

# ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

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NOVEMBER 2019

## A LETTER FROM YOUR VESTRY

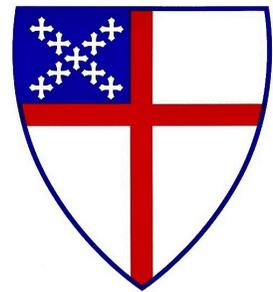
Fall seems to have arrived and left so suddenly! Here we are in November, the last few Sundays of the long Season of Pentecost, and we have already had our first snow. November seems to be a time of transition; of finally becoming adjusted to the rhythm of the school year for our families with children, of adjusting our clocks! (November 3, FALL BACK!), and adjusting to end of the church year cycle and the beginning of the new cycle as Advent begins.

This year we have all of November to prepare for Advent, as the first Sunday is December 1. How do we prepare for a time of expectantly waiting? Because that is Advent, expectantly waiting for Christmas. But also waiting for that day, December 21, which is the shortest day of the year and all the days after become incrementally longer and longer as our daylight expands. It is no wonder that we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, the light of the world, so close to the time when we begin to have more light in each day.

Perhaps we prepare by really making November a month of Thanksgiving, rather than just a day. Studies have shown that intentionally practicing gratitude can actually change the brain. Some show that by finding things to be grateful for each day makes participants become more altruistic; others show that gratitude increases happiness, better sleep, and lowers anxiety and depression. Preparing for the Christ Child by practicing gratitude daily is a way we can improve not only our lives, but the lives of those around us!

As the vestry contemplates the state of our parish, we find much to be grateful for: supply priests who faithfully celebrate the Eucharist with us each Sunday, new acolytes who will be acting as crucifers in our worship services, the Search Committee, who has been diligent in gathering and screening applicants - some of whom we expect will soon be presented to the vestry as appropriate for further consideration and discernment, the games we've played at game nights, the people who host coffee hours which continue to nourish our bodies and our need for fellowship, the flower guild and altar guild who make sure that our church reflects the beauty in our liturgy as we pray and praise God every Sunday... the list is endless.

So, the Vestry, for one, is going to make the entire month of November one of thankfulness and gratitude. This also seems appropriate as we conclude our stewardship campaign and turn in our pledges. And one of the most delightful areas in which we find joy is the people of the parish who come together week after week to be the Body of Christ and share in the holy mysteries of the



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## A LETTER FROM YOUR VESTRY (cont'd)

Eucharist each Sunday, as well as those members who are not with us right now but keep us in their prayers. Thank you!

Leif Peterson, Sr. Warden

Grace Benkelman, Jr. Warden

Shawn Sloan

Cynthia Benkelman

Kathy Thomas, clerk

Carl Thomas, treasurer

Heidi Sobczak

Betsy Paugh

## A LETTER FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN

One of my favorite scenes from the Bible is the Last Supper. This is when Jesus gets up from the table and washes the disciple's feet. It's also when he gives his famous "I am the vine and you are the branches" speech. Basically, the whole evening is Jesus trying to prepare his disciples for what's to come. Jesus knows what's about to happen, but the disciples are clueless. And confused. He tells them more than once, "I'm going away, but I'll be back." Because we know what's about to happen, it's an evening fraught with emotion.

But my favorite part is when he graduates the disciples to the status of "friends."

"I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy may be your joy, and your joy fully mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father."

And then this zinger:

"Remember, you didn't choose me; I chose you."

I think it's astonishing that Jesus gives us the co-equal status of "friends." I also find it astonishing what he expects us to do with that status. It's nothing earth-shattering, but maybe it is. It's also quite simple. Jesus tells us to "love one another." How do we do that? Luckily, we don't have to guess because Jesus tells us. He made it very clear: "When you go out into the world, be a friend."

Your Senior Warden and Friend,

Leif

## ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

All Saints' Sunday, November 3rd, 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. All Saints' Sunday is always the Sunday following All Saints' Day.



**INGATHERING SUNDAY**

On Sunday, November 10th, we will gather in the pledges for 2020. Over the last month and a half, our fellow parishioners, the Junior and Senior Wardens and Vestry, 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 seriously and we hope that those mailings have been helpful in our collective contemplation of this aspect of ministry, stewardship.

So, on November 10th, please bring your pledge cards to All Saints'. If you are unable to come to church that day, just drop them in the mail. As soon as we get our pledges in, we can move towards, not just completing a proposed budget for 2020, but even more importantly, firming up our parish's ministry for the coming year.

**THANKSGIVING SERVICES**

We will celebrate Thanksgiving on Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, November 27th. There will be a 10 am service at The Springs in Whitefish and a service 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 less than a month away from being its shortest in light, we've found this to be a good time to gather and give thanks.

