

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2016

LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

June is now upon us! Summer is right around the corner and the gloom of winter is but a distant memory for us all. Isn't it just incredible to live in this corner of God's green earth?!!! In June our thoughts turn towards the lengthening of days, graduations (see the pictures elsewhere in this letter), getting back into the water (watch our YouTube video for Pentecost) and springing forth into all sorts of new things.

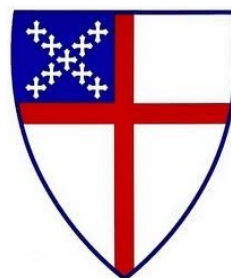
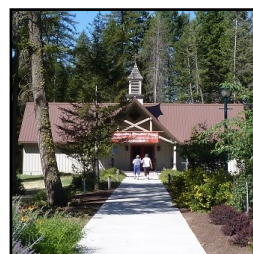
Big Time Event Number One:

On Sunday, June 12th, the Bishop will be here for Confirmations, Receptions and Reaffirmations of our Baptismal Vows. That will be a very special day for several of our parishioners and so to celebrate it, we will have one service at 11:00 in the morning. Not only will we be one as a congregation, we will be one with the Diocese of Montana with the presence of the Right Reverend C. Franklin Brookhart that morning. It is a special time and hopefully all will be able to make it.

On that Sunday, the loose offering and designated checks will go to the **Bishop's Discretionary Fund**. I ask you to please be as generous as you can. When I was Canon to the Ordinary (a very glorified title meaning assistant to the bishop) in Utah, I basically channeled lots of requests to the Discretionary Fund. Often it was a parish with a special need because of a natural disaster or some of the clergy in the diocese were in critical need because of medical or other circumstances. Please trust me that this fund addresses a world of hurt among our friends and I hope you will bring something to put in the plate for this ministry of the Bishop's.

On Saturday, June 11th, at 9:30 am, candidates for confirmation, reception and reaffirmation will meet at Memorial Hall for their last class which will involve the identification of spiritual gifts and individual ministries. Around 4:00 or 5:00 in the afternoon (the time has not yet been determined) the Vestry will meet with Bishop Brookhart and we will have the opportunity to share with him not just the ministry of the last year but the vision we have for years to come. The tradition is, that if we are not too tired, the Bishop and I go out to dinner and basically catch up with things ministerial and then, over dessert, argue whose league, the American or National, best represents baseball.

It will be a very festive weekend and I ask you to watch this space and the bulletin for updates.



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RECTOR'S LETTER (CONT'D)**Big Time Event Number Two:**

Your Building Discernment Committee has finished its work of developing a suggested project which will address some of our capacity / handicap accessibility issues and office needs. Over the next weeks, we will offer our suggestions to the Vestry and if they are in agreement with where we are heading, we will plan for a parish-wide meeting and festive evening to share with all our vision for All Saints' for the coming years. This is really exciting and we hope that as those plans develop, you will all take time to join in the conversation. As is always the case in these sorts of things, everyone's views and opinions are not just welcomed but eagerly sought.

So June brings its usual new life, empty tomb new life. Enjoy the advent of summer and rejoice.

Faithfully yours,

Bradley

PENTECOST

Check out All Saints' 2016 Pentecost video on the web at either <http://www.allsaintsmt.org> (our website) or <https://youtu.be/9A7P63sr7wE> (our YouTube channel). Pentecost is the Christian Festival Day which marks when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, with the noise of a great wind. This year, aboard his boat Whitsunday Passage, Bradley uses sailing as an image for the season of Pentecost and how the spirit of God propels us through life.

Editors note: Rarely do we see Shawn "doing her thing" with the filming, but you can see her in the photo on the right above. Below are pictures from the church on Pentecost.



