

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2016

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With November comes Thanksgiving and Advent and then Christmas and then Epiphany and then the Chili Open and then....

And meanwhile, quite contrary to the busy-ness of life, the natural world around us here in the upper Flathead Valley, is slowing down. Bears are contemplating their hibernation. Deer are eating the last remaining vestiges of foliage and the trees are beginning their annual shutting down for the next few months.

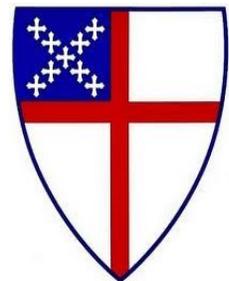
It is an easy thing to be overwhelmed by "the season" nearly upon us. Stores are gearing up for sales. Those who don't want to battle the snow are putting their lights up now so that when the day after Thanksgiving hits, they can just flip a switch. Home Depot, Lowe's, and Ace, to name but a few, have all their Christmas decorations out for our inspection. The Costco mailing is not quite as quickly disregarded as there just might be something in there for a gift you plan to give. XM radio is beginning their "Holly Channel" on All Saints' Day, November 1st.

And of course, there is the election. In a few days, we vote and November 8 will end a most contentious election season but, as a commentator mentioned on the news, we are just two years away from the midterms. Lucky us!

But while all that is going on, it is important, maybe more now than ever, to read into our lives some wisdom from the environment that surrounds us. Prior to the big rush, we might want to just be quiet for a moment and let it heal us.

Many years ago, my dad cut out something from The Milwaukee Journal and carried it with him, in his wallet, for nearly fifty years. He thought it was from 1938 when he was twenty years old. There is no author cited which saddens me because I turn to it a lot and wish I could thank him or her. Dad gave it to me back in the 80's and I have it framed. It reads: *Life subjects us to stresses that at times seem almost too much to bear. In the forests, the mountains, the rivers, the lakes, the hills, the fields, nature waits patiently to heal the battered spirit and sends us back to our tasks refreshed and reinvigorated.*

At that time in his life, all of my dad's existence was in the urban area of Milwaukee. If it was 1938, he was finishing up a post high school stint at Schlitz Brewery as a foreman, earning money for college. Not being immersed in the



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RECTOR'S LETTER (cont'd)

world in which we find ourselves every day, maybe he saw something so extraordinary, that which we sometimes take for granted, when he would occasionally get out of town and into the country.

The grace of God is always sufficient. It is there all the time and as the days become shorter, and the air more brisk, it would serve us all very well to gaze at God's imprint, being the mountains, rivers, lakes, hills and fields, and all who occupy them, and realize that we are beloved. We are cared for and embraced. And that, for a moment, we are called simply to rest in it. Doing this won't chase the frantic stuff of life away, but it will certainly remind us of that Peace of Christ which passes all understanding.

Faithfully yours,

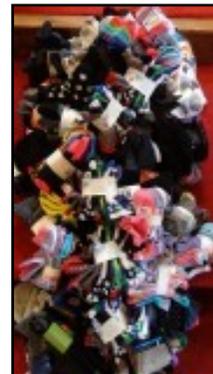
Bradley

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME COMES TO AN END

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 am on **Sunday, November 6th** so don't forget to set your clock **BACK** one hour either Saturday night before you go to bed or Sunday morning when you get up so you'll be at church at the right time!

SOX!!

We have received 432 pairs of socks (so far!) to be distributed at the Canyon Dinner in Hungry Horse the last week of October and, because there are so many, we will do so again in February. What an extraordinary gift of warmth from all the people of All Saints'! May our brothers and sisters receiving these items of comfort know the warmth of these socks to be nothing other than the embrace of the Body of Christ.



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

All Saints' Sunday, November 6th, is our day! Its origins go back to the fourth century. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III called for All Saints' Day to be November 1st and from then on most of the Western Church has celebrated, on that day, the lives of the saints, known and unknown, with great festivity. All Saints' Sunday, is always the Sunday following All Saints' Day. **And to celebrate "our" day, there will be a brunch between the two services!**

ALL SAINTS
DAY



ALL SAINTS' WOMEN FALL FUNDRAISER

Sunday, November 20, 2016 following each service.



Items for sale:
Baked goods
Frozen Entrées
All Saints' Cookbooks
All Saints' Note Cards



Also including a Silent Auction of goods and services

ASW Raffle Quilt

The ASW Flannel Raffle Quilt is on display in Memorial Hall. It is 58" x 82". Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and are available in Memorial Hall. For more information ask Kathy or Shawn. **The drawing for the quilt will be after the 11:00 service on November 20.** You need not be present to win.

Members of the congregation are invited to help provide items or services for the fundraiser. There will be more information after the services for the next few Sundays.



SPARROW'S NEST

By Vera Smith

For those of you who may not be familiar with Sparrow's Nest of Northwest Montana, it is an emerging non-profit organization whose mission is dedicated to ensuring safe, supportive housing for unaccompanied, homeless high school students in Flathead County. The organization sees itself as a mechanism for empowering the homeless teens to graduate from high school and become productive, contributing members of our community.



