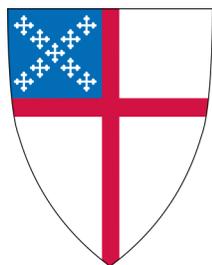


ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

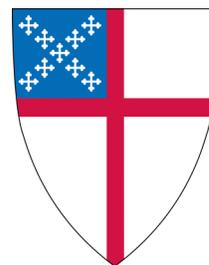
ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2020



All Saints' Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 26, 2020
12:30 pm - Memorial Hall



CHRISTMAS WITH BISHOP MARTY

All Saints' was blessed to have had the Rt. Rev. Marty Stebbins here with us to celebrate her inaugural Christmas Eve as X Bishop of Montana. With her were here husband Bob and their Boykin Spaniel, Calhoun, who celebrated his 14th birthday on Christmas Day. We were so honored that Bishop Marty, Bob and Cal shared their very first Christmas in Montana with us. Our thanks go to Cynthia Benkelman for inviting Bishop Marty and for coordinating her visit. If you missed the 8 pm service, you can view Bishop Marty's sermon on our website or on our YouTube channel.

<https://youtu.be/tHlhQk-RW74>



IN THIS ISSUE

Bishop Marty	pg. 1 & 6
Outreach	pg. 2
ASY	pg. 3
Rector Search	pg. 3
Notices	pg. 4
Calendar	pg. 5

SAMARITAN HOUSE CARING TREE

By Vera Smith

The response to our newest outreach was nothing short of overwhelming. Every tag was taken and returned with what can only be described as thoughtful and truly caring gifts for the needs of our extended families in Christ.

Each family received festively wrapped, requested gifts thereby ensuring there were presents under the tree Christmas morning.

The manager of Samaritan House shared that when asked for their list of needed items, the response was unexpectedly very humble. Consequently, she resent the list asking for it to be expanded. This was done, but again, when looking at their revised wish lists, still on the humble side.

Checking in with the manager the day after Christmas, she said there were many happy faces and many tears of joy.

Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed money for gifts and those who brought gifts to a different manger.



CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

This year's designated offerings from Christmas Day and Christmas Eve services went to the following: the family of Jordana Hubble, the little girl hit by a car exiting her school bus; the Abbie Shelter; and RezQ Dogs. The donations are still rolling in as of the writing of this e-letter but upwards of \$6,200 has already been collected to divide among the recipients. Thank you so much for the generosity that continually permeates from the pews of All Saints' and beyond.

A CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY

On Wednesday, December 18, Bradley performed once again, maybe for the last time, his *A Christmas Offertory*. A total of around 16 people listened attentively as he read his heartwarming story of a group of animals and a man left with no hope who are drawn together in a most unique way on Christmas Eve. Cookies and wassail were shared during intermission. Offerings were donated to RezQ Dogs.



CRECHE OFFERINGS

Once again the parishioners of All Saints' have shown themselves to be extremely concerned with those in our community whom Jesus particularly loves, the frightened; the hungry; the homeless. This year, as has become our custom people brought the following to the creche on the four Sundays of Advent: stuffed animals for ER pediatric patients at North Valley Hospital; food for local food banks; pet food for hungry pets belonging to owners who may be struggling financially; and warm layers of clothing as well as winter boots and socks to those at Samaritan House. Thank you again for your amazingly big and generous hearts.



ASY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On Christmas Eve, 24 children and youth entertained and delighted close to 120 people in this year's Christmas Pageant *Away From the Manger: The Musical*. (music, lyrics and additional dialogue by Sally Beske, based on the play by Elizabeth M. Topp). The narrators told the story of those who stayed away from the manger for a variety of reasons including the stars who were too shy; the animals who felt they were not good enough; the frazzled innkeeper's wife who had too much to do; the shepherds who, due to the contract of Shepherd's Union Local 404 weren't allowed to go; and the Wise Men who were busy attending a very important scholarly conference that day entitled "Celestial Signs that will indicate the Birth of the Messiah: Theoretical and Technical Aspects".

It is always amazing what a fabulous job they do with only a couple of rehearsals. It is a testament to the remarkable talent the youth of our parish have and to the skill and patience of our pageant director, Cynthia Benkelman, and our musician, Peggy Sebrowsky. This year was especially exciting with our newly ordained Bishop Marty as the celebrant for the service.



RECTOR CANDIDATES' VISITATIONS

This month we will have two candidates for our next rector with us. One will be here over the weekend of January 5 and the other over the weekend of January 19.

