

The Quilt

Stitching together the fabric of our faith

All Saints' Episcopal Church Newsletter | June, 2026

We hear a lot lately about the wars in the Middle East. They bear on our diocese as we have close ties with the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. That gives us close ties with Palestinian Christians but we hear less about the impact on Jewish people. Kresha writes a substack, and she has talked about this. It follows here.

—Father Jim Warnock



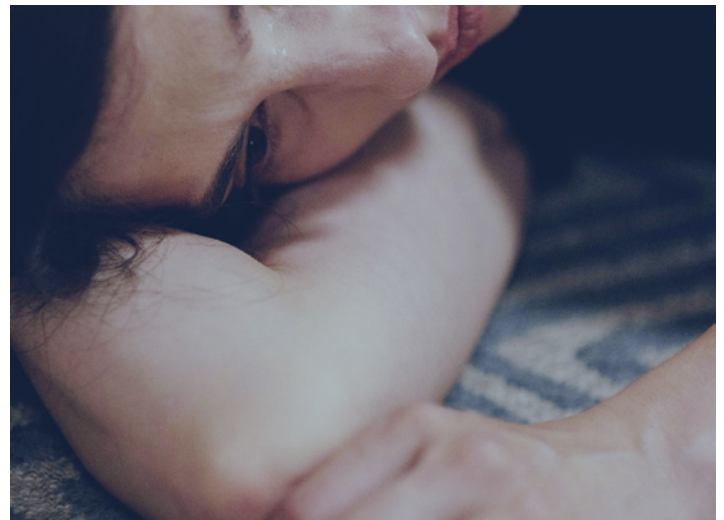
Mother's Day and Rachel Polin-Goldberg

I had a lovely Mother's Day – a visit with my granddaughter and her parents, a cheerful call and flowers from my daughter and son-in-law. The only thing wrong with it was the food: I decided to buy the side salads as a gift to myself. They weren't good; I should have taken the time to make them myself. I'm apparently a better cook than Whole Foods. However, each of my family members, present or absent, showered me with love. I needed that cushion.

I hadn't intentionally chosen to read Rachel Goldberg-Polin's book, *When We See You Again*, on Mother's Day Weekend. It is the most powerful book I've ever read about a mother's intense love for her young adult child. And book that is tearing me apart.

I knew that *When We See You Again* would be painfully hard to get through, and it was. Not because of the writing, which is forceful and poetic and heart-rending. One reviewer said he got read this small volume in one sitting. I don't know how

he did it. I am not emotionally strong enough to sit with this brave mother through her agony all at once. The book reads quickly, but my heart can only take in small sections at a time.



In our siloed world, I wondered how many people would look at me blankly when I mentioned the name Rachel Polin-Goldberg, the mother who worked tirelessly for the release of the 251 hostages taken into Gaza during the October 7 pogrom. She and her husband appeared on countless news broadcasts around the world, including *Sixty Minutes*. On August 24, 2024, when she and her husband spoke at the Democratic Convention, the crowd rose and chanted "Bring Them Home" for over a minute. A little over a week later, her first-born, her only son, Hersh, was murdered in the tunnels under Raffah.

When we went to Barnes and Noble to pick up *When We See You Again*, I was surprised it wasn't out on one of their "featured" shelves; it's been the #1 selection on the New York Times bestseller

list for Hardcover Nonfiction since it came out in April. When the salesperson, who seemed very sweet, helped me find it, she commented “Might be an interesting book, but it’s got an ugly cover.” I mumbled something about rainbows and unicorns not being the theme of the book. She clearly had no idea of the little grey volumes’ content, of the lives and deaths recorded in there. Sadly, I don’t think she is alone in her lack of knowledge about the hostage crisis.

I will never forget checking my phone as Jim and I were about to say goodbye to our son and his wife on August 31, 2024. “Six Hostages found Dead.” “I hope one of them isn’t Hersh,” I said as we walked out the door. By the time we had driven halfway down the freeway to Tacoma, we knew it was he, along with five other young people who became known as the “Beautiful Six,” each of them executed at close range by the Hamas operatives who had held them captive in the bowels of the earth for 338 days, shackled much of the time, tortured... and brave.

Pollin-Goldberg screams tous from the corners of her grief; she gently composes a monument to a loving, brave, kind son. She takes us step by step in describing how Hersh’s beautiful life, brutal death broke and transformed her. If I came face to face with her, I don’t know what I’d do. She’d hate a hug from a stranger, no matter how compassionate. Better, I just read it alone. And cry on my living room couch.

This book is the most graphic description of the pain a mother can feel that I have ever read. But more specifically it is a Jewish book written about the impact on one family of the unique day of terrorism intentionally carried out on Israelis at the hands of Hamas. If one must universalize it, please see it as a metaphor for what most Jews, certainly my Jewish family, experienced and continue to experience as the direct result of that horrible day, the months and months the hostages were imprisoned in Gaza.

Rachel Polin-Goldberg is a holy woman, a woman who tries to frame her love and suffering in terms of rabbinical teachings, of the words of the Torah, the writings of the Psalms. It is not a politically intentioned book. But it tells a story it seems most of the world was eager to move on from, eager to justify, eager to forget.

*

This Yiddish children’s song, *Oyfin Pripichik* kept running through my mind as I thought on music to include. The translation is on each frame, but it is a song encouraging Jewish children to learn their Hebrew:

*Learn, children, don’t be afraid.
Every beginning is hard.
Lucky is the Jew who studies Torah.
What more do we need?*

And, always in the back of the teacher’s mind, is the reminder to the children that as it is important to these children to learn, “Tears lie in these letters.”

