

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2019

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

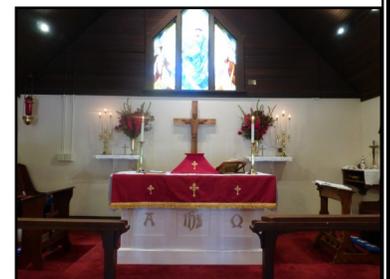
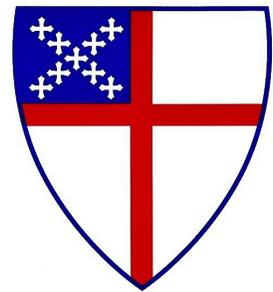
Every year one of my spring rituals is to head down to our old family cabin, usually hiking in the two miles plus because the road is too icy or filled with snow, and take down the 28 sheets of plywood of various sizes that cover all the windows. We cover them not so much for security from those who might want to break in but because of animals. Some years ago, a bear figured out that inside cabins are refrigerators and inside refrigerators is usually food. And so he or she would hop on decks, look for refrigerators through the front windows and, upon seeing one, break the window and prowl around. So for the last 65 years, boards have gone up in the fall and then have come down in the spring. By the way, the bear seemed only attracted to white refrigerators, showing no interest in black or metallic appliances. I wonder what that was about?

As I write this, it was yesterday that I removed all the plywood. And while I don't want to take the analogy to the extreme, there was something reminiscent of Easter in the three hour task. Every spring, when I arrive, the cabin is dark. When I leave, the cabin is filled with light. Taking those boards down is actually the removal of that which keeps the light from permeating all who stand within its walls.

Easter is the stripping away of everything that could possibly keep the Light of Christ from illuminating the totality of creation. Anything that could separate us from the love of God was vanquished once and for all when the tomb became empty. When the stone was rolled away, by an act of God, nothing could encumber the grace of God because sin lost its power and death its sting once and for all. It was as if the shutters keeping us from seeing grace were pulled from the windows and placed in the crawl space. And so, Easter has become a yearly reminder proclaiming that this battle is won.

About a hundred feet from our cabin are the graves holding a good portion of my dad's ashes as well as the ashes of 4 dogs and boxes containing our daughters' 2 gerbils, 2 mice and a pet duck of Jennifer's named Christopher. It is where I will wind up one day. I'm heading there because it turns out that those few square feet of ground are also sacred space because while the dead are buried there (I know they are because I dug the holes) thanks to Easter, as St. John Chrysotom said 1600 years ago, "Christ is risen and not one dead is left in the tombs." It seems to be the place to go and then not stay.

So this Easter, look for and see simple signs all around us that tell us that the totality of creation was saved and sanctified. You, me, ducks, and gerbils, dogs and cats and even the mischievous bear looking for the leftover



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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR (cont'd)

huckleberry pie, all saved and redeemed. Notice the light shining in. How extraordinary it is that we can proclaim that this is business as usual thanks to the grace of God. May you have a most blessed Holy Week and a festively Happy Easter.

Faithfully yours,
Bradley

CHILI OPEN

All Saints' is happy to report another fun and successful annual Chili Open. The Chili Open and its corresponding silent auction raised \$5,788. The funds will be divided among the Flathead County Animal Shelter, the Spay & Neuter Task Force, the Humane Society of Northwest Montana and Spay Montana, which serves the Blackfoot Reservation.





EASTER WEEK SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 18

12 noon service: The Springs

7:00 pm service: All Saints'

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19

12 noon service: All Saints'

3:00 pm service: The Springs

5:30 pm Stations of the Cross: All Saints'

6:00 pm service: All Saints'

EASTER VIGIL, APRIL 20

7:00 pm: All Saints'

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21

9:00 am service: All Saints'

11:00 am service: All Saints'



EXPLAINING THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday focuses on two great moments in the life of the church, the first being the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the second being the giving of the new commandment that we love one another. (The service gets its name from the Latin, *mandatum novum*, meaning “new commandment.”) At both services, which date back to the 4th century, we will observe the commemoration of the Lord’s Supper and, at the evening service, we will strip and wash the altar and remove the consecrated bread to the Altar of Repose. There is a tradition that people observe a vigil at that altar. Some churches carry the vigil throughout the night. At All Saints’ there will be time for people to remain for a while, if they would like, for silent prayer and meditation. It is a lovely service that centers around one of the two great sacraments of the church.

