

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2019

## CHRISTMAS EVE

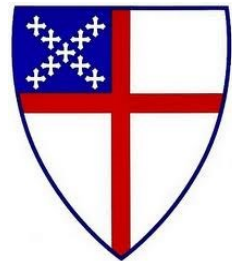
**4 pm:** Holy Eucharist and Youth Christmas Pageant at All Saints"

**6 pm:** Holy Eucharist and hymns at The Springs

**8 pm:** Holy Eucharist and hymns at All Saints'

## CHRISTMAS DAY

**10 am:** Holy Eucharist and hymns at All Saints



## RECTOR SEARCH RECAP AND UPDATES

At the annual meeting in January of this year, Bradley announced that he would be retiring at the end of July. This set into motion the process to call the next rector to All Saints'. We began by forming a Search Committee in April. In May, Canon Chris Roberts, the Diocesan Deployment Officer, met with the Vestry and the Search Committee to outline the Diocesan Guidelines that would be followed in this process. Then the Search Committee was given the green light to get started.

Their first few tasks involved putting together a timeline and then creating an online survey from which they would gather information from our worshipping community to assist them in creating our Ministry Profile.

Developing the survey, analyzing the results and then interpreting the data were no small feats but the end result was two fabulous documents: the 39 page All Saints' Parish Profile and the 25 page Parish Profile Supplement. We have heard from numerous people who have been reading these profiles from other churches over the years and we have heard again and again that ours is among the best they have seen.

In August, when the Parish Profile was completed and some additional docu-

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**RECAP AND UPDATES** (cont'd)

ments were ready, it was time to advertise. The position was posted through the Office of Transition Ministries in The Episcopal Church's computer system to search for potential candidates. It was also listed through Episcopal News Service and in The Living Church. Any names suggested by members were also welcome.

During late August and into September, the Search Committee developed a discernment and review process which they used to evaluate the clergy who applied. When they began to receive names, they met regularly to carefully and prayerfully go through the applications. They winnowed down the applicants to those they wished to pursue further. In October they began to conduct Skype interviews with potential candidates. After further investigation and discernment, they completed their final task by presenting a slate of potential nominees to the Vestry.

Once the Vestry received the names of the potential candidates, they forwarded those names to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese which is currently the Standing Committee. The Ecclesiastical Authority has up to 60 days to consider and approve the slate of nominees, but the slate has already been approved.

The next phase, which we are preparing to enter into, is to have the potential candidates come for a visit. Although the Search Committee's job is now done, the Vestry has asked them to become the Transition Committee and to plan the candidates' visits. They are currently checking flights, making hotel reservations and all of the other arrangements.

Each candidate will be here on a different weekend in January. They will each celebrate and preach on a Sunday at both the 9 and 11 o'clock services. The candidates will have time to meet the parish, they will have an interview with the Vestry, and time for exploring the area. If they have children they may choose to investigate the local schools. They may want to check out the housing market in the area or do some sightseeing. The Transition Committee is tasked with making all arrangements for the candidates' visits to be enjoyable, informative and productive.

When the candidates come to visit, one of the most important things to remember is that the purpose of these visits are not for the parish to "vote" for their favorite, but rather for the Vestry (who is canonically responsible to elect the next rector) to get to know the candidates so that they can discern which candidate will be the right fit for All Saints'. But equally, or more importantly, it is a time for the candidates to discern if All Saints' will be the right fit for them.

The Vestry is very excited about this next step and is extremely grateful for all the hard work the Search Committee has done. Keep a watch for more details about the visits!

**ALL SAINTS' YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

It's that time again! Time to start planning for our annual Christmas Pageant. All kids and youth are invited to join in the fun. No experience necessary! There are a wide variety of parts: parts with lots of lines, parts with no lines, parts with just one or two lines. We also need singers who would like to sing a solo or just sing with a group. We truly have something for everyone, from the tiniest toddler to the most talented teens...and everyone in between. Please contact Cynthia Benkelman as soon as possible to let her know whether or not your children will be able to participate this year. Her phone number is **261-9636** and her email address is [cgraine@montanasky.us](mailto:cgraine@montanasky.us). Please let her know as well what type of part your child would be interested in. The name of this year's pageant is "Away From the Manger: The Musical"....sounds like a lot of fun!

