

# ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2018

## A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing this Sunday evening, four days away from All Saints' Day, November 1st. And, I admit, I am doing so with one eye on the muted television watching the World Series.

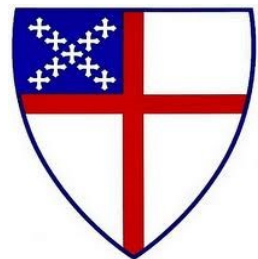
When I went to seminary in Cambridge, Mass., across the Charles River from Fenway Park (Go Sox!), my first residence was in Lawrence Hall on the third floor and my window looked out over the "green" and upon the chapel. What I distinctly remember the evening I arrived was that while I hauled in my suitcases and the like from the car, I saw over the door of the place, carved in the granite, the date of its construction which was 1873. This was a fairly old building and my 10 by 18 foot room showed all of its age when winter would whistle through the window. What I didn't know at the time was that Lawrence Hall was named after Willian Lawrence of Massachusetts who, in the late 1800's and into the twentieth century, served for thirty years as the bishop of the diocese and, additionally, was the founder of the Church Pension Fund.

In short, I not only had a place to sleep due undoubtedly to his generosity, but when the time comes, I can relax because, thanks to him, as the one who started the Church Pension Fund, as well as to all of those whose pledges have contributed to the parish's contribution to my account, I will some day be able to retire and have a steady source of income.

The reason I raise all of this is that I've become more and more aware of how much those who have come before me have contributed to my life in the most amazing ways. Someone not only paid for and built that dorm in Cambridge for me, but also the seminary and, by the way, also the totality of the church. Ever since my baptism I've always arrived at a place that has existed before I got there. Someone has paved the way. And when I am tempted to think that maybe it really is all about me, I notice that I, like you, have a navel (that rather inelegant part of the body) that says "Oh, by the way, you did not get here by yourself."

It is the saints, all of them, the known and unknown, who have made possible who we are and how we live. Whether it is St. Mary, St. Paul, St. Francis, or Bishop Lawrence, you and I can look back and be not only thankful but fairly blown away by the foundation of people which support our lives. And that is what I'm going to remember on All Saints' Day this coming Thursday and All Saints' Sunday, November 4th.

It is also the reason Jeannine and I will be bringing to Ingathering Sunday, November 11th, our pledge for the support of the on-going ministry of the



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**LETTER FROM THE RECTOR** (cont'd)

church and another pledge for the Capital Campaign. I want All Saints' to continue to be the vibrant expression of the Body of Christ that we are. And kind of like Bishop Lawrence of blessed memory, I want our church to be as fabulous as is possible for barrier-free worship.

Mostly, however, in my mind I'm especially excited to anticipate a new sanctuary, because I can't wait to welcome the outdoors in when I baptize our second grandchild on Pentecost, June 7th. (You didn't see that one coming, did you? And yes, I have Christine and Derrick's permission to drop that in as a fun last sentence.)

How terrific is this companionship in Christ that we share.

Faithfully yours,

Bradley

**ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY**

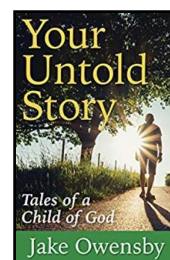
All Saints' Sunday is **November 4<sup>th</sup>**! Enjoy the extra hour of sleep as Daylight Savings Time ends that very morning at 2:00 a.m., and then come to church for the festivity of celebrating our name day. It will have been eleven years to the Sunday that we have been worshiping at this, our home, on Conn Road.

**INGATHERING SUNDAY**

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** is Ingathering Sunday. Please join in this expression of joy and affirmation of our life together, as well as our giving out of the abundance of blessings that cascade down upon us, by bringing your pledge for the general support of the ministry at All Saints', as well as your pledge for the Capital Campaign. This is our day of new beginnings.

