



# The All Saints MESSENGER May 2020

All Saint's Church  
1250 Spear Street  
So Burlington, VT 05403  
Telephone 862-9750  
allsaints16@gmail.com  
website www.allsaintsvt05403

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II  
9 a.m. Adult Forum  
10 a.m. Child Care & Christian Education  
for Children and Teens.

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

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

Vestry Clerk: Julie B. Pierson

Special Warden for Property: Julie Bonanno

Treasurer: Marcia Corey  
Assistant Treasurer: Iris Darling

Pledge Secretary: Don Crofut  
Assistant Pledge Secretary: Iris Darling

Church Secretary/Administrator:  
Margaret MacLean

Young Children's Ministry:  
Katrina McGibney

Middle School & Teen Ministry:  
Don Crofut

Adult Education Leaders:  
Josh Cheney/Whye Yap

## What a Difference A Year Makes!!

Dear Friends,

Do you remember what was on the minds of Vermont Episcopalians back in May of 2019? A hint is found in our denominational name: "Episcopal". Yes, you are correct! The word "Episcopal" means "Bishop".

May of last year was a month of Episcopal goodbyes and welcomings. A year ago, much of the focus of this newsletter was on electing our new bishop! On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Episcopal Church in Vermont would meet at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington, to vote in a majority for one of three candidates to become the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Vermont. Excitement and anticipation were in the air!

However, also last year, as we looked toward electing a new bishop, announced in the same May *Messenger*, was Bishop Tom Ely's last annual visitation to All Saints to take place on May 8<sup>th</sup>. As a parish we celebrated Bishop Tom's rich ministry of eighteen years to us and our love for him with a potluck supper on May 8<sup>th</sup>, (ten days before the election of his successor).

The diocesan convention to elect a bishop, held last May 18<sup>th</sup>, was historic in that the Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown was elected our bishop on the first ballot!

That was last May. Fast forward to this May. (Of course, in the meantime, there was the September 28, Service of Consecration and Ordination of (the now) Right Reverend Doctor Shannon MacVean-Brown.

(continued)

But what a first year as our bishop this has been for Bishop Shannon! No sooner were we looking forward to the inaugural first year of Bishop Shannon's ministry as our bishop, then something called the Coronavirus Pandemic was suddenly front and center in the lives of our parish, diocese and nation! Many have opined what a bizarre and challenging beginning of ministry for our new bishop! Talk about 'baptism by fire'!

Given the shutting of our church buildings, "Stay Home and Stay Safe" state-wide orders and the need to suddenly become agile with social media and conferencing software, such as Zoom, the way in which Bishop Shannon has responded to this crisis has been inspiring! She has initiated a twice daily online worship experience, with Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM and Compline at 8:00 PM. Each Wednesday afternoon Bishop Shannon has a Zoom meeting with Clergy. All of these online gatherings are well attended.

There is an intimacy and comfort to these electronically connected gatherings which has been surprising. As a new bishop in a new diocese, one could imagine the challenge of the first couple of years being trying to get to know clergy and parishioners and for them to know you. In the absence of bishop visitations to parishes (ours at All Saints was to have been on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>) Bishop Shannon has gained face and name recognition of many clergy and parishioners around the diocese through these gatherings. For those participating there also is a palpable sense of belonging to the diocese, seeing so many faces and hearing so many voices.

There are many questions about the path forward for our Churches in this crisis. Opening closed churches and when that might happen, of course comes to mind, but the gymnastics of social distancing when this would happen seem awkward at best. There are many details to be ironed out. It seems that increased competency with online technology will be required no matter what "the new normal" will be as we move forward.

It has been heartening on Sunday mornings for us All Saints folk to connect with one another for Morning Prayer via Zoom and the "virtual coffee hour" after worship. There have been questions about having the Eucharist in some way, but our Bishop, in agreement with the other bishops of the Province, has felt that unless all could receive, then those who consecrate should not be privileged to receive when others at home cannot.

One unmistakable reality has emerged in the midst of this pandemic. We are still the Church, even when we must physically distance ourselves. Perhaps under such circumstances we are even more than ever the Church! Even in the midst of so much in these days which is frightening, burdensome, and sometimes just plain boring, say your prayers. And even more, pray for one another. Do you have a Parish Directory? Work your way through it page by page praying for one another. We are in this together, as we are often being reminded on the airwaves, but there is no organization, no institution, which understands this more than the Church. Make it so.