## Schedule of Advent Offerings at the Crèche

It is our tradition, during the four Sundays in Advent, to bring gifts to the crèche for the most vulnerable in our community. Over the years, hundreds have been helped by our parish's commitment to share out of its abundance.



### First Sunday of Advent, December 1 - Teddy Bears

You are invited to bring teddy bears and other NEW stuffed animals, less than 12" tall, which will then be given to North Valley Hospital. Last year North Valley Hospital gave away thousands of stuffed animals to their young pediatric patients who came to the emergency room. Often that can be a frightening experience and a soft stuffed toy can go a long way to provide comfort.



### Second Sunday of Advent, December 8 - Food for Food Pantries



Food  
Pantry  
Ministry

We collect non-perishable food for local food banks as the offering for this day. A concerted effort to help well stock these vital ministries in our valley is important when the need is so great.

### Third Sunday of Advent, December 15 - Pet Food

On this day we will collect dog and cat food in an effort to provide food for the pets of people having difficulty making ends meet. The food you donate will be transported to the Flathead Valley Spay and Neuter Task Force for distribution to those who can use such help.



### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22 - NEW Warm Clothing

For this last Sunday in Advent our focus is on warm clothing for Samaritan House, a homeless shelter and transitional living program which provides shelter and basic needs for homeless people in the Flathead Valley. This year Samaritan House is asking specifically for thermal layers, warm socks, and winter boots. Please help warm your and their hearts by bringing this type of clothing to the crèche.





A reading of  
**A Christmas Offertory**

by  
The Reverend Canon Bradley S. Wirth

Wednesday  
December 18, 2019  
at  
7:00 p.m.

All Saints' Episcopal Church  
2048 Conn Road  
Columbia Falls

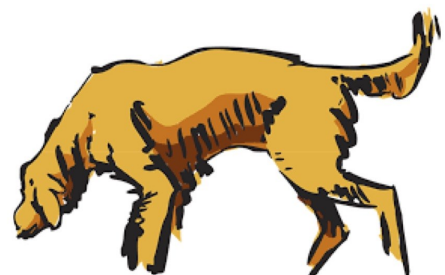
*This is Bradley's original work which centers around a homeless man  
and a handful of animals who are drawn together in a most unlikely  
way on Christmas Eve.*

*Refreshments following the reading.*

*In keeping with the theme of the evening's reading,  
people are welcome to give an offering to benefit:*



**RezQ Dogs**  
Providing hope for those with none



**YOU ARE INVITED!** All the people of our Episcopal Diocese of Montana are cordially invited to this Ordination and Consecration of our new Bishop – The Rev. Marty Stebbins at St Paul's United Methodist Church at 512 Logan Street in Helena.

God willing and the people consenting  
**The Reverend Martha E. (Marty) Stebbins**  
 will be ordained and consecrated in the  
 One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church  
 as the Tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of  
 Montana

**Saturday, December 7, 2019**  
**Eleven O'clock in the Morning**

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
 512 Logan Street  
 Helena, Montana 59601

Chief Consecrator:  
 The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry  
 Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church

Bishops: Rochet, Chimere and Tippet  
 Priests and Deacons: Alb and White Stole

Reception to follow  
 The Great Northern Best Western Hotel Ballroom  
 835 Great Northern Boulevard  
 Helena, Montana 59601

**RSVP by November 14, 2019**  
 admin@diomontana.com or 406-442-2230 Extension 100

### **News on Gifting our Bishop!**

Announcing a number of ways to Gift our new bishop. We are joining together to help with the vestments and episcopal materials need for Rev. Marty's ministry among us: Some parishes are gathering donations to be mailed to the Diocesan office. Other parishes have asked parishioners to send directly to the Diocese. Please note that on-line giving is available on the Diocesan website under "donate". As was noted earlier, a suggested donation of \$3 per person in the diocese will provide nicely. Thank you for consideration and your generosity.

