

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2016

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

On Monday in the last week of July, I was filling out a form at the bank and wondered out loud what the date was. The person assisting me said, "The 25th...five months before Christmas."

Now just in case you have forgotten, on Christmas the high will be around 30 degrees and the low around 16. The sun should rise around 8:27 and set at 4:47 in the afternoon. And yes, it will be Christmas and that will be festive in itself, but if you are looking for a good day to put on some shorts and a tee shirt and go for a hike in the park or a swim in the lake, it will not do.

It is also true that we are in the middle of summer and not the end of it. But as we all know, when August rolls around we begin to think of getting back to business in September with community commitments and school. All those boards and organizations that have taken the summer off will get moving again. And before we know it, the lawn mower gets drained of its gas and the rakes for leaves are put front and center in the garage.

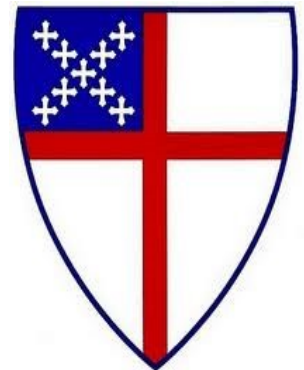
All the above should remind us that good stewardship begins with appreciating the blessings of God as they cascade down upon us in real time. When we ask in the Lord's Prayer for "daily bread" and get it in the form of these lovely, long and warm summer days, we need to be thankful and enjoy them, using them up as the nourishment they are for bodies and minds that occasionally need a break.

We are so incredibly fortunate to live where we do. And even if a long walk is maybe not in the cards for you, there is something delicious in just sitting on a park bench and looking at kids play and the leaves moving in the breeze.

So let us do something extraordinarily prayerful. May we enjoy the day the Lord has made for us. Given the hectic lives we lead, this might take more discipline than you think. But be brave and don't do something for a few hours. Let God run the world and see just how enjoyable that can be.

Happy Summer!

Bradley



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BUILDING DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE NEWS**& PRESENTATION TO THE PARISH**

The Building Discernment Committee met Sunday, July 24th, and continued its discussion concerning our needs for accommodating our total church family as well as dealing with accessibility issues. (As you know, all our meetings are open and all are welcome to attend.) Since the beginning of the year, we have looked at expanding the current church structure to seat all of us and expanding Memorial Hall for both office space and for a larger social hall. However, we now are investigating the possibilities of perhaps constructing a new sanctuary with bathrooms and sacristy, slightly remodeling the existing church for a nursery and Children's Chapel, and then adding some additional space to Memorial Hall by punching out the wall with the large windows in it and moving it west 20 or so feet.

This is all very preliminary but it may very well be the most economically sound way to go. As well, on a smaller scale, it mirrors some of our intention eight years ago when we built the current location for Children's Chapel to actually be the office space and anticipated building a completely new sanctuary with Christian Education space and offices.

Needless to say, no decisions remotely have been made. Nothing is in concrete. Everything is on the table. So far this is mostly all "back of the envelope" contemplation. But it is exciting to think about and investigate. We hope to have much more information in the next weeks to present to the Vestry and then present our proposal to the parish.

To that end, because many are scampering out of town for a last summer escape, we will hold off on our parish picnic and presentation until after the Labor Day weekend.

Stay tuned...

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACKS

By Amy Peterson

It's time for our annual back-to-school supplies drive. Last year we supplied backpacks and school supplies to the Whitefish and Columbia Falls food banks as well as to kids from the Canyon and the Flathead Youth Home. Each place was very appreciative of our donations. Let's aim to collect another 100 backpacks and supplies for our kids in need. Sales are beginning to start. You can bring your donations at anytime now through Sunday, August 14th.

Anyone wishing to donate money instead of supplies simply write "School Supplies" in the memo of your check and we will make sure the supplies are purchased. If you have any questions, you can talk with Shawn or Bradley at the office (862-2863) or Amy Peterson at her home number (863-2999).

Thanks again for your overwhelming generosity to the Valley's children.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ALL SAINTS' DAY CAMP

By Cynthia Benkelman

Around 7:15 am, the Camp Marshall counselors arrive. They make coffee, and some of them might eat a quick bowl of cereal while they prepare for the arrival of the first campers.

At 7:30 am two moms show up with their combined four kids. They are carpooling to work in Kallispell, dropping their kids off at day camp first. They are greeted, and the list is checked to make sure that all of their medical information is current. They have a couple of questions, but they were here last year and the year before, so they leave for work with confidence that their children will be safe and having fun while they are at work.

The counselors engage the kids in board games while they wait for the rest of the kids to arrive. Over thirty kids will come in with their parents or guardians over the next hour and a half, and parents will have their questions addressed, missing forms will be filled out, and the kids will be assimilated into what will be their morning routine for the next one or two weeks.

On the first day at camp, the camp director goes over the "camp rules" at about 9:00, and then the "name games" begin. These are a series of fun and active games held on the front lawn outside the church, which somehow result in thirty to forty people knowing the names of everyone else at the end. It seems like magic, memorizing names has never been so easy and fun. But, camp counselors have a lot of "magic" up their sleeves!

