

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 5

MAY 2016

LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

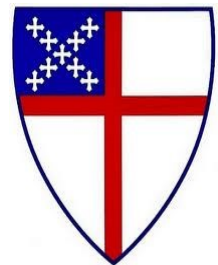
One of the exciting things about spring is noticing new growth. I never tire of seeing the buds on the trees after a long winter and while I don't enjoy the sticky casings that fall from the huge cottonwoods in our yard and cement themselves to our dogs and my shoes, I know it is a sign of new life breaking out in glorious color. I love spring and I love Easter!

We have a sign of new life budding out as well this Easter at All Saints' and it is in the form of our Building Discernment Committee meeting now to consider how we might want to possibly change the configuration of our church and maybe add new space for worship and perhaps offices. (Please note the words, "might," "possibly," "maybe" and "perhaps" in that previous sentence. Nothing is a done deal and everything is on the table for our discerning and where we are led to go by God.) As you may remember from the Annual Meeting back in January, those in attendance enthusiastically endorsed our looking at reconfiguring All Saints' so that we all could worship together, enjoy Christian Education possibilities we do not have at this time, and celebrate our comradery as a parish with all of us meeting at the same time and in a place fully handicap accessible. Now we have entered the process of doing just that.

Over the next few months, the Building Discernment Committee will be meeting on a regular basis to consider various components of our shared ministry and what type of structure would be supportive of that ministry. Everything we are going to do is ministry driven and so it will be creative, perhaps a bit untidy, and I know exciting. Each time the committee meets, we will post in advance that it is happening and you are more than welcome to attend and offer your thoughts on the noted agenda item.

When that initial work is done, and the Vestry thinks we are accurately reflecting the wishes of the congregation, we will present our findings at a parish-wide meeting for everyone's feedback. And then we will move into a next phase which involves determining the cost of such a project. From there, we will continue in an orderly way, keeping everyone always informed. Ultimately, we will see where all this takes us.

Our first meeting is coming right up on **Sunday, May 1st**, following the 11:00 Holy Eucharist. Hopefully it will be nice weather and we will actually go



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RECTOR'S LETTER (CONT'D)

outside, look at the space which might possibly be added, and then see what really would fit in it. Again, nothing will be settled into concrete but we will be shaping where it is we believe we are called to go.

It is nothing other than the hand of God which is shaping this quest of ours. Were we dull and unmindful of the ministry of Christ, we would not need to engage in this process. But that is clearly not who we are. And as a living thing, as much as a bud on a tree and a resurrected Christ, we get to experience new growth. Easter compels us to be on our way and I deeply hope you all will join in the pilgrimage.

Faithfully yours,

Bradley

INQUIRER CLASS

It's not too late to get in on the Inquirer Class! The first one was held in April and we discussed our roots in history and culture. Below, you will find a description of the remaining classes.

Our Theology - May 4th

The first Bishop of Montana, Daniel Tuttle, said that we "have a faith unafraid of reason and reason unashamed to adore." Balancing scripture, reason and tradition allows us to bridge lots of traditions, borrow the best from them all, and continually renew our way of thinking about our Lord and his working in our lives. As a result, we have tremendous room for different ways of thinking about God and we are fortunate to have a church filled with folks who see things differently. Underlying all of it, of course, is grace and the abundant blessings of God.

Our Worship - May 11th

Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer in 1549 was the principal architect of the 1549 Book of Common Prayer and the second revision of it in 1662. That particular book has been the spine of our worship for many hundreds of years. As we look at what we have today, and visit other avenues of worship within the church, such as the blessing of the animals, homes and relationships, we discover an articulation of our beliefs.

Our interaction in the world and how we run the church - May 18th

The Anglican Community is made up of 80 million members of which the Episcopal Church contributes 3 million. While we think of the Episcopal Church as being basically here in the United States, we actually reach from the Pacific Rim to Europe and well into Central America. Besides being part of a wider community, we engage in missionary efforts and humanitarian relief. We do this as a church that is driven by all its members. Thanks to William White, in colonial times, the Episcopal Church is an extraordinary exercise in shared responsibility and authority. Similarities between our Constitution and Canon Law and the way the United States Constitution set up our national government is not accidental. Both institutions were born the same year. We will look at Canon Law, the General Convention and the way dioceses are set up. We will also look at the way we govern All Saints' as well. We are a church that depends on the combined efforts and gifts of clergy and laity in shaping our worship, discipline and doctrine. There is shared responsibility and opportunity.