On **Saturday, December 10th**, from 7 pm to 7 am, Sparrow's Nest will hold its third annual fundraiser, "When the Night Comes", on the grounds of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Avenue, in Whitefish. At that time, volunteers will sleep outside either in a tent, a cardboard box or a car in solidarity with those teens who are doing the very same thing every night, not just one.

As a volunteer, I have committed to participating in this palpable event choosing to sleep under a cardboard box in addition to forgoing my dinner that night. If you would like to make a donation in exchange for me sleeping outside, please make your check payable to All Saints' Episcopal Church with Sparrow's Nest Fundraiser on the memo line. Not only will I be most grateful, but know that your contribution will help bring a teen in from the cold.

Thank you very much.

PLEDGE INGATHERING SUNDAY

On **Sunday, November 20th**, we will gather in the pledges for 2017. Over the last month and a half, our fellow parishioners, the Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden and Rector, and our chair of the Stewardship of Financial Resources Program, will have all written letters to compliment our Ministry Narrative. Needless to say, we take this ministry of ours seriously. And we hope that those mailings have been helpful in our collective contemplation of this aspect of ministry, stewardship.

So on November 20th, please bring your pledge cards to All Saints'. If you are unable to come to church that day, please bring them the Sunday before or drop them in the mail. As soon as we get our pledges in, we can move toward not just completing a proposed budget for 2017, but even more importantly, firming up our plans for our parish's ministry in the coming new year.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

We will celebrate Thanksgiving Day on **Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, November 23rd** at 10:00 in the morning at The Springs in Whitefish and again at noon at All Saints' with the Holy Eucharist. As the weather can begin to get harsh this time of year, and the day is only a month away from being its shortest in light, we've found this to be a good time to gather and give thanks.

Happy
Thanksgiving

ADVENT

Advent begins Sunday, November 27th.

We mark and celebrate Advent a number of ways including lighting the Advent Wreath, using a liturgy which draws reflection, focusing sermons on preparing ourselves and the Church for the yearly commemoration of the coming of our Lord, and, additionally, we also have four special offerings.

On the First Sunday of Advent, we invite you to bring teddy bears and other stuffed animals to the crèche. These cuddly bears and the like will then be given to North Valley Hospital for them to distribute to anxious kids who arrive at the emergency room for treatment. The hospital says these teddy bears are absolutely essential to their efforts to comfort children who can be awfully frightened by their visit to the ER. Because the hospital needs to store them, please bring new stuffed animals that are no bigger than 10 inches tall. (They need to be new for reasons of cleanliness.)

If you want to get a bit ahead in this ministry of gifts to the crèche, the remaining Sundays involve our bringing food for the community food banks, pet food which will be distributed out of the Flathead Spay and Neuter Task Force, and warm clothing for those at Samaritan House.

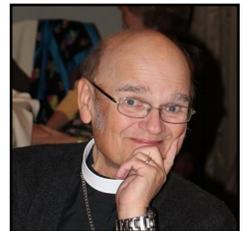


SOME THOUGHTS ON GIVING THANKS

By your editor, Jan

While I was at the Dioceses convention in Great Falls, I had the great pleasure of hearing a great speaker named Fr. Paul Bresnahan. He gave me permission to use some of his thoughts off and on when I thought we might learn something from them.

The thoughts below on giving thanks come from his blog, www.frpaulsplace.blogspot.com, and are used with his permission:.



“We, the followers of Jesus, often begin with our anxiety over one thing or another, how little we have and let’s face it, we complain. It’s too hot. It’s too cold. There isn’t enough money. Work is getting to us. Somebody is driving us to distraction. And on and on it goes.

On the other hand, Jesus begins with giving thanks and distributing what little there is, until all have their fill and then, when we collect the leftovers, there are 12 more baskets full, interestingly enough, one for each of the disciples. An ample amount to fill the need of all. We called it a miracle then. But when we give thanks, miracles do happen. This is how Jesus satisfied the hunger of the 5,000. Days later there were 4,000 and the same anxiety attack strikes. Again they say we don’t have enough. Jesus upbraids them; do you still not get it? Give thanks for what you have, share it, and there will be more than enough for all and more besides.”

NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 *** All Saints' Sunday/brunch Day light savings ends 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 Reading Group 1 pm	11	12
13 Services at 9 and 11 am	14 ASW 11 am Memorial Hall	15	16 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	17 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	18	19
20 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:15 pm ASW Fall Sale	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Services 10 am at The Springs Noon at All Saints"	24 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	25	26
27 Advent begins Teddy bears for crèche Services at 9 and 11 am	28	29	30 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs			

*** Building Committee will meet at 12:15 Nov 6th

PET BLESSING PHOTOS

Below you will see some photos from the annual blessing of the pets held in October. As your editor, I'm happy to see there was at least one cat there since mine couldn't come...and a rescue cat at that!



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

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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
Clarice Brooks
Ben Bushnell
Jan Rayford
Shawn Sloan

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