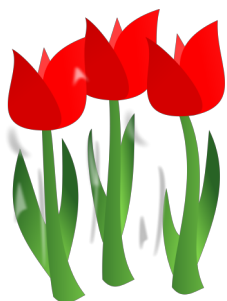
PREPARING FOR THE BISHOP'S VISIT



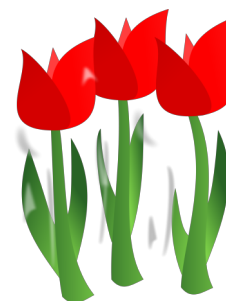
calling all



"Weed Warriors"



In preparation for the Bishop's upcoming visitation, volunteers are needed to help weed the church grounds **THIS coming Saturday, June 4th, from 9 a.m. to Noon.**



No experience required, just willing hands. If possible, bring work gloves and garden tools.

Call or e-mail the church office with any questions.



DETAILS ON THE BISHOP'S VISIT

On Sunday, June 12th, Bishop Franklin Brookhart will be at All Saints' for his Annual Visitation. He will be present for a meeting with the Vestry on Saturday, June 11th and then will be with us for Confirmations, Receptions, and Reaffirmations on Sunday. On the Sunday he visits, June 12th, there will be one service at **11:00 am** so we all can be together with him and those who are making these commitments within their spiritual lives.

As well, we invite you to contribute to the Diocesan Discretionary Fund on that day. This fund is administered by the Bishop. This fund helps him respond to emergencies, in particular those within the diocesan-wide clergy families, and offer scholarships to various church programs for those who can't afford them. Checks can be made out to the "Diocese of Montana" and then on the memo line, please note "Discretionary Fund".



Photos from Bishop Brookhart's visit in 2015



ALL SAINTS' CLASS OF 2016

By Cynthia Benkelman

Watching the HS graduates receive their Bibles in church recently was a big milestone for me personally as a Christian formation minister. Seeing these young people looking so mature, yet thinking back on how we all started together, was joyful and still bittersweet. These students in the 9 and 11am services, along with Hans who graduated last year and Thomas who graduates next year, have experienced all of my “firsts” in working with youth and children at All Saints’ right alongside me, and I will miss them.

They made up the first preschool-aged Sunday school, which Missy Carloss and I started in the basement of Holy Nativity Church. At that time, of course, there were two churches, and St. Matthews in Columbia Falls also had a Sunday school for their little ones. Now that I look back, I laugh when I think of starting a Sunday school for three year olds! And I am so grateful that the Columbia Falls people wisely didn’t tell us what we were in for, or we might not have started.

They were the guinea pigs for several Sunday School curricula, the first group to participate in Godly Play, the group who spent some Saturday nights in our church during “lock-ins”, the kids who went on diocesan youth event road trips, and who got to meet the Presiding Bishop and converse with her in Mis-soula. Anna, in particular, is one whom I remember as always being willing and excited about such endeavors.

The lock-ins were such a great way to mix faith and fun. I will never forget when Anna and Hannah were giggling so hard at one lock-in that we all laughed until we cried, and then I was so proud that Hans and the other boys sat so quietly in the back of the church the next Sunday at 9:00. We later found that they had been quiet because they had been concentrating on meticulously folding all of the 11:00 service bulletins into paper airplanes and origami. I was the lone adult who thought it was hilarious, and possibly brilliant, which was a confirmation to me that I am in the right job!

I still can see these seniors as tiny little people singing and clapping like mad at VBS. And when we worked with Camp Marshall on a new project, these kids were the ones whom I begged to bring friends to our newly formed Day Camp, and they did not disappoint! Although we have registrations flowing in for day camp now, it was this group who helped me “prime the pump” all those years ago.

I remember Bergen being the first one to offer her food to others at a “hunger dinner”, which I believe showed one of her spiritual gifts that fueled her determination and persistence in organizing and promoting the recent the “Kids Against Hunger” at Whitefish High School. In fact, these seniors are all such great examples of serving our communities, each in their own way. When our Presiding Bishop talks about “Crazy Christians”, and the “Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement”, I look to these seniors and find hope and inspiration.

Sam, Saige, and Kate were always very good natured about being made to sing solos in the Christmas pageant. In fact, all of them participated willingly to put on a fun play with the younger and youngest kids in the church involved as well. Thomas wore any costume we put him in without protest, and Bergen was usually recruited to be a narrator. Several of them let me know that they expect to make a guest appearance next Christmas when they will be home from college, so I told them I’d make sure to send them a script!