Good Friday Liturgy centers on the Passion as recorded in the Gospel according to John and the Solemn Collects. We will have communion from reserve sacrament. We distribute the consecrated bread remaining from the Maundy Thursday service the night before as Good Friday is the only day in the year in which the Holy Eucharist is not celebrated. While the service is indeed solemn, it is not grim. Instead it reminds us of the depth of the love of Christ and how he still lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Good Friday does much to make Easter full.

Good Friday-The Stations of the Cross mirror the last hours of the life of Jesus, from his being condemned to die on the cross, which took place outside the home of Pilate, to his entombment at a place upon which the Church of the Holy Sepulcher stands in Jerusalem. The practice probably began in Jerusalem to help pilgrims remember not just the actual walk of Christ but also the spirituality and story behind it. From the Middle Ages it found its way into a service practiced all over Christendom. At All Saints’ we wind our way on our path through the woods, stopping at 14 “stations” for a very brief meditation and prayer. The walk takes about 20 - 25 minutes and then we enter the church for the Good Friday Liturgy and Communion from Reserve Sacrament.

The Great Vigil of Easter- This service is one of the most ancient services observed in the Christian Church. Accounts of it go back to the middle of the second century and what we do here at All Saints’ on Saturday evening would look very familiar to Christians of primitive times. One of the oldest traditions in the church is the lighting of the first flame of Easter and then bringing it into a darkened church chanting “The Light of Christ. Thanks be to God.” The light is then passed to all. Following that, the Exsultet is similarly chanted and then there are a series of readings followed by baptism and/or the renewal of baptismal vows. It is the service that concludes Lent and it is also the occasion in which we resume the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. In some traditions, it is to Easter what the Midnight Mass is to Christmas Day with many calling it their Easter service and observance.

The Sunday of the Resurrection- The worship for this day is familiar because every Sunday in our life together celebrates the resurrection of Christ and his love for us through the Holy Eucharist. This service goes back to the earliest moments of the Christians who gathered in the upper room having had that remarkable meal with Jesus on the night before he died for us. In it, we join our Lord and “the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven” in celebrating the vanquishing of the power of sin and the sting of death.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Don't forget! There will be an Easter egg hunt for the children after each service on Easter Sunday !



EASTER FLOWERS

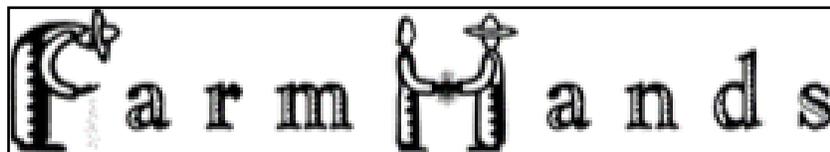
If you would like to give Easter flowers, please make checks payable to All Saints' with "Easter flowers" on the memo line. Remember to include the names of people you are remembering or honoring along with the check. Please have them to the church office by April 14.



INGATHERING SUNDAY

April 28 will be our ingathering day for this year so the Abbie Shelter can purchase small refrigerators for the residents' rooms and so Farm Hands can supply fresh fruit for the backpack program in the Columbia Falls school district. We hope the Lenten Community offering will match last year's success by raising around \$2,000.

In addition, we will also be collecting the ERD "Hope Chests" we have been filling using the Lenten coupon books which remind us of the abundant daily blessings bestowed upon us by God.



CHURCH COMMITTEES

Thank you to everyone who has turned in an application for one of the various committees being set up at All Saints'. Due to the interest and to ensure everyone has a chance to turn in an application who would like to, the **deadline has been extended to Sunday, April 7**. Once you have filled out your application please hand it to Shawn, email it to her at allsaintsmt@gmail.com or drop it in the mail to the church. The church's mailing address is on the last page of this e-letter.

Several people have told Shawn in person they are interested in being on a committee, but an application does need to be filled out to be submitted to the vestry.

The vestry is not expecting an essay, only which committee you would like to serve on and a couple of sentences stating why you would like to serve on the committee and what you think you can bring to it.

As Bradley has said, often times we think we know what you are interested in or what you are good at, but that might not be where your enthusiasm lies. Putting it in writing lets the vestry know what you are truly passionate about.

