

# ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2017

## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

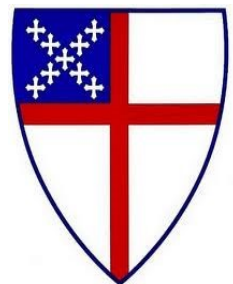
As I write this (December 21st), we are entering our first day of winter. Brrrrrrr. (Well not exactly, it is thirty degrees warmer than it was last Saturday during the last week of fall.) But here is the interesting thing. While the world out there will feel cold tomorrow, an extraordinary thing takes place: we will have four seconds more of daylight than the day before. It may not be golfing weather by Christmas, but bit by bit, we will have the ability to see more of our world in the light of day than we have been used to this dark December. In fact, around the time you read this, we will have gained somewhere in the neighborhood of nine minutes of light from the last day of Autumn. Again, it's not exactly Alaska in June but, we are heading in the direction of illumination.

Epiphany coincides with this. Christmas is a wonderful season, the means by which God incarnate is celebrated. The birth of our savior is nothing short of being monumentally extraordinary. However, it is the Season of Epiphany, which starts on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th, that ushers in disclosing or manifesting Christ to the world. What happened on that holy night, so distant and hidden from any except a few shepherds, Joseph, Mary and some animals, becomes clear in the light of Epiphany. (Epiphany, by the way, is just a Greek word which means appearance or manifestation.)

And so it is not an accident that we shine a spotlight on the church during these next seven and a half weeks. And one way we do that is at our Annual Convention, which will be the last Sunday of this month, January 29th following the 11:00 service. Reports will be sent your way. You will hear what has been done in all of our names, and in the name of Jesus, in the community, close and worldwide. And, of course, we will talk about where we think the parish has directed the building discernment committee and the vestry to go with possible plans. It will be at this meeting that we find out if we go for some kind of expansion or not. Needless to say, it will be an important one which will shape our future. (More information on the building issues will be forthcoming as will reports concerning the ministry of this parish.)

So even though we are kind of quiet during January, as the roads and snow really beg us to stay home in the evenings, as darkness gives way to light, so, too, do we begin to gear up. Therefore, rejoice. And get some sunscreen. All that is because we shine as the Body of Christ in a world eager to hear what we say and receive what we do. And with regard to the aforementioned golfing...the Tenth Annual Chili Open is only around two and a half months away.

Faithfully yours, Bradley



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## ANNUAL MEETING

All Saints' will be having its annual meeting after the 11 am service on **Sunday, January 29th**. The meeting will begin at **12:30**. There are many of important things to discuss, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

## SPARROW'S NEST

By Vera Smith

The Sparrow's Nest fundraiser, "When the Night Comes", was a success on many levels. First and foremost, I survived the cold and long night. Secondly, 94 hearty souls joined in to not only raise funds but to create more awareness. The amount raised will be released shortly as contributions are still being received. I will definitely report back.

I'm overwhelmed by the support you have given me both in monetary contributions but also in prayer (for my survival!).

Please know I am infinitely grateful. Blessings to you all in the new year.



The construction of  
Vera's sleeping quarters  
by the youth group



## ALL SAINTS' WOMEN

By Vera Smith

All Saints' Women will meet on **Tuesday morning, January 10th at 10:30 am** in Memorial Hall. We will be voting on the disbursement of funds raised. Please join us for this important meeting and feel free to call Vera at 471-9157 with any questions or comments. Hope to see you then!





## ADVENT OFFERINGS AT THE CRECHE

Thank you to everyone who so generously brought offerings to the crèche during the four Sundays of Advent. If you remember, the first Sunday, teddy bears were gathered to be given to children arriving in the ER at North Valley Hospital; the second Sunday, food was collected for area food bank(s); the third Sunday, we brought cat and dog food to be distributed through the Flathead Valley Spay and Neuter clinic; and the last Sunday, warm clothing was brought for Samaritan House to give to those less fortunate during this cold Montana winter. Below are photos showing the level of your generosity. It never ceases to amaze.



## UPCOMING SPECIAL EDITION (I PROMISE)

There has been a plan in the works for quite some time to send out a special edition of the E-letter that deals with all of the ways All Saints' is available on social media.

Shawn has done an outstanding job (and a quite entertaining one) writing the article. However, your editor has done a poor job of assembling the issue.

I know you will enjoy it, and I'll do my best to get it to you in 2017. Maybe even in January!

Just a little something you can look forward to in the new year!

**ALL SAINTS' YOUTH**

By Cynthia Benkelman

The youth of All Saints' not only played the "old familiar carols" and told the holy story of the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve, they spelled..it...out!

All Saints' youth presented "A Capital Christmas" for their annual Christmas pageant at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service. This year's program featured children and youth presenting the letters from the word Christmas to represent a key word in the Christmas story. Eventually the letters were rearranged to spell out the word "Christmas". As they told the story, they sang carols and Christmas songs and ended the pageant by inviting the congregation to sing "Joy to the World" along with them.

The front of the church was filled with kids performing and singing and they were joined by several returning college students who wanted to continue this tradition along with them.

\*A note from your editor: as you can tell by one of the photos below, they played to a packed house!



# JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Services at 9 and 11 am 	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Services at 9 and 11 am	9	10 <b>ASW meet at 10:30 am in Memorial Hall</b>	11 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	12 Noon service at AS	13	14
15 Services at 9 and 11 am <b>Vestry 12:15</b>	16	17	18 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	19 Noon service at AS	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	27	28
29 Services at 9 and 11 am <b>Annual Meeting 12:30 pm</b>	30	31				



## A PRAYER OF SELF DEDICATION FOR THE NEW YEAR By

Now in the quiet of the day, I beckon to my soul and listen.  
There is only silence.  
It is a silence I love to return to.  
Because I am not alone there.  
In that silence I come to my heart of hearts.  
The silence becomes a Presence.  
And comes to life in a way that invites me to love.  
The Presence wants to love me.  
I resist that.  
But the silent Presence insists.  
I look again into the mirror of my soul and see the mystery  
It wells up within me to gratitude.  
I search for a name for the mystery.  
And then do I remember God.  
I discover that God is there within my heart.  
And God's heart beats within me and among us.  
There is a love that speaks to me.

I find myself aware and awake.  
To the joy of life and sorrow of suffering;  
the ugliness of hateful violence.  
The noble beauty of creative art,  
The sin that destroys the self and seeks to destroy others.  
God's heart moves in mine and dispels the fear.  
Hear the Word of God and listen  
God requires justice, love, mercy and compassion  
And Jesus reaches out his arms to the farthest ends of every human heart.  
Here and now I dedicate myself to Jesus.  
In the poor and the homeless, the hungry and those who suffer.  
The heart of Jesus moves in me, and the love of God  
Knows no bounds.



## ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

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Bradley's E-mail: [canonwirth@gmail.com](mailto:canonwirth@gmail.com)  
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Christian Formation Minister/Children and Youth: Cynthia Benkelman  
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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](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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