

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

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MARCH 2017

RECTOR'S LETTER

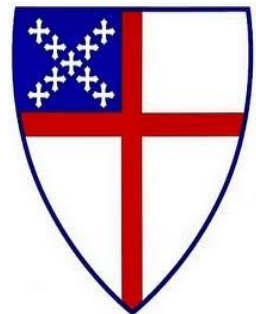
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

So here we go, into Lent. And at All Saints' we have not just a lot going on but everything that is taking place is geared towards helping us return to the Lord, the very meaning of repentance. And as you have heard me say before, repentance is meant to be joyful through and through. If repentance ends only in guilt, than we've missed the point.

I begin with Ash Wednesday, March 1st. We will have three services, 10:00 at the Springs, noon at the church and Cynthia has arranged a service at her home for the youth at 4 in the afternoon. Within the Ash Wednesday service, it is true that the Litany of Penitence goes on for a while and when you are finished with it, you are pretty aware of your sins. But the great thing about this litany is that twelve seconds after we finish it, we find out that we are not stuck in those sins. We are pardoned and absolved of them. So even on this day in which we have ashes smeared on our forehead as a mark of our mortal nature, we still rejoice that we are connected to a forgiving and loving Lord much more powerfully than we are to our transgressions.

On the First Sunday of Lent, you will hear a story within the sermon of how the Abbie Shelter changes lives for those women (and their children) who have been battered or abused by spouses or partners. Not unlike we raised enough money to pick up the food bill for the Flathead Youth Home last year, for the forty days of Lent, this year, All Saints' is challenging itself to pay for a counseling session a day for the 40 days of Lent. It is our way of touching very deeply those isolated in our community with healing and health. You will hear more about that on Sunday, March 5th. The money we contribute is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual gift in that each \$50 raised turns into an hour of hope for one who may not have much of it in her heart and mind. In other words, this is a sacramental offering.

On Wednesday evenings, we will again have Lent Madness, the church's take on "bracketology" in which, reflective of the NCAA basketball tournament, we will take 32 saints through the process of comparing one to another and end up with one wearing the golden halo. It doesn't mean that one is better than another but instead that at the end of five weeks, one will have captured our attention in ways that are wonderful. In the course of these fun evenings, we will learn much about this "great cloud of witnesses" and through them, the history, theology, and spirituality which surrounded their time. How is this helping us return to the Lord? Quite simply, we connect with those who have gone before to shape who we are, the very Body of Christ. The more we know and appreciate about the saints, the more we know about Jesus and ourselves. As is our usual practice we have a simple soup supper at 5:30 and then begin the program at 6:00, getting back on the road somewhat still in the light around 7:00. To help us prepare for enough food,



IN THIS ISSUE

Rector's Letter	pg. 1-2
ASW	pg. 3
Chili Open	pg. 3-4
Lent	pg. 5
Calendar	pg. 6

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR (cont'd)

a sign up sheet will be in Memorial Hall or you can call or email the office. And even if you don't notify us in one way or another, come anyway. We always have more than enough food.

March 17th and 18th we have the festivities of the Tenth Annual Chili Open. (See the advertisement elsewhere in this eletter.) At both the party and the tournament, all the money raised goes to helping the animals. Together (a Lent theme), aware of our imperfection by golfing in the snow (another theme of Lent), experiencing joy in God's creation (a third theme of Lent - that is being more aware of the good earth) and giving money to help vulnerable animals (caring for and reconciling with beings of creation other than ourselves) we find ourselves more united than when we began.

Finally, we have our Lenten Coupon Books, distributed on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. Those little coupons will not just help us support Episcopal Relief and Development, but will also remind us of the simple blessings that cascade down upon us every day. Being reconciled with God always involves being aware more fully of the abundant blessings of God. So it is an exciting time around All Saints' and one which can be spiritually enriching. I hope you will enjoy several of the above opportunities. Between that and taking on a discipline of daily prayer, if you don't do that already, reading a portion of scripture, if it has been a while for that as well; or giving up something that may have a bit too much control over your life, you will experience joy. And if at the end of Lent you have a lighter heart, and less guilt, than I think Lent will have been rich and lovely for you.

Faithfully yours, Bradley

BUILDING PROJECT

Some things just take time. But in the time since the Annual Meeting, we think we now have accurate drawings that reflect the concerns and wishes that were raised when we gathered together the last Sunday in January. (There have been several occasions of redrawing the floor plans, interior and exterior three dimensional views, the roof line, elevations, as well as a new drawing which locates the entire footprint of the building and proposed addition on the property in relation to the septic system.) In short order, we will get these interesting and artistic drawings out to you so that you can review them and begin to think of things we need to remember when we start the next phase of the proposed project, that being coming up with an exhaustive list that includes everything we need to share with an architecture / engineering / and design person or firm. Once that happens we can begin the process to see what this project would cost, should we decide to take up the opportunity. Stay tuned.

THURSDAY'S READING GROUP

We still have books available for anyone interested in joining the reading group which follows the Thursday noon Eucharist.