ALL SAINTS' CLASS OF 2016 (cont'd)

By Cynthia Benkelman

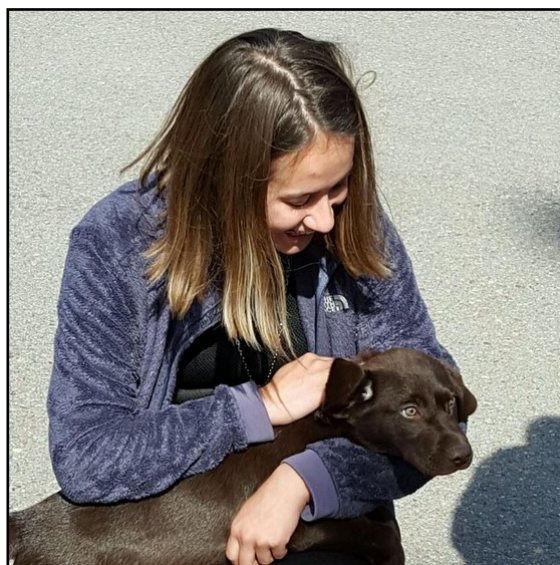
Another fond memory I have is that of the confirmation retreat that we did over a weekend, also including Lilly, Isabelle, Emma Claire, Jack, and Andrew. I still have a photo of all of the acolytes vested for the confirmation Sunday with the bishop; it seemed like there were dozens of them. And I was so pleased for those who chose to be confirmed, and also proud of those who considered this decision and decided to wait.

I have been privileged to be involved with these young people. They have supported each other in difficulties, and praised each other for their accomplishments. They have had some good natured and intense arguments, and wrestled together with faith questions. They have put up with me making them look up verses in the Bible and read them out loud, and have politely listened to U2 songs while reading the lyrics and then were nice enough to act excited with me about their amazing spirituality! They have visited nursing homes, received Ash Wednesday ashes from Bradley in my living room after school, and had many, many dinners together. They have been the leaders to whom the younger youth look for inspiration. I have been so blessed to be a part of their lives, and I cannot wait until Christmas break, when they come back for a brief time. I will always have a part for them in the pageant. And I will be so proud to introduce our newly formed Youth Group of middle school/high school kids, all of whom they know now of course. But it will be different, they will be the adults, appreciating and enjoying the presence of the youth in the life of the church.



Sam, Bergen, Katelyn, Saige
and Anna at the 11 am service

Hannah with Rudyard, after
the 9 am service



KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

By Cynthia Benkelman

Hundreds of teens put food packets together for the “Kids Against Hunger” project. Over 500 teens and adults put over 50,000 packets together to go to hungry people throughout the world. Reports are that it didn’t seem like “work”, but was fun for everyone, and **Bergen Carlloss** was given a standing ovation after they were done for being the driving force and organizer of this project. Thanks to Bergen and her efforts, \$16,000 was raised. Many All Saints’ teens and even some middle school kids were spotted helping out in the effort. All Saints’ youth care about the world! Thank you, Bergen, for leading this effort and for giving our parish a way to help put faith into action!



SAFEGUARDING GOD’S CHILDREN

By Cynthia Benkelman

Date: Sunday, June 5th

Place: Christian Education Room, All Saints’

Time: After 11:00 Service, 12:15 - 1:45 PM

Safeguarding God’s Children is a training program for the Episcopal Church designed by the Church Pension Group to make our churches as safe as possible for our children and youth and those who work with them. The training is designed to raise awareness concerning issues of sexual and emotional abuse and to provide tools for prevention that we can all use to protect our children from harm, promote safety, and bring healing. The training is required for everyone who works with children or youth at Epiphany, but strongly encouraged for all members of our parish. Parents and guardians of children have also found this information to be very helpful to them in understanding how to keep their children safe in different situations. The first portion of the training is directed specifically to parents and families, and the second portion gives information on making our church a safe place for children. **If you have questions about this training, call Cynthia Benkelman, 406-261-9636.**

