

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

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APRIL 2016

LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

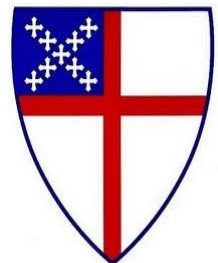
Happy Easter! If you have an opportunity, go to our website and look at the Easter video that Shawn produced. We've yet to don berets and sit in directors' chairs but if I may say so, these things are telling the story in ways I would have never imagined being a part of when I was first ordained. Back then our technology was limited to mimeograph and Xerox machines, some scissors, a pot of glue, and our telephoning someone to look at the poster we just stapled to the street light pole. Today, we reach people around the world with the click of a mouse having written something displayed on a computer screen. But as marvelous as electronic things and communication have come to be, some things never change, and time seems to be one of them.

Last fall, we thought we would visit where the Glacier Rim Fire took place and film the devastation. And then we had to wait because our next shots would be of snow resting on the fields with burnt trees sticking through the stark white frozen blanket. That gave us the scene for the Lent video. In it we talked about waiting and using that time for introspection. But even as we were filming last fall, we had our eye looking towards spring and the melting of snow, the running of water and the emergence of plant life. And while we knew back in September and October that it was going to be there, as certain as would be the arrival of Easter, it is always thrilling to see new life, after we have waited so long.

And it is equally thrilling to see the new life of the Resurrection in the gathered community. Be it through things we have done these last weeks and months, such as the Chili Open and our Lenten collections for Episcopal Relief and Development, the Youth Home and Kids Against Hunger, or who we are, that is a prayerful community that cares for one another, this has been a time in which I clearly have seen such new life in our parish. And I'm delighted to say that that has only whetted my appetite to look for more of the same. I know I won't be disappointed because some of us will be confirmed and commissioned as acolytes when Bishop Brookhart comes for his visitation June 12th. And over the next months we will watch the preparations for our top notch fabulous Summer Day Camp in August. As well, we will anticipate our graduates leaving high school for new challenges, bolstered by our cheers and prayers. All this and so much more will be the proof of Easter filling our picture as far as the eye can see. So be on the lookout for life and rejoice in the fact that in one another we see the Resurrected Christ. What a privilege! What a thrill!

Faithfully yours,

Bradley



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INQUIRERS' CLASSES

Bishop Brookhart will be coming to All Saints' Church for his Visitation on June 12th.

On that day we will have only one service at 11:00 so that we may all be together with him as we join in anticipated confirmations, receptions and the commissioning of acolytes.

He will meet with the Vestry on the afternoon of Saturday, June 11th to review with us, where we are in the ministry we share.

To that end, we are having a Spring Inquirers' Class that will be meeting on four Wednesday evenings and a Saturday morning. The Wednesday classes will begin at 5:30 with a simple supper followed with the evening program starting at 6:00. (And yes, those who arrive a bit late can enjoy supper during the program.) So hold open Wednesday evenings: **April 20th**, (we are skipping April 27th as Bradley is in Dallas for a meeting) **May 4th, May 11th, May 18th** and Saturday morning, **June 11th**. We will cover all sorts of topics ranging from the liturgy we find in the Prayer Book, the history and governance of the Church, identification of spiritual gifts, and how one's own ministry can fit into the total ministry of All Saints'. All signing up for the class will receive the book, *Jesus Was An Episcopalian (And You Can Be One Too!): A Newcomer's Guide to the Episcopal Church*, written by the Reverend Chris Yaw. It is a wonderful and, at times, light-hearted approach to our community of faith.

Let Bradley or Shawn know if you would like to attend. All are welcomed including those who want a bit of a refresher in our church's life and teachings.

A SPECIAL THANKS!

Thanks to all who made the Chili Open such a success. This is an amazingly labor-intensive event with moving snow to make snow traps around the greens, to working in the kitchen and feeding everyone, to organizing the auction and making items available for it, to hosting the party the night before, to doing all the ever-changing administrative work. And thanks to all those who golfed and bid on auction items. As well, thanks for underwriting and thus for making possible free golf for our guests from the Flathead Youth Home. And special thanks for whatever you all did to have the rain stop prior to the morning golfing and not begin again until all were off the course following the afternoon golf.

We raised \$5040 which will be distributed to the Northwest Humane Society, the Spay and Neuter Task Force, Friends of the Flathead County Shelter and Spay Montana - Browning.

Please take a moment to thank, in person, the good people of Famous Dave's in Kalispell and Tupelo's and Loula's in Whitefish for providing the incredibly good food. As well, thanks to those who brought pastries and vegetarian chili. What a day!

ERD HOPE CHESTS

For those of you who have been faithfully dropping your coins in your ERD box in gratitude for all the blessings that are in your life, thank you. **The ERD boxes will be collected on Sunday, April 10th.** For those of you whose boxes burst at the seams, checks will be accepted as well. **Please note ERD on the memo line.**



APRIL SHOWERS BRING....

By Cynthia Benkelman

Well, we know they bring flowers in May! And we hope that the April showers provide us with much needed moisture, and happen at our convenience! But looking forward to those May flowers, the children will be creating their own May flowers in children's chapel. Beginning April 10th, kids will create their own flower for the next few Sundays. We will make them out of heavy paper and attach magnets to them. At the May 1st (May day!) Sunday service these refrigerator magnets will be available for parishioners to select and take home. They will have the child's first name on them and we ask that anyone who selects a magnet prays for that child during spring and into summer.

