

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2021

ANNUAL MEETING



Mark your calendars, the vestry has set the date of our Annual Meeting for January 31st at 12:30 via Zoom

Be on the lookout prior to the Annual Meeting for the reports of the Rector, Treasurer, and all organization and activities of the Parish.

There are two Vestry members whose terms are up, Grace Benkelman and Heidi Sobczak. Vestry Members are elected at the Annual Meeting for a three-year term, and "Except as provided for in Diocesan Canons, no Vestry member who has served two full three-year terms shall be re-elected until at least one year has elapsed." So there will be at least 2 Vestry positions that will need to be filled. According to our bylaws, "The vestry shall consist of not less than four elected voting members and of not more than twelve elected voting members. The usual number of voting members elected at the Annual Meeting shall be sufficient to maintain an elected membership of the Vestry at seven members."

At Diocesan Convention this year the metrics for determining the number of delegates a parish sends to Diocesan Convention changed. It was previously based on the number of adult communicants, but it will now be based on Average Sunday Attendance. This will likely increase the number of delegates All Saints' can send to convention. We currently send four delegates, so at least four delegates as well as alternates will need to be elected.

If you are interested in being a delegate to Diocesan Convention or becoming a member of the vestry please reach out to Fr. Charlie and he'll be happy to talk to you about what that might entail.



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ADVENT

Advent 2020

As has been the tradition at All Saints' for many years, during the four weeks of Advent we brought gifts to the creche for those in need in our community. And despite being in the middle of a global pandemic and being unable to worship in person, the parishioners of All Saints' nonetheless brought gifts aplenty. Gifts continued to arrive up until and even after Christmas. And all were delivered prior to New Year's Eve.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone at All Saints'!



Week 1 - Stuffed animals for North Valley Hospital pediatric emergency room patients



Week 2 - Food for local food banks



Week 3 - Pet food for the Spay & Neuter Task Force



Week 4 - gloves, hand warmers, & socks for the Warming Center

ALL SAINTS' YOUTH VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

By Cynthia Benkelman



While I wouldn't want to make it a permanent change, it was fun to put our virtual pageant together this year and get creative with some new ideas. We definitely look forward to again having in person standing room only musical productions. But, the youth of All Saints' really helped find the silver lining in having to use technology to create our Christmas pageant this year.

The concept was imagining that the Christmas story was happening in 2020. In particular the angels brought the good news of the birth of Christ not to the shepherds, but to the children and youth. After a school year of online learning, some families had simply had enough of "online" anything, so chose to be viewers. Other families made videos of short scenes of kids in their daily life, doing everything from jumping on a trampoline to making cookies to practicing a tik tok dance. Suddenly, they saw the angels and heard a voice telling them that there was Good News! The Christ child is born, go to the stable. As we imagined this, we found that the youth, upon hearing the good news, did not hesitate but left immediately to go see the baby Jesus.

It seems that this was the Christmas where we were forced to be creative. We attended church Christmas Eve – not to see the pageant but to have a lovely service by campfire. Our youth lifted their voices in song – filmed while distanced by family groups and wearing masks. And the Christmas pageant could not be subdued, even by a pandemic. I continue to be inspired by the young people of All Saints'!

Photos from the production can be found on the next page.

You can view the pageant by following this link in your web browser.

<https://youtu.be/G1RNaxmXtig>

ALL SAINTS' YOUTH VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PHOTOS



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve services this year did not look at all like what we are used to, but Fr. Charlie came up with a very creative way to allow us to be able to gather and have a Christmas that was still merry and BRIGHT! We held Christmas Vigils at 4 pm, 8 pm, and 11 pm out in the handicapped parking lot in front of the church. People dressed in warm clothes, brought camping chairs, and family units gathered around small fire pits as well as propane heaters to keep warm. We listened to the Christmas story, sang hymns, and received the sacrament. It was so wonderful for the All Saints' family to be able to be together for Christmas, albeit masked and socially distant. The 4 pm service had 56 in attendance, 8 pm had 14 in attendance, and 4 brave souls came to the 11 pm service. We also live-streamed a closed set service, inside at 6 pm, for those who didn't feel up to braving the chilly Montana Christmas Eve. Thank you to everyone who brought firewood and propane heaters to help keep us all warm. The services were such a huge success that people have already begun to ask Fr. Charlie if he will be doing this again next year.