INQUIRER CLASS (CONT'D)**Our ministry and the discernment of spiritual gifts - Saturday, June 11th**

Confirmation, reception, reaffirmation and baptism all point to ministry around the vows that are taken at baptism. On this Saturday, in preparation for the Bishop's visitation the next day (June 12th), we will look at how we are called to individual ministries, which are part of a combined ministry of the Body of Christ (our church and diocese being small expressions of that) and how those ministries take advantage of spiritual gifts. During this morning, we will use a questionnaire to help us identify those gifts so we can employ them.

ALL SAINTS' WOMEN

By Vera Smith

At the meeting of All Saints' Women on April 5th, very important and happy actions were taken. By a unanimous vote, the following organizations will be the beneficiary of funds raised through the generosity of, you, our church members:

Kids Against Hunger, \$50.00 (Bergen Carloss' efforts)
Episcopal Relief and Development, Micro-Credit Loans for Women, \$200
Sparrow's Nest (making a home for unaccompanied homeless high school students), \$165
The Sewing Center (service quilting machine, Camp Marshall), \$95

With the distribution of these funds, All Saints' Women remain true to their goals and guidelines of fundraising for the purpose of making a difference globally, in our community and our church. There are funds remaining in our account for future assignment to church needs, yet to be identified.

The next meeting will be held in Memorial Hall on **Tuesday, September 13th at 10:30**. The main focus of that meeting will be to plan the fundraising for this year. We hope that we will see more of our Women of All Saints' there.

Thank you all for continuing to make our mission possible!

ALL SAINTS' FREE CHILDREN'S SUMMER DAY CAMP

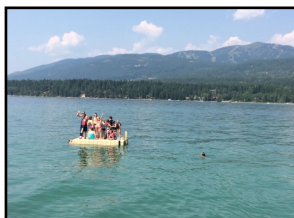
By Cynthia Benkelman

Two weeks of All Saints' Day Camp will be held again this year at All Saints' Church.

Week 1: August 1-5

Week 2: August 8-12

Campers grades 1-8 will enjoy a camp experience without leaving the valley! Swimming, community service, arts and crafts, Bible stories, music, indoor and outdoor games, and more will be run by our trained and certified camp counselors from Camp Marshall, the Episcopal church camp on Flathead Lake. Registration will open soon, so save the date!



SPRING YOUTH RETREAT



Don't miss the Episcopal Diocese of Montana's [Spring Youth Retreat!](#)

Who: Youth in grades 6-12 (friends are welcome) from around the state

When: May 13 (arrive between 6-8 pm) – May 15 (depart St. James, Bozeman around noon)

Where: Between Bozeman and Big Sky, at Rockhaven Camp and Retreat Center (66850 Gallatin Rd. Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730)

What: We'll worship, sing, play, serve, learn, and grow together.

Cost: \$60/person (fee assistance available)

Register [here](#).

Find a packing list [here](#).

Contact [Wren Blessing](#) with questions at (406) 442-2230 x105.

MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Services at 9 and 11 am Building Dis- cernment Com- mittee meeting 12:15	2	3	4 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs 5:30 pm dinner 6:00 pm Inquirer Class	5 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1pm	6	7
8 Services at 9 and 11 am	9	10	11 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs 5:30 pm dinner 6:00 pm Inquirer Class	12 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1pm	13	14
15 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:15 pm	16	17	18 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs 5:30 pm dinner 6:00 pm Inquirer Class	19 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1pm	20	21
22 Services at 9 and 11 am	23	24	25 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	26 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	27	28
29 Services at 9 and 11 am	30	31				

ACOLYTE, LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER, GREETER, READER TRAINING

There will be a training for anyone wishing to become an acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Minister, greeter, or reader on Sunday, June 5th after the 11 am service. Anyone interested is welcome and encouraged to join in any of these positions. Part of Bishop Brookhart's annual visit the following Sunday, June 12th, will include the installation of any new acolytes.

ONE OF OUR NEWER CHURCH MEMBERS

Sam and Julie Baldrige are proud to announce a new member of their family. On Sunday, April 24, Rudyard was blessed by Father Bradley and greeted by those who attended the 9 am service. The picture isn't nearly as cute as the puppy!



ERD LENTEN COLLECTION

Over the last decade, All Saints' has participated in giving to Episcopal Relief and Development by filling the little boxes known as Hope Chests during Lent. Now, by using our "coupon for the day", we respond on each day by giving, for example, five cents for each cup of coffee we drink or two cents for each channel in our cable package or one cent for every 172.8 breaths we take in a day. This year our ingathering for ERD using our very popular coupon method brought in (as of this issue) **\$922.75**.



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Church location:

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Cell phone: 406-250-1690

Christian Formation Minister/Children and
Youth: Cynthia Benkelman

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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/](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt/)

YouTube link: [https://
www.youtube.com/channel/
UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA](https://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

Shawn Sloan

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