

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2021

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

I recently read a New York Times article from Tariro Mzezewa entitled “Go Ahead. Fantasize”, where the author asks people about the first thing they’ll do once the pandemic is over. Answers ranged from dance parties, to travel, to playdates with the neighbor kids. But even though it sounds like daydreaming, psychologists said looking at our calendar with this kind of anticipation is healthy for us. We need hope:

“Even though it’s not considered a core symptom of depression, the absence of hope is a common symptom,” said Dr. Toure. Future thinking, or “the imagination and belief that something better is coming,” is crucial to getting through hard times... Holding on to hope, even about one simple, mundane thing can make a big difference, Dr. O’Connor said. “I’m not day dreaming of big trips,” she said. “I can’t wait to hug my mom.”¹

Generally, I’m suspicious of the “power” of positive thinking. Jesus cautions us not to worry too much about tomorrow and there’s times where I’ve placed too much hope in the wrong things. But as I think back on the last 10 months, “pondering the lilies of the field” hasn’t necessarily been a fruitful coping mechanism for me either! And maybe that’s ok?

Personally, I can’t wait to see my folks again, travel back to California to say goodbye to my old church, and finally go on a honeymoon with my wife! I’m dreaming of officiating all those postponed weddings and funerals (if you know of anyone who has had to put off such gatherings, let me know and we’ll do it for free!). I want to start up some prayer groups and facilitate a fall retreat. I want to teach Godly Play and have the most raucous summer day camp ever! We don’t necessarily need to “live in the moment” right now. And in fact, the earliest Christians would have laughed at such a sentiment. For them, hope wasn’t just another fantasy. They labored because they knew they weren’t doing it in vain. For them, life is a race that has an end, with the hope of resurrection awaiting them at the finish line.

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Our hopes, however great or small, draw us out of our afflictions and into a more ideal future, reframing how we view our circumstances and providing resources to continue to persevere despite all evidence to the contrary. Hope believes that the impossible can become real. And we’ll probably be wrong about our guesses about post-pandemic life, just as much as we’ll be wrong about what’s on the other side of death... but it doesn’t hurt to dream!



Happy Valentine's Day

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A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR (cont'd)

I wonder if you might be so kind as to share some of your hopes with me, not only for your day-to-day life, but for the life of this parish? After all of these long months of daydreaming, what will you do the week after you get your second dose? Or when this "storm" finally passes? Send me an email at cknuth@allsaintsmt.org or write a note and leave it in the office mailbox.

Yours in Christ,
Charlie+

1 Tariro Mzezewa, "Go Ahead. Fantasize," New York Times, January 16, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/16/style/go-ahead-fantasize.html>.

ANNUAL MEETING

By Fr. Charlie

On Sunday, January 31st, 47 members of All Saints crammed into Zoom's "Hollywood Squares" to attend the parish's annual meeting.

Since governmental restraints made it impossible for us to hold a face-to-face physical meeting, we kept business light and tended only to the things we were required to do in our bylaws: Electing new vestry members, diocesan convention delegates, reviewing last year's financials and presenting our 2021 budget. We gave a heartfelt thanks to Leif Peterson (Sr. Warden), Grace Benkelman (Jr. Warden), and Heidi Sobczak, whose vestry terms ended this month. Jenanne Solberg, Jan Rayford, and Margaret Anne Payne were elected by acclamation to the vestry, while Suzanne DeVore was appointed senior warden. Officers of the vestry, like the Junior Warden, Treasurer, and the clerk are appointed by the vestry, usually right after the annual meeting. However, given our circumstances, those appointments will be made at our vestry meeting on February 21st. Once these officers have been appointed, we'll let you know!

If you were unable to attend the meeting and have any questions for the rector or leadership, please email it to cknuth@allsaintsmt.org and I'd be happy to respond. And if your question is one whose answer would be a benefit to a larger audience, I'll put it in the weekly newsletter.

CANDLEMAS

You are invited to bring household candles, lightbulbs, flashlights, or oil to church February 7th, for a Candlemas Blessing.