Christmas Services



SAMARITAN HOUSE GIVING TREE

This year, due the pandemic and the fact that we were not able to gather for in person worship, the way people took "tags" for our Samaritan House caring tree was a little different. Using Dream List, Fr. Charlie put all the wish list items from the residents of Samaritan House online. Parishioners were able to go online, choose which resident and which gifts they would like to purchase, and "reserve" those items. Then parishioners could either go shopping for those items themselves or send money and one of our enthusiastic and energetic shoppers would go purchase and wrap those items for them. Things were updated in real time so everyone could see which items were still available for purchase. All Saints' will not be thwarted in our commitment to continue to care for our neighbors in need and can always be counted on to come up with creative solutions.



SAMARITAN HOUSE GIVING TREE (part 2)

By Vera Smith



First of all, I would like to share the Vision Statement of Samaritan House: "Samaritan House is a homeless shelter and transitional living program in Kalispell, Montana. Our mission is to provide shelter and basic needs for homeless people, while fostering self-respect and human dignity."

When we kept walking through the door of Samaritan House with handfuls of gifts, the staff was unbelieving!

The Wish List tags you "pulled" were filled and in many, many cases, over-filled. Those receiving these gifts had the BEST Christmas because of you!

What you all do to touch the hearts of the lost, the least, the last and the little is a blessing.

Blessings to you all!

WARMING CENTER

By Vera Smith

The Vision Statement for the Warming Center. "Our vision for the Flathead Warming Center is to provide a warm, safe, low barrier facility. Safety is Priority. It is a good thing to have the heart and desire to help our neighbors without homes, but to do so safely requires great responsibility. We are purposeful in protecting dignity. Dignity is a driving force behind the development of all services. Dignity... not just a word in the Flathead Warming Center, but a culture."



This outreach which you so generously supported this Christmas with much needed items to face the cold has overwhelmed the Director and Staff! They are extremely grateful and wanted you all to know that!

CLAIRE'S CAMPERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Claire's Campers scholarship fund at Camp Marshall is another way to give during this time of year, or any time of year, but as the year comes to an end, some folks may be looking for that special place to put those funds to work. Claire's Campers, is a scholarship fund set up in memory of Jenanne Solberg's daughter (Dick & Jane Solberg's granddaughter) who entered heaven's gates in September of 2017.



The fund is set up to provide one scholarship, for the following year's costs, to a deserving camper that the camp staff chooses based on Claire's "Rules of Life" that she came up with as she was navigating her challenges, all the while keeping a positive outlook and a smile on her face. Please consider giving to this worthy cause. For more information, please ask [Jenanne](#), or visit [Camp Marshall's](#) website.

IN MEMORIAM

We have some sad news to report, as one of our number has joined the Communion of Saints in light. Bea Bott died on December 16, surrounded by her family. She assured her loved ones that she was ready for death, and passed away only 10 minutes after getting home from the hospital. St. Matthew's and All Saints' have been indelibly marked by Bea's involvement and presence, and she will be missed. We intercede for her family and for ourselves in our grief.



Funeral Rites are pending, but cards and condolences may be sent to:

197 Dawn Dr., Columbia Falls 59912.

May Bea rest in peace and rise in glory.



PREMIERE OF MR. MAXWELL'S OBSERVATORY



A Reading of

Mr. Maxwell's Observatory



by Bradley S. Wirth

Wednesday, January 6th, 2021
Online at 7 p.m. Mountain Time

recorded at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Whitefish/Columbia Falls

You are invited to make an offering to these fabulous animal agencies or others you may know of

On January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, at 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time, All Saints' Church will premiere the reading of Bradley Wirth's new short story, *Mr. Maxwell's Observatory*. The story line takes place on the 12th Day of Christmas and the morning and afternoon of the following day, Epiphany. It involves the drawing together of unlikely creatures of God within a ten mile radius of Lindbergh Lake, located, "down the swan." As most at All Saints' know, from his talking about it often, Lindbergh Lake has been a special place for the Wirth family since 1958 with their having stayed at the Diamond L Bar Ranch and then building a cabin in 1963.

Mr. Maxwell's Observatory is a sequel to his short story, *A Christmas Offertory*, and thus introduces us all to the next chapter in the lives of Christopher, Bill the Dog, and Otis the Cat.

In keeping with the last sixteen years of tradition concerning Bradley's reading *A Christmas Offertory*, at All Saints' and around the Diocese of Montana, you are invited and encouraged to support All Saints' favorite animal ministries: Friends of the Flathead County Animal Shelter, Flathead Spay & Neuter Task Force, RezQ Dogs, and the Humane Society of Northwest Montana. You can donate to them by sending a check to All Saints' Church (PO Box 1923 Whitefish, MT 59937) or by visiting the "Give" page on the All Saints' website and using the PayPal link. You are also welcome to send a donation directly to your own favorite animal charity.

On Wednesday evening, January 6th, at 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time, you can join the reading by going to All Saints' website or YouTube channel.