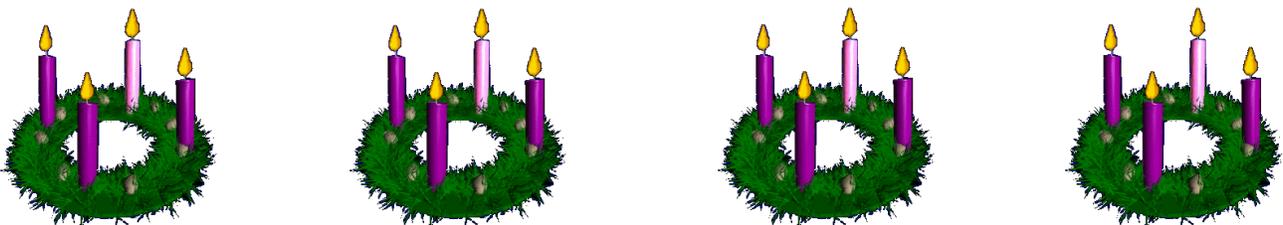


**ADVENT (RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!)**

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st. We mark and celebrate Advent a number of ways including lighting the Advent Wreath, using a liturgy which draws on reflection, and focusing sermons on preparing ourselves and the Church for the yearly commemoration of the coming of our Lord. We also have four special offerings.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we will invite you to bring teddy bears and other stuffed animals to the creche. The remaining Sundays involve bringing food (human), pet food and warm clothing.

The organizations that will be receiving these offerings will be announced in the December E-Letter.



# An afternoon of Games



Join us on **Sunday, November 10th** for **another Game Day!** We will begin with



snacks **after the 11 o'clock service** and then spend time playing games. From "Crazy Eights" to "Fill or Bust", there is something for everyone. If you have a favorite game that

you would like to share, please bring it! Also anyone who is able, is encouraged to bring a snack to share.

This is an "intergenerational" activity, so all ages are encouraged to join in the fun.





# All Saints' Altar Guild Meeting



All Saints' Altar Guild is in need of new (or returning) members. If you are interested in learning more about Altar Guild please plan to attend a meeting on **Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.**

All current altar guild members are invited to attend to discuss future scheduling concerns.

The ministry of the Altar Guild is to prepare the sanctuary for services and to put away items afterwards. This includes setting up and taking down the altar, as well as caring for the vestments, altar linens, and vessels.

Even if you are not able to commit to full time we would still love for you to join us as a backup or as just an occasional fill in person.

For any questions please contact the Altar Guild chairperson, Jenny Krueger, or Shawn in the office.



# AED TRAINING



## OPPORTUNITY

Thru the generosity of a grant from Flathead Electric, All Saints' has had an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for some time now, but we need some people to be trained / certified to use it.

If you are interested in learning how to use the AED, please contact Shawn in the office.

Depending on the number of people who sign up, a class may either be held here at All Saints' or at North Valley Hospital.



**RECTOR EMERITUS**

By Shawn Sloan

If you were in church on October 20 or at the Pet Blessing on October 5, you undoubtedly noticed a familiar face, that of Bradley Wirth. You may have found yourself saying, *Hey, didn't that guy retire? I seem to remember a huge party we threw for him.* As of July 31, 2019, Bradley **IS** officially retired as the Rector of All Saints'; he is no longer on the payroll or an employee of All Saints', but he does now hold the position of *Rector Emeritus*. So what exactly does that mean?

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary "emeritus" is an adjective which means "holding after retirement an honorary title corresponding to that held during active service." It is most often used in conjunction with college positions, such as *Dean Emeritus* or *Professor Emeritus*, but is also used with ministers, board chairmen, presidents of companies, as well as other occupations.

All Saints' case, back at our Annual Meeting in January, a resolution was introduced asking permission from the Diocese of Montana to allow the Vestry of All Saints' to give Bradley, "... the assistant cleric's position of 'Rector Emeritus' and with that office a limited portfolio of responsibilities and functions, serving at the direction and pleasure of the Vestry..." The resolution passed at our Annual Meeting, went on to the Diocese, and was approved by the Standing Committee.

The Vestry then came up with a list of responsibilities and functions that they would like Bradley to perform until the next rector is called. At that time, the new rector will decide if they would like to continue to enlist Bradley's services or not. It is totally at the discretion of the next rector, and not the Vestry, whether Bradley will continue to assist in these capacities once the new rector is in place. We were extremely fortunate that Bradley graciously accepted the Vestry's request to perform the following when he is available:

**Wednesday Eucharist at the Springs** - if Bradley is not available there will be morning prayer

**Home Communion & Hospital Visits** - Bradley will join the rotation of Eucharistic Visitors and when there are no Eucharistic Visitors for Sunday home communions, Bradley will do home communions on Wednesdays after the service at the Springs and if no others are available, or he is requested, he will make hospital visits as well

**Special Occasions** - such as The Blessing of the Animals, acolyte training, or meeting with the Youth Group

For all of the above activities Bradley will receive no compensation other than mileage reimbursement, if requested, at whatever the current federal rate is.