Throughout the rest of the week, the days will be filled with various activities. These include challenge courses to help kids learn how to solve problems as a team, a food drive each week, swimming at the beach on two of the afternoons, and many games that are simply played for the fun of it. If it's really hot, water is usually incorporated into outside games in some way.

Each day the campers gather mid-morning for "Godly Play" and participate in a unique way of Christian Education, along with studying stories from the bible. The first session is old hat for the campers who have been here for more than one summer, and a bit mystifying for those who are new to this program. By the end of the week all of the campers will be familiar with the routine of story, wondering questions and discussion, and response with art, group work, or simply retelling stories to each other using the Godly Play materials.

Music is generally held at the end of the day, after the kids clean up. First, counselors parcel out the most coveted cleaning tasks to the most helpful campers of the day (vacuuming is considered a choice job). Anyone lucky enough to observe so many kids enthusiastically cleaning the parish hall from top to bottom will resolve to insist they get access to whatever magic formula created this. During the singing time, held in the church, more "magic" ensues. The camp music director plays the guitar and leads the campers, and any adults present, in about 45 minutes of singing; from raucous, fun, "camp" songs with hand motions and sometimes dancing and jumping, to songs from the hymnal or contemporary Christian music. Parents start to show up to pick up the kids, and often wander into the church and sit in the back to just enjoy the sights and sounds.

After the kids leave, the four counselors are hosted by a parish member or family for dinner. They delight in what is always delicious food, and particularly relish conversing with some of the adults from our church after a day of wearing their "Counselor Hats". At least once each summer they return to the church after dark to knock down and dispose of any wasp nests that are in the vicinity, after it is cool and the inhabitants of the nests are (they hope) sleeping. Their impeccable training and their value for the safety of all of the kids does not end when the camp day is over.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ALL SAINTS' DAY CAMP (cont'd)

It seems impossible to portray how truly "magical" these day camps are. One thing I know for sure, though, is that our prayers, and our determination to fulfill our baptismal promises by providing these day camps, are part of what makes what seems like magic for these two weeks. Being in community with children from our surrounding area, playing and praying with them, discussing some of the really important things which are not temporal but eternal, and showing them the love of Jesus the best that we can, however imperfectly, are the basics of the "magic" of day camp. In addition, the camp staff, who are spending their weeks in this amazing ministry, are truly the hands and feet of Jesus to these children. The blessings which we all experience last much longer than just these two weeks.

All Saints' Day Camp is a free day camp hosted at All Saints' Episcopal Church, run by counselors from Camp Marshall, and open to children from our communities who are going into grades 1-8.

For more information, go online: <http://diomontana.com/camp-marshall/all-saints-cf-day-camp/> or call Cynthia Benkelman, All Saints' Christian Formation Minister, 406-261-9636



Clearing barbed wire from the property to make sure day camp kids are safe. Thanks Carl, Jerry, Louis and Kathy!



Photos from previous years



HAVE YOU SEEN US?

Apparently it has been discovered that some dishes, bowls and flower containers have decided to take off on their own to someplace unknown. If these items happen to show up at your house looking for refuge, would you please kindly return them to the church? We don't like anyoneor thing!....to be missing from our church home! Thank you very much!

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CAMP MARSHALL "TASTE AND SEE"

Join us for an open house and camp celebration on
Saturday, August 13.

What? an afternoon and evening of camp activities (archery, stand up paddleboarding, kayaking, sailing, arts & crafts), music, a pulled pork BBQ supper, and an opportunity to tour the camp property and learn about proposed capital improvements.

Who? friends and neighbors of Camp Marshall; anyone who'd like to catch a glimpse of Camp Marshall's people, property, and programs

This event takes place during Alumni Weekend, so expect to see lots of camp alumni participating!

When? on Saturday, August 13, drop in between 1-8 (dinner will be available beginning at 5pm)

Where? Camp Marshall 41524 Melita Island Rd. Polson, MT 59860. Find directions to Camp Marshall [here](#).

Cost? No cost. (Guests not attending alumni weekend may choose to make a \$10 donation to help cover the cost of meal.)

"Taste and See" Open House Sign Up



AUGUST 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Day Camp	2 Day Camp	3 Day Camp Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	4 Day Camp Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	5 Day Camp	6
7 Services at 9 and 11 am	8 Day Camp	9 Day Camp	10 Day Camp Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	11 Day Camp Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	12 Day Camp	13
14 Services at 9 and 11 am	15	16	17 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	18 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	19	20
21 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:15 pm	22	23	24 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	25 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	26	27
28 Services at 9 and 11 am	29	30	31 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs		29	30

THE WEDDING PAGE



Our own Jess and Lily



Marguerite and
Jorge Salazar wedding

Marguerite is the
daughter of Jackie
and Jeff Jung.



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

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Columbia Falls, MT

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Whitefish, MT 59937

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Parish Office Administrator: Shawn Sloan
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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.*

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UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA)

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

Vestry members:

Rector: Reverend Canon Bradley Wirth
Senior Warden: Heidi Sobczak
Junior Warden: Judi Williams
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Clarice Brooks
Ben Bushnell
Jan Rayford
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