If there are any kids who cannot attend during these Sundays, we will be happy to make them a magnet! Just let me know. My number is **261-9636**.

Also in children's chapel, when we have Godly Play, we will break tradition and return to our Old Testament stories using the desert box. We had just gotten past Abraham and Sarah when we started Lent stories, so now we can hear about biblical people such as Jacob, Ruth and Moses, and see how the tabernacle was carried from place to place by the People of God. After Pentecost, we will return to the New Testament and hear more stories about Jesus, the Apostles and Paul. We will also hear some liturgical stories.

**SPRING YOUTH RETREAT**

By Cynthia Benkelman

In May, all middle school through high school youth should consider going on the Spring Youth Retreat. This is open to 5th-12th grade students. If it's your first youth event or your last (for our seniors), this will be a great experience to meet other youth from all over the state. If we can get four kids or more to go, we can go to Bozeman as a group. The cost might be slightly more if we need to rent a van, but there is assistance available with fees. Please call me or email me at cgraine@montanasky.us to let me know if your child is interested so that we can make the plans.

Who: Youth in grades 5-12 (friends are welcome)

When: May 13 (arrive between 6-8 pm)-May 15 (depart at noon)

Where: Rockhaven Camp and Retreat Center (66850 Gallatin Rd, Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730)

What: We will be worshiping, singing, playing, serving, learning, and growing together

Cost: \$60 per person (fee assistance is available)



GRACE CAMP QUILT RETREAT

Some of you may not know but there is a wonderful camp at our beautiful Camp Marshall on the south end of Flathead Lake called "Grace Camp". The children attending this particular camp are from homes in which one or both parents are incarcerated. These children often arrive at camp with barely anything camp-worthy. It has been the tradition of Grace Camp to provide these campers with a hand made quilt.

The Women's Spring Retreat this year is **Thursday April 21-Sunday April 24th**. This retreat is dedicated to making quilts for Grace Campers. Often we are up at all hours of the night and all day piecing quilt tops, cutting batting, running the quilt machine, sewing on binding, laughing and creating one-of-a-kind quilts in the spirit of giving and sisterhood.

This retreat is not just about sewing and making quilts. One year we learned to chant prayers, the next we learned that the Episcopal church has a rosary and how to use it in prayer. Another year we gave each other communion. There are devotions throughout the day and evening and a service on Sunday with a blessing of the quilts before we say good-bye until next year.

Please consider coming to join us. I know there are lots of quilters out there with stashes of fabric that would be suitable for ages 8 through 16. Registration is through the Camp Marshall website or use this link: <http://diomontana.com/2015-womens-quilt-retreat/> (the link says 2015, but it is for this year).

If you cannot come to retreat this year, we welcome quilt donations for the camp. We need to keep an inventory so that there are plenty to choose from, as Grace 'campers' choose their own quilt right away when they get to camp; they get to keep the quilt and take it home with them when the camp concludes. You can drop a quilt off at the church (the address is on last page of the e-letter) or contact Brenda Guiltner by emailing her at b.guiltner@charter.net to arrange delivery.

Dimensions for the camp quilts are about 50 inches by 60 inches - 12 squares; 3 across X 4 down that are 12x12 inches square, plus a 6 inch border. Of course any other quilt pattern of similar dimension is also welcome. Quilts should be made of cotton quilting fabric or flannel, 100% cotton if available. Cotton works well as it is heat resistant and washable - the kids use them at campfire circle.

LENT MADNESS 2016

By Shawn Sloan

On five Wednesday nights during Lent, a small but dedicated group of Lent Madness fans met to dine on delicious soups and salads, but more importantly, to learn about, discuss, and then vote for their favorite Saints in the 2016 Lent Madness battle. The victor emerged from the "Lent Dome" as the winner of the coveted Golden Halo. Several favorites got knocked out in the early rounds such as FD Maurice, William Wilberforce, and Helena. In the end, we saw the words of our winner ring true. "Truth is powerful and it prevails" as Sojourner Truth emerged victorious among our group.

Lent Madness is "played" online during the season of Lent. It pits 32 saints and heroes of the church against each other. The point is to become more familiar with well known saints and to discover lesser known ones. Learning the stories of their lives enlightened, inspired, and astounded us. Every day during Lent, except Saturdays and Sundays, somewhere between 7,000 and 9,000 people all over the world would vote online for their favorite saint. There was much lively and heated, yet always respectful, banter online as people tried to sway others to vote for their favorites. The winner of the "official" Golden Halo was Dietrich Bonhoeffer (who made it to the



LENT MADNESS 2016 (cont'd)

semi-finals in our group where he was knocked out by our winner, Sojourner Truth). Of the 31 battles, our group matched the online voting in 21 of them. We look forward to another exciting battle next year, but until then, we will have to deal with the as yet incurable affliction, LMW, also known as Lent Madness Withdrawal.

CHILI OPEN PHOTOS.



EASTER 2016 PHOTOS



REJOICE!



REJOICE!



APRIL 2016

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

MORE EASTER PHOTOS



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

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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:
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Senior Warden: Heidi Sobczak
Junior Warden: Judi Williams
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
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