IN SEARCH OF OUR NEW BISHOP



In Search of Our New Bishop

The Episcopal Diocese of Montana

Exciting News for April

The Nominating Committee will share a retreat with all the applicants for bishop of our diocese during the first week of April.

The Committee is completing their work of reviewing the applications and interviewing those who have applied for the vocation as our bishop. They will provide their recommendations to the Standing Committee.

After Easter the Standing Committee will then announce the slate of candidates chosen for consideration as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Montana.

A final petition period of two weeks will be open for others to be considered.

In the May edition, the slate of candidates will be published.

CALANDAR OF 2019 EVENTS

Sun 21 April
Sun 14 – Fri 19 July
Fri 26 July
Sat 27 – Sun 28 July
August – November
Sat 7 Dec
Sun 8 Dec

EASTER SUNDAY
WALKABOUTS - 5 State Locations
SPECIAL ELECTION CONVENTION TO ELECT THE BISHOP – Bozeman
DIOCESAN CONVENTION – Bozeman
CONSENT BY EPISCOPAL BISHOPS AND STANDING COMMITTEES
CONSECRATION OF NEW BISHOP – Helena
SEATING OF NEW BISHOP AT ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL – Helena

What question would you like to ask of the candidates for bishop of our diocese at our public forums?

Please submit your question to Jill Sallin <admin@diomontana.com> by May 10th.

All questions will be considered. Thank you.

Please refer to the Diocesan website: www.diomontana.com

Choose "Bishop Search" for more information & documents

PHISHING

By Shawn Sloan

Recently a couple of people have received “phishing” emails which appear to come from other members of the church. Phishing is a crime which targets people by using emails, text or telephone messages which appear to come from someone you know and which attempt to gather personal information from you, i.e.; bank information, passwords, etc.

I have recently gotten phone calls at the church office saying I have a delivery arriving and I need to call back to confirm some information when I have not ordered anything for the church. I have also gotten an email supposedly from Bradley (he got the same email as well) saying that he needed a favor from me and to email him back as soon as I got the message. The email greeting and closing is not the way Bradley usually talks plus the email address was different and his name was slightly messed up.

Please be careful of these emails, texts, etc. Please know that I will never ask you for personal information such as bank account numbers via email. I may possibly ask you via email to confirm your telephone number if I haven’t been able to get hold of you or to let me know of your new address if you have moved.

If you are not sure of the legitimacy of an email which appears to be from All Saints’ or a parishioner of All Saints’ please give me a call at 406-862-2863 or 406-291-3613.

Never click on any suspicious looking links contained in your email and again, when in doubt, please call and ask me. I’m not sure how this started or how to remedy it, but just be cognizant of it, and, if anything looks “fishy,” don’t click on it. Please report it to me if this happens to you.

A SPECIAL HONOR

On March 20th, All Saints’ held a funeral for Mr. James Eugene Baker, who grew up in Whitefish and then later in life served the Blackfeet Nation as a member of the Tribal Council. Singing a traditional Blackfeet song at his service, honoring the remarkable ministry of Jim, was Chief Earl Old Person, who Bradley remembered being chair of the tribal council when he was in fourth grade. Chief Old Person served in that capacity for 44 years. In 1978, he was given the honorary lifetime title of Chief. (Mr. Baker’s family and Chief Old Person gave permission for this picture to be used by us in the E-letter and other publications, for which we are grateful.)



APRIL 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs Lent Madness 5:30 pm	4 Noon service at AS Book Study following	5	6
7 Services at 9 and 11 am Committee applications due	8	9	10 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs Lent Madness 5:30 pm	11 Noon service at AS Book Study following	12	13
14 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry meeting 12:30	15	16	17 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs Lent Madness 5:30 pm	18 ***** Noon service at AS Book Study following Maundy Thursday	19 ***** Good Friday	20 ***** Easter Vigil
21 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:30 EASTER SUNDAY 	22	23	24 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	25 Noon service at AS Book Study following	26	27
28 Services at 9 and 11 am Ingathering	29	30				

***** Holy Week service hours are found on page 3

MORE CHILI OPEN PHOTOS



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

Bradley's E-mail: canonwirth@gmail.com
Cell phone: 406-250-1690

Christian Formation Minister/Children and Youth: Cynthia Benkelman
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

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
Betsy Paugh
Shawn Sloan
Heidi Sobczak

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