Bring a bag lunch and join us as we read Bishop Brookhart's new book: Journey with Jesus-Encountering Christ in his Birth, Baptism, Death and Resurrection.



ALL SAINTS' WOMEN

By Vera Smith

On Tuesday, January 24th, All Saints' Women met to discuss, propose and vote on those non-profits where the funds from the Fall Sale should be disbursed. The following are the results of that meeting:

GLOBAL CONTRIBUTION**Episcopal Relief & Development - \$360.00****Purchase of two goats - \$160**

Goats are hardy, reproduce quickly and can be raised in a variety of climates to produce staple items such as milk, cheese and manure for farming. See more at: <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/gifts-for-life/animals-and-agriculture/goat#sthash.XZmlDmsf.dpuf>

Micro Credit Loans for Women - \$200

Your gift helps women receive small loans and provides the essential tools and training they need to start small businesses, become independent and earn enough money to support their families.

- See more at: <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/gifts-for-life/economic-opportunities/micro-credit-loans-for-women#sthash.cCrImi5K.dpuf>

CAMFED - \$100.00

When you educate a girl in Africa, everything changes. She'll be three times less likely to get HIV/AIDS, earn 25% more income and have a smaller, healthier family. See more at CAMFED.com.

LOCAL CONTRIBUTION**Canyon Community Dinners - \$460.50**

This important outreach is not only about food, although it certainly is the compelling factor drawing guests, but the evenings bring the community together with celebration and unity.

Our Church - \$460.50

All Saints' Episcopal Church is the recipient of the final third of funds raised. This amount, together with last year's contribution, is earmarked for use during the proposed renovation.

Once again, it is because of your unending generosity that All Saints' Women are able to step out into the world, our community and our church and change lives! What could be better than that?

Thank you so very much!

2017 CHILI OPEN

As you might have heard, it's Chili Open time again! Below is the link to the You Tube video our most excellent videographer has put together celebrating the event. On the following page, you will find the flyer this same most excellent person has put together.

<https://youtu.be/ejgQKGQ39Zk>



All Saints' 10th Annual Chili Open Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 18, 2017.



For the tenth year in a row, the most celebrated winter golf tournament in Montana will take place on the church grounds Saturday, March 18th 2017. Join us for this wonderful snow golf tournament that raises much needed funds for The Flathead County Animal Shelter, The Flathead Spay and Neuter Task Force, The Humane Society of Northwest Montana, and Spay Montana, serving the Blackfeet Reservation.

"Green Fees" which include golf and lunch are \$20 per person with the entirety of what is raised being donated to help the most vulnerable of God's creation, dogs and cats who are homeless and abused. A Friday night pre-tournament fund-raising party has a suggested donation of \$20. Again this year, holes in one can be purchased for \$50 each. (In the event of severely inclement weather, golfers will be notified that the event will be postponed to the following week.)

The Chili Open is a "shotgun started Texas Scramble" style tournament with a capacity of 72 golfers, 36 in the morning round and 36 in the afternoon round.

The first tee off time of the day is 10:30 a.m. and prior to that, rolls, pastries, and coffee will be available. At 12 noon a catered lunch will be served to all participants during which a silent auction will be held. Afternoon tee off time is 12:45.

On the night prior to the golf tournament, Friday, March 17th, beginning at 7:00, an evening wine/soft drink/appetizer fund-raising party will be held at the Pomerantz home at 342 Plantation Drive, north of Kalispell off Whitefish Stage Road. This fund-raising event has a suggested donation amount of \$20 with the entirety of that going to the dogs and cats.

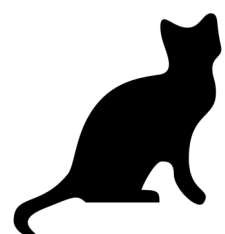
Lunch is again being generously donated by Famous Dave's Restaurant in Kalispell, Loula's Restaurant in Whitefish, and Tupelo Grille in Whitefish.

Reservations for this extraordinarily fun event can be made by emailing allsaintsmt@gmail.com, or by calling (406) 862-2863 or (406) 291-3613. For ongoing information and event updates, visit www.allsaintsmt.org or www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt/

All Saints' is dedicated to striving for the day when no homeless pet goes unloved or lacks compassionate care. This is the reason they energetically support these wonderful animal welfare agencies. The church is committed to providing pastoral care to those pets including celebrating the annual blessing of the animals on the Saturday nearest St. Francis Day (Oct 4th) and making available a Rite offered by the Episcopal Church, for the burial of beloved pets and companion animals.



**All Saints' Episcopal Church is located at
2048 Conn Road just south of Highway 40 midway
between Whitefish and Columbia Falls.**



LENT OFFERING

One of the many friendships All Saints' Church has developed over the last years is with the Abbie Shelter in Kalispell which provides emergency safe housing for battered and abused women and their children. They also provide a crisis line that one can call anytime day or night.



