

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

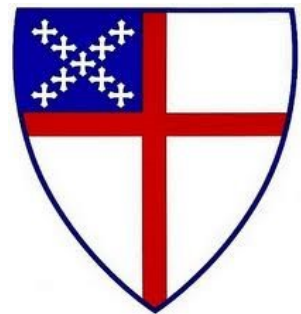
VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2018

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As I write these thoughts, this evening, I'm overwhelmed by the fact that at 10:15 this morning, our time, spring arrived. When it came our way, I was standing on the bank of the Swan River, in Missoula County by Lindbergh Lake, wondering, quite frankly, what I ever did to deserve all this. Family, friends, church, living where I do, and being able to head "down the Swan" to a cabin my folks built in 1963, and then there is that whole forgiveness of sins, release from the sting of death, eternal life here and now, and everlasting life, in, hopefully, another decade, maybe two, perhaps if I lose ten pounds and give up English licorice, three. (Have you ever had this stuff? It should be a controlled substance!)



*Christ
is
Risen!*

And then throw in the fact that the Chili Open made \$6,000 (we had added a couple of items twice accounting for my saying it was initially \$6,500 on the fifth Sunday in Lent), and we met our goal for the Lenten community offering. Kids from Columbia Falls, thanks to Farm Hands, will have fresh fruit all spring break long and an extra apple or orange for two additional weeks. The women going to the Abbie Shelter, seeking relief from abuse, will get comfort and direction in a refurbished counseling room because of All Saints'. And then there is the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund Blessings coupon book. A lot of folks, including me, have had fun counting light bulbs, shoes, cans of food in the pantry and bottles of hooch in the cabinet and putting a corresponding offering for those abundant blessings in the hope chest. All of that money, collected from those three efforts, connects us with folks we probably will never meet (including four legged types), and we are richer because we gave away out of the exuberant blessings bestowed upon us by God.

It's Easter and nothing can stop God's grace. Nothing. Really, nothing. (I really mean "nothing.") But it is up to us to recognize that in our own lives and to live it for others. Death is defeated. I've been to the tomb in Jerusalem and just like they said, I found it empty. There is no one in it. And that means, as St. John Chrysostom said, "not one dead remains in the tomb" including those we love but see no longer.

So, dear friends, Happy Easter. God's grace has simply overwhelmed us. May we be awash in the awareness.

Faithfully yours,

Bradley

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EASTER SUNDAY EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday, following each of the services, there will be an Easter egg hunt for the youth. Hopefully they won't have to hunt for them in the snow! Below are some photos from previous hunts.



LENTEN OFFERINGS

We are delighted to report that our Lenten activities were wonderfully supported this year.

The \$6,000 from the Chili Open (pictures later in the e-letter) will be divided equally between the Friends of the Flathead County Shelter, The Humane Society of Northwest Montana, The Flathead Spay & Neuter Clinic and Spay Montana which provides spay and neutering services to the Blackfeet Reservation.

Our Lenten offerings will enable us to send \$1,000 to the Abbie Shelter and Crisis Line for their construction project renovating their counseling space. We will also be sending \$1,000 to Farm Hands-Nourish the Flathead to provide fruit for 200 students during spring break and additional servings for two additional Fridays after that for their "food for the weekend" backpack program.

We did this as a way of connecting with those we might not know which is part of the spirituality of reconciliation with a world that can, at times, be very broken. Thanks to all who made this possible.

ERD COUPON BOOKS

The in-gathering for the Episcopal Relief and Development coupon books will take place **Sunday, April 8th**. You are welcome to bring your offering that day and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your support of this extraordinary ministry of the Episcopal Church.

2018 CHILI OPEN PHOTOS

Once again, All Saints' had a very, very successful Chili Open. This in spite of the fact that it was played in deeper than usual snow...but isn't that the point? In case it wasn't obvious, it was played on St. Patrick's Day this year.



HOUSE OF BISHOPS STATEMENT ON GUN VIOLENCE**Episcopal House of Bishops meeting in retreat
accepts statement on gun violence**

[March 7, 2018] The House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church are meeting in retreat at Camp Allen in Navasota, TX. On March 7, the House of Bishops unanimously accepted the following statement on gun violence.

