

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

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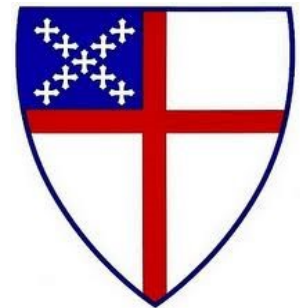
A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Unfathomable! Remember last spring when I said that fall and winter would be here before we know it? Well, fall is here and soon winter will arrive, and boy do I know it! All the stuff that has to be done! As I write this, I'm aware that there are leaves on the ground that have to be collected, a hole in the foundation that simply has to be fixed today, and that rain is forecasted for this afternoon. As well, at the Wirth house, we had serious water damage from last winter's snow and ice build up and lots of carpentry work had to be done. Besides damage from the ice, squirrels had chewed holes in fascia boards and deposited in four or five areas, which included soffits under the eaves, anywhere from fifty to a hundred large pine cones for the winter. Needless to say, as the carpenters cleaned all that out, tossing the pine cones to the ground and then replacing the wood to close up the holes, the observing squirrel was livid. (He has since piled the majority of the pine cones under our front porch and has relocated his nest to a tree. I'm actually going to build him a house in a more protected place so that when mid-winter comes, he will be comfortable and I will be a little more free of guilt.)

I mention all this because, as we wind up the season of Pentecost and enter the first week of next month, Advent, the business of the season begins pressing upon us. And, in certain areas of our lives, things are probably not "going to go according to Hoyle," as card game players say. The world just refuses to revolve around our plans and intentions. The well-oiled machine of our list of things to do, which we must accomplish or the earth will stop revolving, will be derailed by a flat tire, a cold that keeps us in bed for a day, an element in the water heater burning out, or it can also be derailed by things that are wonderful. Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week were well-planned out and then we learned that the most fabulous neighbor we have ever had will be coming up from California for our granddaughter, Emily's, baptism. And that terrific blessing will complicate what I thought was incredibly important but now realize was mostly "stuff."

Here's the deal: Just as irritating things can get in the way of our jam-packed schedules and cause us to race around twice as fast as is useful under normal circumstances, so can, if we allow it, the continued grace of God, filled with insurmountable blessings, "get in the way" of our business as usual way of looking at life. Yes, the leaves have to be raked prior to the rain falling, but look around at the glorious colors of nature long enough to soak in the vision of God's creativity. That is a simple example of a task being displaced, if but for a few minutes, by grace. While bustling through the mall, getting a jar of huckleberry jam to send to someone in Iowa for their Thanksgiving breakfast, be



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A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR (Cont'd)

sacredly distracted long enough by the Salvation Army kettle, allowing you to make someone's life, you heretofore had not thought of, more pleasant. And yes, you can even delay putting up the lights outside before the snow flies by calling someone one evening and letting them know you love them. The Flat-head Electric Co-op pledges that the electricity to illuminate the trees and bushes will be there the next day to enable you to complete your project.. So, in short, while we are working out disciplines to sail through our weeks prior to Thanksgiving just to get things done, do allow yourself to be distracted and derailed by the blessings of God. And plan, if you can, on being surprised and elated by grace, just as, hopefully, my squirrel friend will be with his new condo in a week or so.

Faithfully yours,

Bradley

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

All Saints' Sunday, November 5th, 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. It is also a day in which we celebrate baptisms, and we will do that at the 11:00 service. So come for the festivity of it all.

BISHOP BROOKHART'S VISIT

On Sunday, November 19th, Bishop Franklin Brookhart will conduct his official visitation at All Saints'. He will begin that annual visitation with a vestry meeting at 3:00 on Saturday, November 18th, and then, as is our tradition, on Sunday, November 19th, we will have only one service, that being at 11:00 in the morning with a reception following.

During the service, Bishop Brookhart will install the new acolytes, confirm and receive those coming into the Episcopal Church as well as engage in the reaffirmation of baptismal vows for those wishing to do that. We are in the midst of an inquirers' class for those coming into the church but, if you are not a part of that and would still like to be confirmed or received, please contact Bradley.