The Vestry has also asked Bradley to perform these duties if he is available:

**Eucharists** - Join in the rotation to be one of the supply priests for Sunday services or special services such as Thanksgiving Eve

**Weddings and Funerals** - if requested, Bradley will be the available for these services

**Emergency Pastoral Visits** - Bradley, when available, will make middle of the night or other non "regularly scheduled" pastoral visits

For these activities Bradley will receive compensation in accordance with Diocesan guidelines that all our other supply clergy receive.

I personally am **extremely grateful** that Bradley is around to help out while we are in the middle of our rector search. For me, he also holds the titles of *Monthly Water Tester Emeritus* and *Lightbulb Changer Emeritus*, and for Blaze, that of *Flying Squirrel Thrower Emeritus*.

God willing and the people consenting  
 The Reverend Martha E. (Marty) Stebbins  
 will be ordained and consecrated in the  
 One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church  
 as the Tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana

Saturday, December 7, 2019  
 Eleven O'clock in the Morning

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
 512 Logan Street  
 Helena, Montana 59601

Chief Consecrator:  
 The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry  
 Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church

Bishops: Rochet, Chimere and Tippet  
 Priests and Deacons: Alb and White Stole

Reception to follow  
 The Great Northern Best Western Hotel Ballroom  
 835 Great Northern Boulevard  
 Helena, Montana 59601

### You too are invited

All the people of our Episcopal Diocese of Montana are cordially invited to this Ordination and Consecration of our new Bishop – The Rev. Marty Stebbins at St Paul's United Methodist Church at 512 Logan Street in Helena.

### Consider sharing your ministry at the Ordination

Choir members Mr. Dick Brown and the Cathedral Choir invite choir members in parishes to join as a diocesan choir for the ordination. Two of three rehearsals are required (5, 6 and 7<sup>th</sup>). Contact him at 208-712-7469 or [bndrown@gmail.com](mailto:bndrown@gmail.com)

Acolytes Ruth Ann Shuler is coordinating adult and children acolytes from our diocese. They will have a special gathering to be with our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Contact her at [mattsmom92@msn.com](mailto:mattsmom92@msn.com)

Vergers It is known that vergers from among us are asked to gather also. Specific information will be made soon.

### Festivities surrounding the Ordination

The gatherings surrounding Rev. Marty's ordination speak well of the nature of church together. These are times important for the local church, these are moments in which the entire Episcopal people are represented together. These are days of blessings for the family, friends, colleagues, co-workers, and supporters of Marty throughout her life. And it takes place here when the melding of life and faith and good will takes place in such a unique manner.

The presence of our Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry provides unique events for our Diocese. He will meeting with our diocesan clergy and share a meal with our deacons and priests. And the family and friends of our Bishop-elect Rev Marty Stebbins will have a meal with our diocesan leadership and the visiting bishops of the Episcopal Church.

Bishop Curry will share time with the Bishops of the church and in a very real way will gather our new bishop into their specific ministry among us. They have specific procedures to fulfill together. And as such, they mightily welcome and support Rev Marty Stebbins as our new bishop.

# NOVEMBER 2019

| Sun   | Mon | Tue | Wed  | Thu  | Fri | Sat                           |
|---|-----|-----|--|--|-----|-------------------------------|
|   |     |     |  |  | 1   | 2                             |
| 3<br><b>Daylight Savings Time ends!</b><br><b>All Saints' Sunday</b><br>Services at 9 and 11 am | 4   | 5   | 6<br>10 am service at The Springs  | 7<br>Noonday service<br>All Saints   | 8   | 9                             |
| 10<br>Services at 9 and 11 am<br><b>Ingathering</b><br><b>GAME DAY!</b>                         | 11  | 12  | 13<br>10 am service at The Springs   | 14<br>Noonday service<br>All Saints'   | 15  | 16<br><b>Altar Guild 9 am</b> |
| 17<br>Services at 9 and 11 am<br><b>Vestry Meeting 12:30</b>                                    | 18  | 19  | 20<br>10 am service at The Springs   | 21<br>Noonday service<br>All Saints'   | 22  | 23                            |
| 24<br>Services at 9 and 11 am   | 25  | 26  | 27<br><b>Thanksgiving Eve Services</b><br><b>10 am The Springs</b><br><b>12 noon All Saints'</b> | 28<br> | 29  | 30                            |

# PETS AND PUMPKINS AND ACOLYTES, OH MY!



## 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](mailto:allsaintsmt@gmail.com)

Christian Formation Minister/Children and Youth: Cynthia Benkelman  
[cgraine@montanasky.us](mailto:cgraine@montanasky.us)  
406-261-9636

All Saints' website: [www.allsaintsmt.org](http://www.allsaintsmt.org)

*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](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA)

**Webpage link:** <http://www.allsaintsmt.org>

**Vestry members:**  
Senior Warden: Leif Peterson  
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman  
Treasurer: Carl Thomas  
Clerk: Kathy Thomas  
Cynthia Benkelman  
Betsy Paugh  
Shawn Sloan  
Heidi Sobczak

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