If, after watching, you would like to send your comments to Bradley, you can do so by emailing him at canonwirth@gmail.com. Bradley retired from All Saints' in July of 2019 after serving as Rector for 15 years and was given the honor of being named, Rector Emeritus.

BUILDING UPDATE

By Shawn Sloan

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

As many of you know, I've been providing the congregation a pictorial update of the building project, every month in the eletter, over the past 8 months (and pictures of recent progress follow on the next two pages). Expanding the sanctuary of All Saints' is very nearing completion. It has been a long and oft delayed undertaking. Who could have ever imagined that just prior to our starting this project we would go into lockdown due to a global pandemic which would shut down factories, causing supplies to be backordered for months, as well as create a real estate and building boom, as people moved to Montana in droves, which caused lumber yards to not be fully stocked.

There are only a few items left to be done before the sanctuary will be completely finished. The old hanging lights will be replaced with the new pendant lights (which were ordered months ago and just arrived). The old speakers will be rehung on the western-most collar tie. Electrical and microphone outlets which will supply power and microphone cables to the altar and left and right lectern locations need to be installed and then wires run down through the crawl space to connect to our sound system. The organ needs to be moved back and reconnected. The cabinet behind the organ needs to be reinstalled. Pews need to be moved back into the sanctuary and bolted down. And then the contractor needs to complete the "punch list" which is a list of items not done correctly or still needing to be fixed.

At some point, once everything is done inside the church, Bishop Marty will come and we will have a rededication and consecration service for our expanded worship space. Hopefully we will be able to do that in person, but it may end up being a virtual service.

As a reminder, here are the objectives of our Capital Campaign from our brochure:

"That they all may be one"

CHURCH BUILDING

- Build 40 chair nave expansion to allow for a single service, accommodating a total of 112 people.
- Eliminate steps to raised altar for full accessibility.
- Modify front entrance doors to have the proper swing direction & alignment.
- Slope the concrete walkway to eliminate steps to entrance.
- Allows for future conversion of current expansion to Christian Education space.

MEMORIAL HALL

- Build offices for Rector and Parish Administrator and workspace with separate exterior entrance and interior access to Memorial Hall.
- Remove Parish Administrator's office from Memorial Hall, creating a larger space for fellowship and meetings.

Construction wise we have been able to fulfill all of our objectives for the church building. We still need to actually purchase the chairs for the expanded nave, and our ultimate goal that we all come together for just one service, will unfortunately be delayed a while longer during this period of covid as we continue be required to remain spread out with at least 6 - 10 feet between family units.

BUILDING UPDATES (CONT'D)

December building project highlights



Dec 1 - entry lights reinstalled



Dec 1 - "stage" lighting installed



Dec 1 - stage lighting



Dec 1 - lights in aumbry



Dec 1 - outlets for altar microphones & power



Dec 5 - new altar and reredos



Dec 17 - heater ducts get cleaned out



Dec 17 - heater ducts get cleaned out

BUILDING UPDATES (CONT'D)

December building project highlights



Dec 20 - new door handles and plates



Dec 20 - picture frame finished



Dec 20 - aumbrys coves painted white inside



Dec 29 - pendant lights arrive, get stuck in the doorway, but eventually make it inside

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

My parents sent me to a great parochial school when I was young, and some of the hymns we sang in chapel every day still rattle around in my head. Far and away the worst earworm is "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart!" You know that song? I hate that song, even though it is entertaining to think about the devil sitting on a tack! Mostly I hate it because I'm anxious, depressive, and I hate being told how to feel. It's never been easy for me to feel "joy down in my heart" at Christmas. And it took me a while to understand that it's okay. That it's actually gospel.



Christians at Christmas can sometimes feel guilty if they're not filled with the "correct" feelings this time of year. And it betrays a fundamental misunderstanding of the gospel when Christians think that their faith should dictate how they feel. Because the gospel is the promise that gives you Jesus and everything that belongs to him. And that's enough.

Luther said that the gospel sets us free to name things as they are. You can let everything in your life be what it is, and you can let your feelings be what they are. You are free to not pretend. Because the point of the gospel is that you're not supposed to feel a certain way. The point of the gospel promise is that something glad and joyous has happened outside of you. And regardless of how we feel and what's going on in our lives, we Christians agree it's worth celebrating!

The gospel may not be a joyful word in you this year, especially this horrible, horrible year that we've just said goodbye to. However, the gospel is still a joyful word in and of itself, no matter what you're bearing, because it's a word that gives you Christ himself. You have him in his promise, regardless of your feelings. The gospel may not always give you all the right feelings, but the gospel does give you the Prince of peace, as real and present with you by means of his promise as he was in Mary's womb. And what would you rather have when the, you know, what hits the fan? A feeling? Or God?