A most important avenue to recovering from domestic violence and getting back to a sense of normalcy after trauma is counseling. Usually this is a long journey for these survivors to travel. Each session costs the Abbie Shelter around \$50. Currently they are serving seventeen clients and with that number of people within their care, they have around three or four folks each business day talking with counselors.

Not unlike our paying the food bill for the Flathead Youth Home during the entirety of Lent last year, our challenge this year is to pay for one counseling session at the Abbie, every day during Lent. That comes to \$2,000. As was the case with supporting the Youth Home, and before that, CAMFED which made it possible for young girls in Sub-Saharan Africa to attend schools, All Saints' has always been up to the challenge.

By supporting the Abbie, we will be providing for the ministry of turning the nightmare that the world can be into the dream God intends it to be for all, as Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop, says.

LENT MADNESS

For the fourth year, All Saints' will once again participate in the world's most popular online Lenten devotion - **Lent Madness**.

Every Wednesday during Lent, March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5, we will gather in **Memorial Hall** at **5:30 for a light supper** and then from **6:00 until 6:45 we will examine the lives of 32 saints** as they battle it out in the "Saintly Smackdown". Participants will receive a *Saintly Scorecard* booklet which contains biographies of the 32 saints, a full color fold out bracket and match-up calendar, and exclusive Pocket Lent cards (which are similar to baseball trading cards but more fun and holier).

As is our usual practice, sign-up sheets will be posted in Memorial Hall to help up prepare the right amount of food, or you can email Shawn at allsaintsmt@gmail.com or call 862-2863, but as always, even if you don't sign up, please feel free to join us as there is always an over abundance of food.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE FOR ALL SAINTS' YOUTH

By Cynthia Benkelman

Bradley will be having a special Ash Wednesday service for families whose children and teens cannot come to the regular services during the day because of school! This is something we have done in the past, and is a special way to begin Lent together. We will meet at Cynthia Benkelman's house, which is centrally located among the Whitefish schools, on Wednesday, March 1st at 4:00 pm. Please call if you are coming from Kalispell or Columbia Falls and feel the 4 pm start time will be a bit too early and we can adjust the time.

The liturgy will take about 45 minutes and include the imposition of ashes and a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The ashes remind us of our identity as children of God in need of forgiveness and of God's mercy and compassion as one who is always ready and willing to forgive. The simple, contemplative, service will prepare our hearts and minds to engage the season of Lent. And, as your kids can probably tell you, Lent is when we get ready for Easter! Please join us!

Benkelman Address: 17 Willowbrook Close. Call me at 406-261-9636 if you have questions, or want to arrange car pooling.

MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Services at 9 and 11 am	6	7	8 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs 5:30 Lent Madness	9 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	10	11
12 Services at 9 and 11 am Set your clocks ahead .Daylight Savings Time starts today!	13	14	15 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs 5:30 Lent Madness	16 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 	18
19 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:15	20	21	22 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs 5:30 Lent Madness	23 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	24	25
26 Services at 9 and 11 am	27	28	29 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs 5:30 Lent Madness	30 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	31	

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LUNCHEON

By Vera Smith


It is without a doubt my pleasure to bring to your attention another opportunity in which you are able help our community and its new homeowners!

I know you are all familiar with this productive non-profit organization and the great work they do. As Bradley once reminded us, this group was one of Bob Blickenstaff's favorite ways to assist the community. We've seen pictures of him with hardhat and hammer happy to do the real work!

I'm not asking you to don a hardhat and grab a hammer. Whew! I'm asking if you or you and a few others would like to provide lunch once or twice during this particular build! The flyer included in this article provides details.

Of course, I am delighted to answer any questions: 471-9157. I just signed up for lunch on Friday, March 1st. Lately I've been buying the lunch at Costco, so know that you can buy lunch if you like. And, of course, a monetary donation will get it done as well!

Thank you for reading this and the flyer! And thank you for your participation in any way you are able!



Help Support Habitat for Humanity as a Lunch Provider!

WHAT: Provide lunch for the hard-working volunteers on the build site. Groups average around 15 people. We encourage you to join us for the lunch break, tour the homes and to meet the volunteers and partner families!

WHEN: Build days are every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday and we break for lunch at noon. The commitment is up to you – once a month, every other month, a one-time donation, etc. Delivery is preferred but pick-up is an option if you can't make it out to the site.

**Lunch providers especially needed during busy summer months (May-Oct)*


WHERE: Our build site is located 330 Westland Drive in Spring Creek Estates neighborhood off of Three Mile Dr.

HOW: Contact us at: 257-8800 or outreach@habitatflathead.org

Typical Lunches May Include:

- Crock-pot creations
- Pre-made sandwiches
- Soup, chili
- Pizza delivery
- Restaurant catering
- Store-bought platters
- Hot dogs, hamburgers
- Lasagnas, pasta dishes

...whatever will fill the hearts and stomachs of our amazing volunteers!



Help us keep our volunteers happy and well-fed!

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

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.

Find us here:
Just click on the link!

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt>

YouTube link: http://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
Ben Bushnell
Jan Rayford
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