to work for at least a year. We are committed to raising funds for the family's living expenses – and for housing – for as long as needed.

For these reasons, donated – or low rent – housing would be truly appreciated.

Please share this need -- and if you can help, contact Board member Richard Smiles at locustsmiles@gmail.com

Thanks so much!

Jan Steinbauer, Coordinator
Chittenden Asylum Seekers Assistance Network

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 Francis Duval
10 Lu Moxhet
11 Alan Averyt
12 John Bertelsen
13 Marty Torpey
21 Hack Bushweller
Anne Averyt
23 George Singer
25 Willie Weremeichik
Stewart Pierson
26 Julie Pierson
Carole Wageman

ANNIVERSARIES

6 Hack & Ellie Bushweller
22 Dick & Judy Phillips
24 Jerry & Susan Martin
25 Ed & Stephanie Hockenbury
26 John & Marion Dooley
27 Glenn & Marga Sproul

IN MEMORIAM

3 Julie LaChance
7 Jonathan Parrish
12 May Stevens
George Wells
22 Tom Drolette
25 Frank Irish
26 Sean Chagnon



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