—Kresha R. Warnock

Columba of Iona, Monastic, 597



June 9. Columba was born in Ireland in 521, and early in life showed scholarly and pastoral ability. He entered the monastic life, and almost immediately set forth on missionary travels. Even before ordination as a priest in 551, he had founded monasteries at Derry and Durrow.

Twelve years after his ordination, Columba and a dozen companions set out for northern Britain, where the Picts were still generally unaware of Christianity. Columba was kindly received, and allowed to preach, convert, and baptize. He was also given possession of the island of Iona, where, according to legend, his tiny boat had washed ashore. Here he founded the celebrated monastery which became the center for the conversion of the Picts. From Iona, also, his disciples went out to found other monasteries, which, in turn, became centers of missionary activity.

Columba made long journeys through the Highlands, as far as Aberdeen. He often returned to Ireland to attend synods, and thus established Iona as a link between Irish and Pictish Christians. For thirty years, he evangelized, studied, wrote, and governed his monastery at Iona. He supervised his monks in their work in the fields and workrooms, in their daily worship and Sunday Eucharist, and in their study and teaching.

He died peacefully in 597 while working on a copy of the Psalter. He had put down his pen, rested a few hours, and at Matins was found dead before the altar, a smile on his face. He is quoted by his biographer Adamnan as having said, "This day is called in the sacred Scriptures a day of rest, and truly to me it will be such, for it is the last of my life and I shall enter into rest after the fatigues of my labors."

Today the abbey at Iona is home to the Iona Community, an ecumenical retreat center that has shaped the spirituality of many Christians since it was founded in 1938, and which continues as an important place of pilgrimage and spiritual renewal to this day.

O God, who by the preaching of your servant Columba caused the light of the Gospel to shine in Scotland: Grant, we pray, that, remembering his life and labors, we may follow the example of his zeal and patience; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

—Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2000

Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes **April Recap, 2026**

Junior Warden's Report

The Junior Warden reported that no major building issues had been identified. The church's furnace failure to operate issue appears to involve disfunctional closure toggles on the inspection covers loosening from normal mechanical vibrations and shutting the system down; a modification is planned. Water usage was reported to be higher again, and discussion connected this to possible outside water use.

Vicar's Report

Fr. Jim explained his decision regarding a proposed shared worship leadership arrangement with Father Paul. He stated that any service held in the congregation's regular Sunday context must follow the existing worship practices of the parish, and that further discussion and preparation would be necessary before any change in format.

Fr. Jim noted plans to experiment with preaching from the aisle rather than the pulpit.

New Business

The committee discussed the current situation involving the occupied RV's continued presence on the property:

No final action has yet been taken by the city. The committee supported providing owner with a 90-day notice, with language noting that it remains subject to city action. Concerns were discussed about visible trash, overnight guests, and water use. The need for continued monitoring and clearer expectations was noted.

Treasurer's Report

March income was lower than expected, in part because approximately \$1,100 in mailed checks accumulated while the Treasurer was away. Easter offerings improved April income, but regular giving remains uneven. \$3,000 was moved from the money market account to checking to cover payroll and cash flow needs.

Discussion was held about the likelihood that additional funds may need to be drawn in the future, possibly including investment funds, if cash flow remains tight.

The committee confirmed that the previously designated \$1,200 furnace-repair donation should be given to Goshen, as stated in the prior month's approved minutes.

The committee discussed bank account signature authority and related documentation. Signed minutes from Jonathan were received and will be used for bank records. It was noted that additional authorized signers, including Larry and likely Liz, may need to complete updated signature forms with the bank and provide identification in person. The Treasurer will contact the new bank representative to determine the specific steps required.

—Larry Talbert

Reaching Out

Here are addresses for two members in our Parish who would love a visit, to receive a call, or a note of support and prayers:

Claudia Parham
6916 244th Ct E
Graham, WA 98338
253.206.7986

Nina Everett
Puget Sound Healthcare Center, Bed 2
4001 Capital Mall Dr SW
Olympia, WA 98502
253.439.0196



Birthdays

June 18, Ayden Nichols
June 20, Kresha Warnock
June 23, Lorraine Hobert Taylor



In Memorial

June 1, Lawrence Wilson (1992)
June 4, Gail Pederson (2007)
June 4, Joseph Stevenson (2001)
June 11, Percy Knox (2016)
June 18, Leslie Roley (2007)
June 19, Ed Mazzuca (2015)
June 21, Anson Hemnway, (2013)
June 21, Dorothy Kolb. (2022)
June 23, Janet Burt (1985)
June 24, Margaret Hall (2001)
June 26, Tim Larson (2025)
June 27, Harman (Vic) Hall (2005)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:30am - First Sunday	1	2	3 10am - Bible Study @ All 11:15am - DOK 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	4	5	6
7 9:30am - Second Sunday	8 10am - BC Meeting @ All	9 Columba of Iona,	10 10am - Bible Study @ All 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	11	12	13
14 9:30am - Third Sunday	15	16	17 10am - Bible Study @ All 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	18	19	20
21 9:30am - Fourth Sunday	22	23	24 10am - Bible Study @ All 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	25	26	27 10am - Men's Social
28 9:30am - Fifth Sunday	29	30	1 10am - Bible Study @ All 11:15am - DOK @ All 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	2	3	4

The Quilt Newsletter is published monthly by All Saints' Episcopal Church, 205 East 96th Street, Tacoma, WA 98445. Items for publication must be placed in The Quilt box in the Narthex, or emailed to **TreyXander@gmail.com** no later than the **15th of each month** prior to the month of publication.

Normal Sunday Service Schedule

9:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:30am, After Mass Coffee Social

Bible Study

10am, Wednesday

Phone: 253.301.0274
Email: allsaintstacoma@gmail.com
Website: allsaintstacoma.org