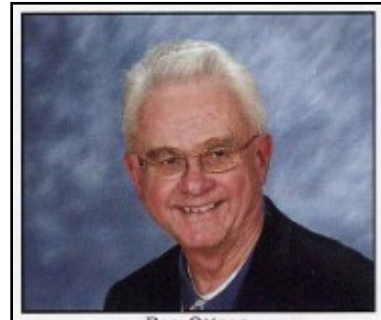


RON OTTSEN

By Vera Smith

As some of you may know, our long time parishioner, Ron Ottsen, is leaving Whitefish and moving to Edina, Minnesota mid-June. Ron will be living close to his sister, brother-in-law and oldest nephew who has four children.

Ron moved to Whitefish in October 1998 and since then has immersed himself in his passions which include working with children and being a member of All Saints'.



Ron retired as a Psychiatric Social Worker in California specializing in work with children and adolescents, so it would logically follow that he would spend the next sixteen years volunteering in the fifth grade classroom at the Whitefish Middle School.

Ron said that his time with the fifth graders and his membership in All Saints' were the centerpieces of his life which he felt provided him with strength and purpose. Ron has had a fulfilling life in Whitefish.

Ron wants the congregation to know that this parish is a loving, warm and giving parish and it has been a privilege to be a member with each of you. While it is difficult for Ron to leave his church family and beloved work with children and friends, being with family is most important at this time and as he said, "you just go with the flow"! He wishes all the very best!

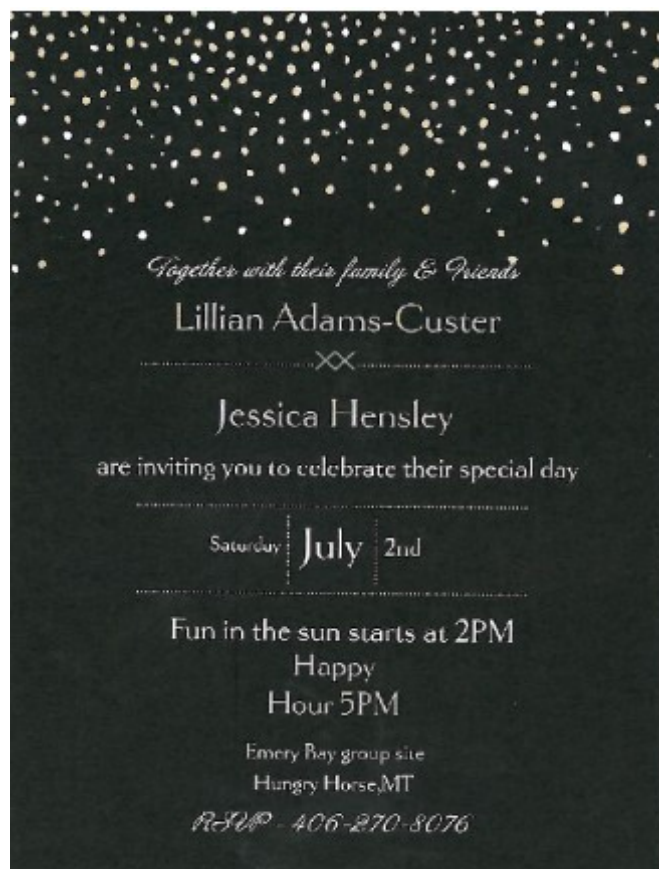
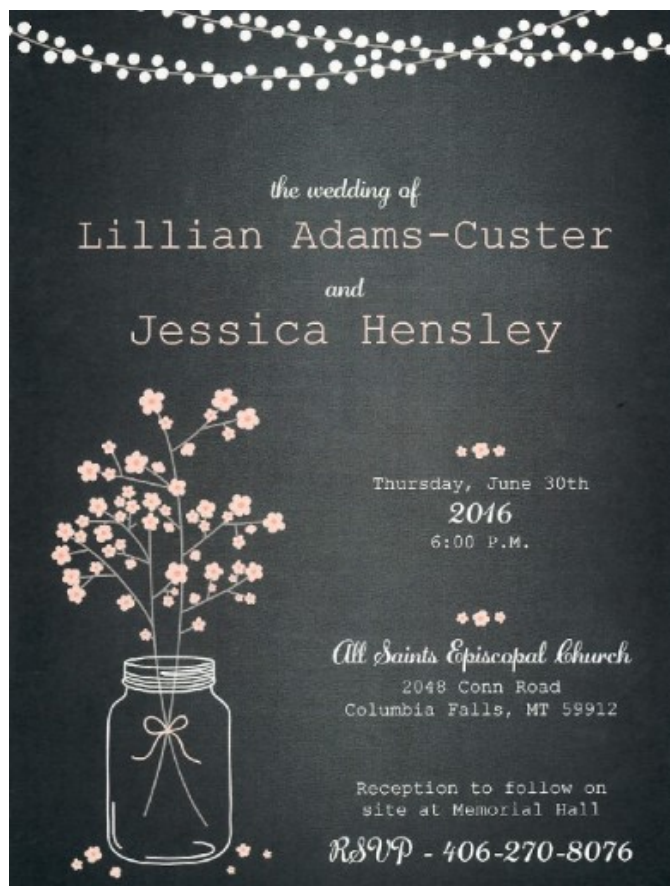
God Speed, Ron! You will be in our prayers!

