

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 5

MAY 2018

## A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Like hundreds upon hundreds of people at a time, I spent way too many hours looking at the Live Bear Cam from Glacier Park last month. Some of you also were addicted to the YouTube video channel on your computer watching a sleepy bear rise out of hibernation and head out into the new world of spring. What was wonderful is that the bear would return to a large hole in this large cottonwood tree and snooze away, occasionally stretching and climbing down it only to return. So day after day, we followed it as relief from the same time we probably gave to the news on television. And then like being told to give up coffee "cold turkey" the Park shut down the camera to give the bear space to finally leave the tree for good and begin his vocation of being a bear in the woods, rather than a bear in a tree. I almost thought we would need to have a support group to cope with not watching the bear.

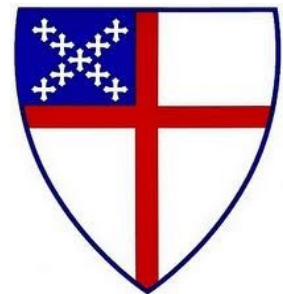
Pentecost is kind of like the bear finally climbing down the tree and leaving it for life on the ground. When we are immersed in the good news of Easter, we are sort of like the bear just relishing the newness of life, looking out at the world from above, basking in the sunshine, and being refreshed by a wonderful nap. Pentecost comes along and it celebrates the Holy Spirit rushing among us all, telling us to roll up the sleeping bag and hit the road. "There's work to be done! Get moving! You have the Gospel to proclaim!"

And so we do just that by entering the longest and last of the Christian seasons of the year. From Sunday, May 20th until Sunday, December 2nd, we will follow, teach, and live the active life of the church in the midst of the communities in which we find ourselves. So come on Pentecost Sunday and celebrate who we are...the vibrant breathing Body of Christ ministering to one another and changing the world. And wear red. That is the tradition. Now then, if you would like to maybe see what you missed, here is a link to movie footage from the Bear Cam from Glacier Park. Enjoy. But again, like the bear, its time to hit the road.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76SO5GMw\\_1A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76SO5GMw_1A)

Faithfully, Bradley

(editor's note: the web cam has been shut down for the spring. The link is to a video from early April)



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## ANNUAL MEETING RESUMES

On Sunday, June 10th, following the 11:00 service, I will call back into session, our Annual Meeting from being in “recess,” and we will resume considering the latest proposal approved by the Vestry for the expansion of our sanctuary and the construction of office space. (A light lunch will be served prior to our beginning the meeting which will be called back to order at 12:45 in the afternoon.)

At that meeting, we will look at the original goals we established some time ago concerning our possible building project and consider how the Vestry’s proposal matches up with them. So it is more than just looking at some plans and saying yes or no. This is an act of holy discernment concerning our ministry and how our structures address the opportunities before us.

Our plan basically is to add offices for the Rector and Parish Administrator to the east end of the Christian Education space connected to Memorial Hall. This will not only give us office space but will also allow for the entirety of Memorial Hall to be used for social events giving us over a quarter more usable space than what we have.

As well, we are back to expanding the sanctuary to the west, taking out the stairs, and adding enough room to enable 112 of us to be comfortably seated at a time. Our average Sunday attendance now is 78 and so this gives us considerable room to grow. At the moment, the church seats 72, if every space is used.

Our thought concerning this addition is that, when we choose to grow with a much larger sanctuary, the additional square footage created in the present expansion will become part of the Christian Education space that will be adjacent to the sanctuary enabling all (those in the sanctuary, those in the nursery, and those in Christian Education or Godly Play) to be in the same structure during the entirety of a church service.

One of my great joys in life has been visiting ancient churches in Israel and Italy. Two of the oldest, St. Peter’s in Rome and the Church of the Holy Nativity in Bethlehem, have been continually under construction since the 4th century. Being “under construction” is a mark of activity and growth.

Our question is, “Do we wish to go forward with this project?” Help us discern where it is God is calling us on June 10th.

## ALL SAINTS’ SUMMER DAY CAMP

Can you believe it’s almost day camp time again? This year it will be held July 30 – August 3 and August 6 -10, (8-5 daily).

This year, our day camp theme is “A Way in the Wilderness!” During day camp, we explore and experience God’s good gifts through stories, music, outdoor play, arts and crafts, worship, and by serving others. At day camp, campers may participate in the following activities: hiking, field games, songs, drumming, arts and crafts, skits and in other games that cultivate creative expression. Campers will join in one day of service during the week together. This year, we’ll be collecting canned goods for our local food bank.

Each week of day camp concludes on Friday afternoon at 5pm, and parents are invited to an ice cream social at 4:30 pm on Friday to allow campers to share their experiences and to introduce their counselors.

Watch for updates as the dates for camp get closer!



## LISTENING SESSION



The Bishop Nominating Committee wants to make certain that it has input into the selection of the Diocese of Montana's next bishop from as many lay and clergy in the diocese as possible. Accordingly, the committee is conducting listening sessions at each parish in the diocese. The Listening Session at All Saints' will be held on Wednesday evening, May 16th, at 6:00 pm preceded by a light supper at 5:30. The session will begin with a brief report covering:

Key elements of the search time line.  
Review of the duties of a diocesan bishop.  
Brief history of the diocese and its recent episcopates.

The session will last around an hour and fifteen minutes and will provide an opportunity for individual as well as group input on the following questions:

1. What are the strengths and successes of All Saints' Church Parish? What are you proudest of?
2. What are the significant challenges facing All Saints'?
3. How might the diocese and our next bishop best serve All Saints'?
4. What are the primary strengths needed by the next bishop of the Diocese of Montana?

Input from this session is vital to the construction of the diocesan profile used in the search process. We are at an important point in our life as a diocese. I hope you will join us on May 16th to make your voice heard.

KEITH KUHN  
MEMBER OF THE BISHOP NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## NINA (the blessed)

Andy and Bonnie Riches have a new reason to be blessed and so do we! Welcome Nina to our parish pets!



# MAY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	3 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	4	5
6 Services at 9 and 11 am	7	8	9 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	10 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	11	12
13 Services at 9 and 11 am	14	15	16 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs Listening Prog. 5:30 pm	17 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	18	19
20 Services at 9 and 11 am <b>Vestry 12:30 pm</b>	21	22	23 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	24 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	25	26
27 Services at 9 and 11 am	28	29	30 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	31 Noon service at AS Followed by book study		



## PHOTOS FROM OUR JET-SETTING SHAWN'S LAST TRIP



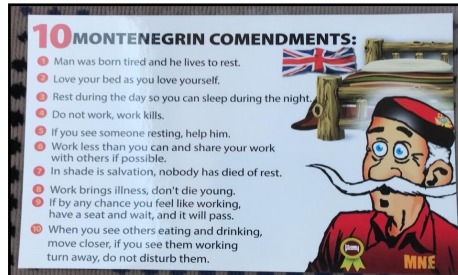
The Acropolis, Greece



Cetinje Monastery, Montenegro



Church of St. Blaise, Dubrovnik, Croatia



Above: Dubrovnik, Croatia

Above left: Commandments of the Montenegrin folks

Left: Predjima Castle, Slovenia

## ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

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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  
Ben Bushnell  
Shawn Sloan  
Heidi Sobczak  
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