Easter Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David" followed by a small cross symbol.

## **HOW THE VIRUS STOLE EASTER**

**By Kristi Bothur**

**With a nod to Dr. Seuss**

Tw'as late in '19 when the virus began  
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full,  
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring,  
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.  
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed.  
“There won’t be an Easter,” the world supposed.

“There won’t be church services, and egg hunts are out.  
No reason for new dresses when we can’t go about.”

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.  
The world was focused on masks and on tests.

“Easter can’t happen this year,” it proclaimed.  
“Online and at home, it just won’t be the same.”

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.  
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed.  
The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

“Pooh pooh to the saints,” the world was grumbling.  
“They’re finding out now that no Easter is coming.

“They’re just waking up! We know just what they’ll do!  
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,  
And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo.

“That noise,” said the world, “will be something to hear.”  
So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.  
It started down low, then it started to rise.

*(continued)*

But the sound wasn't depressed.  
Why, this sound was triumphant!  
It couldn't be so!  
But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes.  
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small,  
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came!  
Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine  
Stood puzzling and puzzling.  
"Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,  
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.  
"Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.  
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then?  
Well....the story's not done.

What will YOU do?  
Will you share with that one  
Or two or more people needing hope in this night?  
Will you share the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb,  
And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,  
As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.  
May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.  
May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,  
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.  
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,  
But not only that -  
Let it start a revival.

## COMMITTEE ON TEMPORARY SHELTER

*FOR MANY YEARS, ALL SAINTS PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL COTS WALK . AS YOU WILL SEE FROM THE MESSAGE BELOW RECEIVED FROM COTS, THIS YEAR'S VIRTUAL WALK HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE ON A DAILY BASIS WITH ONLINE ACTIVITIES.*

*IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT WAY BUT WANT TO HELP THEM REACH THEIR FUNDRAISING GOAL, YOU MAY SEND A CHECK TO THE CHURCH OFFICE MADE OUT TO ALL SAINTS WITH A NOTATION IN THE MEMO LINE "FOR COTS".*



•**Do I still need to register for the COTS Walk?** Yes, if you haven't done it already, register now: <http://givecotsonline.org/cotswalk2020>.

•**Do we still collect pledges and fundraise for the COTS Walk?** Yes, in fact, we need your help with fundraising *more* than ever. Our goal is **\$235,000** -- and you can ask supporters to pledge their support for you participating in the [daily Walk Activities](#) leading up to Walk Day on May 3. Participating in these activities is a great way for students to earn community service hours and learn more about homelessness.

•**What do you mean the COTS Walk has already started?** Visit <https://cotsonline.org/cotswalk/> to check out new activities posted daily. These are ways for you to learn about COTS, find out more about issues surrounding homelessness, do something fun, and connect with us now. For parents and children who have School Vacation Week coming up, be sure to check these out for ideas on things to do. The activities give back, support the community -- and do so safely.

If you have questions, please email me: [beckyh@cotsonline.org](mailto:beckyh@cotsonline.org).

Thank you. Stay safe and be well.

All our best,

**Becky Holt**  
COTS Development & Communications Director

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Gillian Sterns  
2 Michael Parr  
4 Jason Hoover  
5 Shay Simmons  
8 Ann & Katherine Foss  
10 Dominic Abbondanza  
11 Charlotte Wetherby  
12 Maria Corey  
16 Emily Holt  
17 Marcus Knapp  
18 Owen Welch  
25 Nora Possidente  
    Jim Bahrenburg  
27 Jack Richburg  
29 Nancy Suarez  
30 Kate Welch  
31 Casey Hockenbury

## ANNIVERSARIES

10 Allan & Molly Averyt  
17 Ed & Carole Wageman  
21 Jason & Pamela Hoover  
23 Charles & Cheryl Kail  
29 Michael & Carrie Premsagar

## IN MEMORIAM

11 Pat Halverson  
13 Terry Dumont  
21 Babe Post  
    Bobbi Pond  
22 Cosmo Dattilio  
24 Guy Hooper



All Saints Episcopal Church  
1250 Spear Street  
So. Burlington, VT 05403

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