The plate offering that day, along with designated checks, will go to the Diocesan Discretionary Fund, which is administered by Bishop Brookhart. This fund does for the Diocese much of what the Rector's Discretionary Fund does for those in our area. It helps meet emergencies, especially among clergy who may have a difficult time paying for medical expenses and the like. So please be generous and help the Diocese of Montana be the visible presence of Christ to those who may be suffering.

INGATHERING SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 19th, the occasion of the Bishop's Visitation and the Sunday in which we will have only the 11:00 service, we will gather in the pledges for 2018. Over the last month and a half, our fellow parishioners, the Junior and Senior Wardens 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 seriously, and we hope that those mailings have been helpful in our collective contemplation of this aspect of ministry, stewardship.

So, on November 19th, please bring your pledge cards to All Saints'. If you are unable to come to church

INGATHERING SUNDAY (Cont'd)

that day, please bring them to church the Sunday before or put them in the mail. As soon as we get our pledges in, we can move towards, not just completing a proposed budget for 2018, but even more importantly, firming up our plans for our parish's ministry in the coming year.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

We will celebrate Thanksgiving Day on Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, **November 22nd, at 10:00 am 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.

**ADVENT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

Advent begins on **Sunday, December 3rd**. 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, December 3rd, we invite you to bring teddy bears and other stuffed animals to the crèche. These cuddly bears and the like will be given to North Valley Hospital 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 very frightened by their visits to the ER. Because the hospital needs to store them, please bring new (they need to be new for reasons of storage and cleanliness.) stuffed animal that are no bigger than 10 inches tall.

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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS...GET THAT HOUR BACK!

Remember that hour of sleep you lost last March? You're finally getting it back on Sunday morning, November 5th at 2 am. So remember to set your clocks **BACK** an hour either before you go to bed Saturday night or the first thing Sunday morning!



THE GREAT PUMPKIN(S) RETURNS!

By Cynthia Benkelman

Our annual pumpkin decoration and delivery was a great success! Children of all ages had a great time decorating mini pumpkins at both the 9 and 11 am coffee hours. Later the youth group met and finished decorating them. Thanks to everyone for their creative help!

Eighteen kids from ages five to sixteen met at Whitefish Genesis assisted living center to give them as gifts to the residents. We delivered them in rooms, hallways, the activity center and then we put them on the tables in the dining room as centerpieces.

This is such a great experience for everyone involved. The kids and youth really enjoy it, and continue to remember and talk about their experiences over the years. The Genesis employee who guided us around the center said she saw some of the biggest smiles on some of the faces than she had seen in quite a while. We are looking forward to our next visit!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PLANNING TIME

By Cynthia Benkelman

It's time to begin planning for our annual Christmas Eve Pageant. All children and youth are invited to join in! We will set a practice schedule for one or two Sundays in December and, probably, a final run through on December 23rd.

Please email me (Cynthia) at cgraine@montanasky.us and let me know if your child would like to participate and what kind of part they might like. There is a part for every type of participation: big, small, speaking, silent, solos to sing. We always try to accommodate any desire a child might have so that they can participate.

We will survey the participants with some proposed rehearsal times in November.



Photos from previous pageants



NOVEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY Services at 9 and 11 am Daylight Savings ends.	6	7	8 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	9 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	10	11
12 Services at 9 and 11 am	13	14	15 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	16 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	17	18 Vestry meeting and Bishop Brookhart's visit with Vestry 3:00 pm
19 Bishop Brookhart's visit Ingathering ONE service at 11 am	20	21	22 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	23 	24	25
26 Services at 9 and 11 am	27	28	29 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	30 Noon service at AS Followed by book study		

PET BLESSING PHOTOS

Our annual blessing of the animals was held on September 30th. There was quite a good turnout! Luckily, though bad weather had been forecasted, the day turned out being beautiful .



Blessings



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Church location:
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Whitefish, MT 59937

Phone: 406-862-2863
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](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](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
Ben Bushnell
Jan Rayford
Shawn Sloan

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