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live.” (Deuteronomy 30:19)

At this critical moment young people of the United States are inviting us to turn away from the nightmare of gun violence to the dream of choosing life. The young people of Parkland, Florida are calling for elected officials to:

- ban the sale of assault weapons
- prohibit the sale of high capacity magazines
- close loopholes in background checks

Others are seeking to:

- ban the sale of bump stocks
- raise the age to 21 years to purchase firearms
- challenge the National Rifle Association to support safe gun legislation.

We, the bishops of The Episcopal Church, wholeheartedly support and join with the youth in this call to action.

At the same time, we acknowledge that black and brown youth have continuously challenged the United States to address the gun violence that they and their communities are experiencing. We repent that, as bishops, we have failed to heed their call.

As bishops we commit to following the youth of the United States in their prophetic leadership. To that end we will observe a day of Lament and Action on March 14, one month to the day after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. (Bishops United Against Gun Violence) We pledge ourselves, and we invite our dioceses, to participate in the “March for our Lives” on March 24 in Washington DC and in cities and towns across the United States. We recognize the urgency of this moment and we recommit to working for safe gun legislation as our church has called for in multiple General Convention resolutions. In addition, we pledge ourselves to bring the values of the gospel to bear on a society that increasingly glorifies violence and trivializes the sacredness of every human life.

We will walk with the youth of the United States today and into the future in choosing life.

HOUSE OF BISHOPS STATEMENT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT/GENDER BIAS**Episcopal House of Bishops meeting accepts statement
on sexual harassment, gender bias**

[March 7, 2018] The House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church are meeting in retreat at Camp Allen in Navasota, TX. During the March 7 session, the bishops unanimously accepted the following statement on sexual harassment, gender-based violence, and gender bias and inequity.

This is the first time the House of Bishops has met as a body since the #MeToo movement began last fall, bringing to light the reality of sexual harassment, gender-based violence, and the cultural stronghold of gender bias and inequity. We continue our own work of reconciliation within our branch of God's Church, honoring what we have learned and accomplished, as well as acknowledging the distance we still must travel. Reconciliation is the long work of healing offered by the Spirit, made possible by grace, which requires our truth-telling and repentance.

Many of us have experienced sexual harassment and perhaps sexual violence. Bishops who are women know the "me-too" experience. Some bishops who are men know it as well. We live with different experiences of the cultural endowment of power. We know the Church has fallen short of our responsibility to listen and respond. In this time of heightened awareness it is with greater intention that we now invite the church to a deeper examination of what God intends for our relationships.

This work will take courage. As many women and men bravely come forward to speak the truth of their experience, courageous men and women will listen, where appropriate repent, and take an active role in repairing the brokenness, working to change the culture of our church.

We will offer a listening process in an open meeting at General Convention to hear more fully the stories of those who have been victims of sexual harassment and violence in the church. The date and time is July 4, 5:15 pm to 7:00 pm in the House of Bishops convention meeting space. The design of this process is being developed. Further details will be posted via social media and through Episcopal news outlets.

Together women and men can form partnerships for reconciliation. We seek a more faithful, just and holy life together. We welcome the Spirit's renewing work among us as we seek faithfully to walk in the way of Jesus.

House of Bishops, Spring, 2018



APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Services at 9 and 11 am 	2	3	4 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	5 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	6	7
8 Services at 9 and 11 am ERD Coupon Book ingathering	9	10	11 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	12 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	13	14
15 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:30	16	17	18 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	19 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	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 Followed by book study	27	28
29 Services at 9 and 11 am	30					

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have all missed Barbara and Gene since they left our area to move to Maine. As you know, Barbara has had health issues since she and Gene moved. Her daughter, Kimberly, forwarded us the following message from her mother:

“Your cards and messages mean more to me than you will ever know. Gene joins me in thanking you.” Barbara



Steve and Linda Wendfelt send their thanks to “our brothers and sisters of All Saints” for all the prayers offered during their time mourning Holly’s death.



Funeral services for Louise Wagener will be held at All Saints’ on Saturday, April 21st, at 11 am.

ALL SAINTS’ EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

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Christian Formation Minister/Children and Youth: Cynthia Benkelman
cgraine@montanasky.us
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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: Ben Pomerantz
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Ben Bushnell
Shawn Sloan
Heidi Sobczak
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