No matter how you feel inside, you can always cling to this promise outside of you. Our message this Christmas season isn't "You should feel glad and joyful (and something's the matter with you if you're not)." The Gospel may not be a joyful word in you this Christmas, but it's still a joyful word because it's true. And regardless of what's true about you this season, you've got the joy, joy, joy, joy outside of you in the Gospel, in this promise that Christ loves you no matter what.

SERVICE CHANGES

ON DECEMBER 27TH WE RETURNED TO IN PERSON WORSHIP

THE BISHOP IS REVIEWING, ON A WEEKLY BASIS, THE ACTIVE NUMBER OF COVID CASES IN THE COUNTIES IN WHICH ALL DIOCESAN CHURCHES ARE LOCATED. SHE WILL EVALUATE THE SITUATION AND MAKE A DECISION FOR EACH PARISH AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY CAN HOLD IN PERSON WORSHIP. FLATHEAD COUNTY IS CURRENTLY UNDER THE THRESHOLD RIGHT NOW, SO WE MAY HOLD IN PERSON WORSHIP!

ALL SAINTS' WILL CONTINUE TO BOTH LIVE-STREAM A SERVICE AT 9 A.M. AND DISTRIBUTE COMMUNION FROM 10 - 11:00 A.M. IN THE PARKING LOT EVERY SUNDAY.

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE OR CALL THE OFFICE TO FIND OUT IF SERVICES ARE BEING HELD.

• THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND FLEXIBILITY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. REMEMBER WE DO THIS OUT OF AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION TO PROTECT OUR ELDERS, LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS, AND SUPPORT OUR MEDICAL PERSONNEL.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AT THE SERVICES

- MASKS REQUIRED AT ALL SERVICES
- NO MUSIC AT THE 7:30 AM & 7 PM SERVICES
- MUSIC AT THE 9 & 11 AM SERVICES (BUT ONLY THE CHORAGOS WILL SING)
- MAINTAIN A 6 - 10 FT DISTANCE BETWEEN FAMILIES
- COMMUNION (IN BOTH KINDS) WILL BE BROUGHT TO YOU

JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SERVICE TIMES LISTED ON LAST PAGE					1	2
3 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm Zoom	4 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	5 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	6 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon Premiere of Mr. Maxwell's Ob- servatory 7 pm	7 Office Hour 11:00-12:00pm Book Group 6:0007:00pm	8	9
10 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm Zoom,	11 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	12 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	13 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	14 Office Hour 11:00-12:00pm Book Group 6:0007:00pm	15	16
17 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm Zoom Vestry Meeting 12:30 Zoom	18 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	19 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	20 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	21 Office Hour 11:00-12:00pm Book Group 6:0007:00pm	22	23
24 Coffee Hour 12-1 pm Annual Meeting 12:30/Zoom	25 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	26 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	27 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon Thanksgiving Eve Service 12 noon	28 Office Hour 11:00-12:00pm Book Group 6:0007:00pm	29	30

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

7:30 am - service only, no music

9:00 am - service with hymns



9:00 am service is also streamed live on Facebook

10:00-11:00 am - Drive through communion



11:00 am - service with hymns

7:00 pm – service only, no music

HOME COMMUNION AND VISITATIONS

If you have had to take some time away from church, but would like to receive the sacraments, please let us know! While the bishop has requested that clergy refrain from scheduling home visits, (hospitals and senior living facilities won't allow them either!), Fr. Charlie would be more than happy to bring you the sacrament/say prayers with you on your doorstep, the hospital parking lot, or at the church.

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Church location:

2048 Conn Road
Columbia Falls, MT
Phone: 406-862-2863

Church mailing address:

PO Box 1923
Whitefish, MT 59937

Rector: Reverend Charlie Knuth
Email: cknuth@allsaintsmt.org
Cell: 801-635-5162

Parish Administrator: Shawn Sloan
Email: allsaintsmt@gmail.com
Cell: 406-291-3613

Christian Formation Minister/Children and
Youth: Cynthia Benkelman
Email: cynthia@allsaintsmt.org
Cell: 406-261-9636

*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](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt)

YouTube link: [http://
www.youtube.com/channel/
UCPZ_oAl6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAl6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA)

Webpage link: [http://
www.allsaintsmt.org](http://www.allsaintsmt.org)

Vestry Members

Rector: Reverend Charlie Knuth
Senior Warden: Leif Peterson
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Betsy Paugh
Heidi Sobczak
Henry Stamm

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