#### **Items to be gifted:**

- Bishop's ring
- Bishop's crosier similar to a shepherd's crook
- Cassock (purple or black trimmed with purple)
- Rochet (white over garment like a long surplice)
- Chimere (red or black over-garment atop the rochet, similar to a long wide stole)
- Cope (open fronted vestment with clasp)
- Miter (mitre) with lappets
- Chasubles and stoles for the liturgical seasons



## **THE X BISHOP OF MONTANA WILL BE COMING TO ALL SAINTS' FOR CHRISTMAS**

We are thrilled to announce that our Bishop Elect, The Rev Marty Stebbins will be the Celebrant at two of our Christmas Eve Services. By then she will no longer have the title of Bishop Elect, but rather she will be The Rt Rev Marty Stebbins, X Bishop of Montana. We couldn't be more excited to have her join us at All Saints' on Christmas Eve. She will be the Celebrant at the 4 p.m. Christmas Pageant and then she will be the Celebrant and Preacher at the 8 p.m. service. So we encourage all who would like to come hear our new Bishop preach to please join us at the 8 p.m. service.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

It is a Christmas tradition at All Saints' to give to the community, the loose offerings of currency and checks designated as "Christmas Offering" that we receive from Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

This year we are focusing on helping two agencies that clearly do the work of God in our wider neighborhood as well as a local family. Help make this a Merry Christmas for these avenues of ministry by giving out of the abundant blessings we have received. It can really make their day.

### The Hubble Family

This year part of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offerings will be donated to the family of Jordana Hubble, a six-year-old student who was struck by a car after getting off her school bus just north of Whitefish. She continues to be in serious condition and may remain so for a long time. Her family could use our support as well as our prayers.

### The Abbie Shelter

This remarkable agency directly serves victims and survivors of domestic violence. They do so confidentially by providing a safe place. They also engage in community education and outreach to increase awareness of this threat to our society and thus prevent the violence in the first place.



### RezQ Dogs

RezQ Dogs is a nonprofit organization committed to helping the unwanted and abandoned dogs from the Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy Indian reservations find good homes. RezQ just recently relocated off their flood-prone land in Dodson, which every spring caused utter mayhem and financial burden as supplies, infrastructure and equipment were destroyed and dogs had to be evacuated in boats and put into other boarding facilities.



**RezQ Dogs**

Providing hope for those with none

They have created the HEARTS (Helping Every Animal Relocate to Safety) Campaign to help raise the \$100,000 needed for their recently purchased dry, safe place of land just west of Havre. The funds will also cover the costs of septic, water lines, moving costs, etc. This move will help them safely continue with their mission of providing hope for those with none.

## LECTORS NEEDED

Do you enjoy reading aloud and sharing God's Word with others? Then we have the ministry for you! We are in need of additional readers for both services. A schedule is put together for 3 months at a time and usually you will read twice in that 3 month period. You can request to be 1st reader (1st lesson and Psalm) or 2nd reader (2nd lesson and Prayers of the People). Shawn is always willing to work around your schedule.

The readings are emailed to you in advance to give you ample time to practice prior to the service.

If you are interested in becoming a lector for either service, please let Shawn know.



## AED/CPR TRAINING

Thanks to a generous grant from Flathead Electric, All Saints' has had an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for quite some time now. And, thanks to the efforts of Ronnie Budge, we will finally be trained in how to use it! Ronnie has arranged for Carrie Bates, Director of Respiratory Therapy at North Valley Hospital, to come on **Thursday, December 5** to educate us on the use of the AED as well as train those who come in CPR. The training will begin at 5 pm. Anyone not yet signed up, please do so ASAP by emailing Shawn at [allsaintsmt@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsmt@gmail.com) or calling her at **406-862-2863**.



## SAMARITAN HOUSE CHRISTMAS CARING TREE

By Vera Smith

**“Samaritan House’s mission is to provide for the basic needs of homeless people, while fostering self-respect and human dignity. Samaritan House will encourage the resident’s efforts to find employment and housing.”**

We have exciting news! This year we will sponsor a Caring Tree for four families at the Samaritan House.

The Christmas Tree with tags highlighting needs will be available on Sunday, December 8 at the entrance to the church. If the weather is unfavorable, it will be located in Memorial Hall.



Please take a tag, purchase the gift, return the unwrapped gift and the tag to the church. We will wrap and deliver them to Samaritan House. **ALL GIFTS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22.**

If you are out of town and want to participate, we would be very happy to receive your check, select a tag and shop for you. Please note “SH Tree” on the memo line of your check.