In addition to meeting with the Vestry and having time to explore the area, they will each celebrate at both services on the Sundays they are here. They will have time to visit with parishioners during the 9 and 11 o'clock coffee hours.

Please plan to come and meet them and show them what a welcoming parish we are.



ALL SAINTS' ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of All Saints' will take place on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 12:30 in Memorial Hall. We will hear the annual reports, vote on new Vestry members (at least 2 positions are open), receive the 2020 budget, choose delegates to the Diocesan Convention (which will take place in October in Helena), find out where we are in the search for our next rector, and more. Mark it on your calendar and please plan to attend. Be on the lookout for a special edition of the e-letter containing all the reports coming soon to an email inbox near you.

ALL SAINTS' BUILDING UPDATE

By Carl Thomas

For the last six months, our expansion project has been waiting on sub-contractors to either submit bids and/or finalize their work.

On November 15th, we received from our general contractors numbers to put into our construction budget. The newly updated budget was presented to the Vestry at the December meeting.

The budget totals are considerably higher than the original costs because of the busy construction market, escalated costs and fears of tariffs.

The Vestry has discussed several options and has submitted these to our general contractor. We are presently waiting on his answer before proceeding.

Our goal is to have final construction drawings and a signed contract with our general contractor in January or February.

ALTAR FLOWERS

By Vera Smith

Kay Lorenz has retired as the person responsible for keeping the flower dedication chart up to date. I am going to try and follow in her footsteps!

Please know that I am happy to hear from those of you who have had flower dedications in 2019 as to whether or not you are interesting in "renewing".

Of course, if anyone would like to make a new dedication and has some flexibility, I will do everything I can to accommodate you.

I will be calling those of you I haven't heard from on the 2019 chart just to chat! Now there's impetus to call me!

Vera Smith

406-471-9157



DO WE HAVE GREAT PRIESTS OR WHAT?

On behalf of the Vestry (and especially Shawn) and the parishioners of All Saints' we extend our most sincere thanks to the fabulous priests who supplied for us this fall: Bill Baumgarten, Sue Price and Bradley Wirth. Thank you so much for always being there to support All Saints' as we move forward in the search for our next rector.



JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 Noon service at AS	3	4
5 Services at 9 and 11 am Rector Candidate visitation	6	7	8 10 am service at The Springs	9 Noon service at AS	10	11
12 Services at 9 and 11 am	13	14	15 10 am service at The Springs	16 Noon service at AS	17	18
19 Services at 9 and 11 am Rector Candidate visitation	20	21	22 10 am service at The Springs	23 Noon service at AS	24	25
26 Services at 9 and 11 am ANNUAL MEETING 12:30	27	28	29 10 am service at The Springs	30 Noon service at AS	31	

ORDINATION OF X BISHOP OF MONTANA

All Saints' was well represented at the Ordination and Consecration of the Rev. Martha "Marty" Stebbins as the X Bishop of Montana on December 7, 2019, in Helena. In addition to several parishioners making the trek over to watch the service, there were several members who participated in the service. Molly McCune was a member of the choir, Katie Benkelman, Grace Benkelman, Camas Bushnell and Miller Bushnell were all acolytes with 3 of them being servers during communion as well. Grace assisted Bishop Curry during communion. Shawn Sloan carried the Diocesan Banner that Kathy Thomas quilted several years ago which hangs in Memorial Hall. Cynthia Benkelman and Bradley Wirth are members of the Standing Committee. Bishop Curry spent some time with the youth of the Diocese which was very exciting and inspiring.

If you missed the live stream of the ordination you can still watch it by going to the Diocesan website. The following day Bishop Curry celebrated and preached at St. James in Bozeman. You can watch his sermon by following the link on the Diocesan website as well. The entire weekend was quite a memorable experience for all.



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Church location:
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Columbia Falls, MT

Church mailing address:
PO Box 1923
Whitefish, MT 59937

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E-mail: allsaintsmt@gmail.com

Christian Formation Minister/Children and Youth: Cynthia Benkelman
cgraine@montanasky.us
406-261-9636

All Saints' website: www.allsaintsmt.org

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus forever. and ever.

Find us here:

Just click on the link!

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt>

YouTube link: http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA

Webpage link: <http://www.allsaintsmt.org>

Vestry Members

Senior Warden: Leif Peterson
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Betsy Paugh
Shawn Sloan
Heidi Sobczak

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