**THURSDAY BOOK STUDY**

Beginning Thursday, **November 8<sup>th</sup>**, following the noon celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we will start reading Jake Owensby's book, *Your Untold Story*. Jake is the Bishop of Western Louisiana and a friend of Bradley's. He is a fabulous writer of very refreshing theology. It is our hope that in the midst of reading this book we maybe able to get him to join us via FaceTime or Skype. Please let Shawn know if you would like to be part of the group so we can order the appropriate number of books. This is a brown bag lunch gathering so bring an appetite for a sandwich and good discussion.

**NOMINATIONS FOR BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF MONTANA**

If you know of a priest whom you believe would be a match for this diocese as Bishop, please contact him or her, direct them to our diocesan website and ask them if they would like to be considered. The application process can be found on the website and they must complete it by November 15th. The website address is:

**[Diomontana.com/bishop-search](http://Diomontana.com/bishop-search).**

## EARLY ELECTION RESULTS (no, not that election...)

On Friday, October 26th, Bradley was elected by its members to the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Montana to fill an unexpired term that was the result of a resignation. Earlier in October, Cynthia Benkelman was elected to a three-year term at the Diocese Convention. On All Saints' Day, due to the retirement of Bishop Brookhart, the Standing Committee becomes the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. Since 1789, the Episcopal Church has recognized that this authority, reserved for the Diocesan Bishop, shall rest in the Standing Committee when the diocese's office of Bishop is vacant.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME COMES TO AN END

Daylight Savings Time ends at **2 am on Sunday, November 4th**. Please remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour the night before or the first thing Sunday morning. (Has anyone ever stayed up to watch the clock go back an hour?)



## ALL SAINTS' YOUTH

By Cynthia Benkelman

The Jr. High and High School youth of All Saints' had an afternoon retreat in November with Cynthia and Bradley. We discussed the many possible spiritual gifts that we might receive, and how important it is to the Body of Christ that there are a variety of gifts to complement each other. We took a test to determine some possible gifts each person might have, and talked about how those gifts may have manifested themselves in each of our lives.

We then looked at these gifts in terms of ministry, and specifically discussed how they apply to the Baptismal Covenant. These are the promises made in baptism and re-affirmed or affirmed as a mature person in Confirmation. We also roasted marshmallows!

Four of our youth chose to be confirmed during the Bishop's visitation. In addition, a new youth acolyte was commissioned. We're excited about the ministry of these youth and look forward to the coming years.





PHOTOS FROM BISHOP BROOKHART'S VISIT



# NOVEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Noon service at AS	2	3 <b>Set your clocks BACK an hour!!</b>
4 <b>Daylight Savings Time ends.</b> Services at 9 and 11 am	5	6	7 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	8 Noon service at AS Book Study following	9	10
11 <b>Ingathering Sunday</b>  Services at 9 and 11 am	12	13	14 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	15 Noon service at AS Book Study following	16	17
18 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:15	19	20	21 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs <b>Thanksgiving services listed below</b>	22 	23	24
25 Services at 9 and 11 am	26	27	28 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	29 Noon service at AS Book Study following	30	

**Thanksgiving services: Wednesday, November 21st. 10 am at The Springs, Noon at All Saints'**

## OUR NEWEST PARISHONER

Lily and Jess welcome Ellie on September 26th.



## ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

**Church location:**  
2048 Conn Road  
Columbia Falls, MT

**Church mailing address:**  
PO Box 1923  
Whitefish, MT 59937

Phone: 406-862-2863  
Parish Office Administrator: Shawn Sloan  
E-mail: [allsaintsmt@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsmt@gmail.com)

Bradley's E-mail: [canonwirth@gmail.com](mailto:canonwirth@gmail.com)  
Cell phone: 406-250-1690

Christian Formation Minister/Children and Youth: Cynthia Benkelman  
[cgraine@montanasky.us](mailto:cgraine@montanasky.us)  
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.*

**Find us here:**

**Just click on the link!**

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

**YouTube link:** [http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ\\_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA)

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

**Vestry members:**

Rector: Reverend Canon Bradley Wirth  
Senior Warden: Ben Pomerantz  
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman  
Treasurer: Carl Thomas  
Clerk: Kathy Thomas  
Cynthia Benkelman  
Shawn Sloan  
Heidi Sobczak  
Judi Williams

Diocese of Montana:  
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