THE BAD NEWS AND THE GOOD

The bad news is that Kate and Ryan Marsh are leaving our church family. The good news is that it is a nice move for them, full of opportunity. Kate will be working as a nurse at the Spokane Deaconess Hospital and Ryan will pursue graduate work at Whitworth University in family counseling. Obviously, they will be missed. We wish them the very best in their endeavors and hope they visit whenever they are able.



YOU'RE INVITED!



JUNE 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	2 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1pm	3	4 Greening of the church grounds 9am - Noon
5 Services at 9 and 11 am Safeguarding Our Children 12:15-1:45	6	7 Primary Day	8 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	9 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1pm	10	11 Inquirer Class at 9:30am Bishop Brookhart meets with Vestry
12 One service at 11 Bishop Brookhart presiding	13	14	15 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	16 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1pm	17	18
19 Services at 9 and 11 am	20	21	22 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	23 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	24	25
26 Services at 9 and 11 am	27	28	29	30		

ODDS AND ENDS



St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish will be having a Rummage Sale to benefit Sparrow's Nest on **June 10th & June 11th**. Anyone who has donations can bring those to St. Charles' Church Hall on Baker Avenue (by Glacier Bank) beginning Thursday, June 2nd from 9 am to 2 pm. They will be accepting donations June 2nd until June 9th during those hours every day except on Sunday, June 5th. If someone has furniture, needs help transporting donations, or has questions, please call Laura Kochis, Sparrow's Nest Board Treasurer, directly at 253-4062. They cannot accept large appliances, TVs, exercise equipment, or any mattresses.

Thank you for supporting Sparrow's Nest of Northwest Montana, a local non-profit dedicated to ensuring safe, supportive housing for high school students facing homelessness in Flathead County.



There is an opportunity for All Saints' folk to have some fun together and help to improve our beautiful rivers. If you would like to get a group together, email Brenda (email address below) to sign up. Families are welcome as well!

Please join us for the 14th annual noxious weed pulling rodeo on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River on Friday, June 14th. Participants will float the wild and scenic Middle Fork with one of West Glacier's professional raft companies and a noxious weed expert. It will be a full day of floating and pulling weeds. Folks will need to bring a sack lunch and leather gloves if they have them. There will be a barbecue with lots of prize giveaways following your day on the river at the Wild River Adventures pavilion. You may contact Brenda Guzman at guzmanbjc@yahoo.com with any questions.



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

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Parish Office Administrator: Shawn Sloan
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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: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA

Webpage link: <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
Shawn Sloan
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