The director of Samaritan House is so excited that we are doing this. She was concerned these families would not have a good Christmas. Thank you for taking a tag and making a family’s Christmas happy at their most trying time. How fortunate we are that we have the ability to do this.

Below is what we currently know about these families. More details should follow.

### Family A

Single mom with an 18 year old autistic son

### Family B

Mom, dad and 2 children

### Family C

Dad, mom who is pregnant and a baby

### Family D

Mom, dad and infant baby





## FOURTH SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP

During the past month and a half we have been in our 4th Season of Stewardship, that being the Stewardship of our Resources. It is the time of year when the treasurer gathers all the pledges and begins to develop a budget for 2020. The Vestry then works on the budget to prepare to present it to the parish at the Annual Meeting.

Thank you to everyone who has already made a commitment to pledge to All Saints' in 2020. Those of you who are planning to make a pledge can return your cards on a Sunday or mail it to the church (mailing address on the last page of the e-letter). It would be greatly appreciated.

## 2020 ALTAR FLOWERS

If you have sponsored altar flowers in the past, you will be contacted again for 2020. We would like to give a huge thank you to Kay Lorenz for organizing the flower chart for so many years. She has earned a well-deserved retirement from coordinating the flowers for so long. Vera Smith will take over the scheduling duties for the altar flowers beginning in 2020. Shawn will be assisting.

## ERD MILLION DOLLAR MATCH CAMPAIGN

Episcopal Relief and Development is in the middle of its annual holiday match. Thanks to a generous group of donors all dollars donated to ERD through December 31 will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$1 million. Contributions made online, over the phone, by mail or through Gifts for Life are all eligible for matching, as well as gifts of stock or money from an IRA. Visit ERD online at [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org) to donate or for more information. Gifts for Life catalogs are in Memorial Hall. Checks payable to All Saints' with ERD on the memo line will be sent to ERD before the end of the year.



## AMAZON SMILE

Did you know that you can make a donation to All Saints' when you shop at Amazon? If you shop at Amazon Smile and choose All Saints' as your charity, every qualifying purchase will generate a donation to All Saints' at no extra charge to you. Use the link below to go directly to the Amazon Smile page with All Saints' as the chosen charity. When you are logged in, you should see Supporting: All Saints' Episcopal Church under the search bar. Feel free to ask Shawn if you have any questions.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0397150>.





# DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Services at 9 and 11 <b>Creche offering -stuffed animals</b>	2	3	4 10 am service at the Springs	5 Noon service at AS <b>AED/CPR training at All Saints' 5 PM</b>	6	7 Bishop ordination in Helena
8 Services at 9 and 11 Bishop seated at Cathedral <b>Creche offering -canned goods</b>	9	10	11 10 am service at the Springs	12 Noon service at AS	13	14
15 Services at 9 and 11 <b>Creche offering -pet food</b> Vestry-12:15	16	17	18 10 am service at The Springs <b>Christmas Offertory –Bradley 7 pm</b>	19 Noon service at AS	20	21
22 Services at 9 and 11 <b>Creche offering -warm clothes</b>	23	24 <b>Christmas Service Hours can be found on the front page</b>	25 	26 Noon service at AS	27	28
29 Services at 9 and 11	30	31				

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of All Saints' will take place, as usual, on the Sunday between the NFL playoffs and the Super Bowl. This year, that is **January 26, 2020**. This is the official advance notice of the Annual Meeting as required by our by-laws. We will hear the annual reports, receive the 2020 budget, get an update on where we are in the search for our next rector, elect new Vestry members (there are two positions up for election) as well as elect delegates for the Diocesan Convention. Please plan to attend the meeting which will be held at 12:30 pm in Memorial Hall.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY 2020

Your All Saints' Vestry, Shawn Sloan, your church administrator and all-around techie genius and Jan Rayford (that would be me), your E-letter editor want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a very happy 2020. Looks like All Saints' has a very exciting year ahead of it!



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

## 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)

Christian Formation Minister/Children and  
Youth: Cynthia Benkelman  
[cgraine@montanasky.us](mailto:cgraine@montanasky.us)  
406-261-9636

All Saints' website: [www.allsaintsmt.org](http://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](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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