While Candlemas is officially celebrated on February 2nd, (you might recall that this date is also "Groundhog Day"), we have become accustomed to marking this day together at All Saints' on the Sunday that falls after February 2nd by blessing the candle oil we use at All Saints' during our services, as well as a small tea candle for each member of the congregation to take home or have in their car to provide emergency heat in the event you are stranded. (Amazingly, one small candle can provide sufficient warmth if need be.) Churches have historically memorialized this day as the time to bless the candles that will be used throughout the year. Other traditions include candlelight processions and blessing the household candles of parishioners.

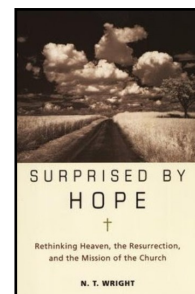


Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple, forty days after his birth, to perform the prescribed sacrifice of purification. The Greek name for this day means "the encounter" as the highlight of this story is the meeting between the child Jesus and the aged Anna and Simeon, who both had been waiting for the day they would encounter this special child. You might recall Simeon referring to the Christ child as a "light to enlighten the Nations" which is what inspired the early church to make this day a feast of candles.

BOOK STUDY

The Thursday evening book study group will be finishing up their discussion of NT Wright's "Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church" this month. If you missed this book, talk to Fr. Charlie, there may be an extra copy you could borrow.

Everyone has their own idea about what happens when you die, but this is an excellent book detailing what the Bible and the Christian tradition have to say about death, heaven, and resurrection.



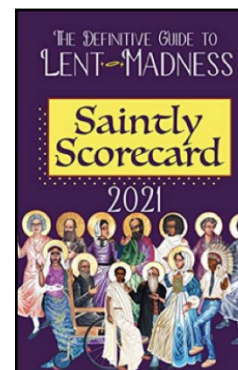
ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Services will be held at 9 am, noon, and 6 pm. Drive-thru imposition of ashes will follow the noon service from 1 pm – 2 pm.



LENT MADNESS

Once again All Saints' will participate in Lent Madness this year. We will meet via Zoom on 5 Wednesdays during Lent. Our normally on the ball Parish Administrator was negligent in ordering the 2021 Saintry Scorecard booklets in time this year and they are now sold out! She should have known better since Lent Madness is THE most popular online Lenten Devotion in the world. However, if you are so inclined you can download the Saintry Scorecard as an ebook on your mobile device either on the Amazon Kindle or at the iTunes store. Download cost is \$4.99. We will however have the biographies of the saints as well as the bracket available for pickup in the church office and in PDF format which can be emailed out prior to Wednesday night classes. Just let Shawn know if you need copies. Join in the fun to learn about saints in the church and find out who will win the Golden Halo.



ALL SAINTS' YOUTH

By Cynthia Benkelman

In years past we have had a special Ash Wednesday service for children and youth right after school. This year, of course, is different and we will not be having that service in person. However, we will be sending out materials to help families celebrate Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) and Ash Wednesday the next day. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, which is the time that we start preparing for the great mystery of Easter! If you would like materials for your family, or other youth and children in your lives who you think might enjoy this, please let me know at cbenkelman@allsaintsmt.org



LIVE-STREAM SERVICES

By Shawn Sloan

It has been almost a year since the pandemic forced us to move exclusively to virtual worship services for several months. Like many other churches we scrambled to figure out the best way to make our services available online. The quickest, cheapest, and easiest way for us to do that was using an iPhone and broadcasting via Facebook Live. Unfortunately the sound quality was not great, not everyone is comfortable using Facebook, and up until just recently our internet service was horrific, to say the least. We know it has been frustrating for everyone who wants to tune in live to our services. As Fr. Charlie says, we can't do common worship without you.

We are constantly working to try and improve our broadcasts. With the installation of fiber optics, we have hopefully completely solved the problem of the broadcast jumping around, buffering, and stalling. Since we were simultaneously in the middle of a construction project, every week seemed to bring new challenges. We had services outside for many weeks, where the wind, racing motorcycles, airplanes overhead and other noises interfered with the sound quality. Then services moved back into the church, but with no people. Then no lights and no electricity in the sanctuary. When we got electricity back in the building we had no pews or other furniture in the sanctuary and so the sound was bouncing all over the place. The continual problem seems to be with the sound. We now finally have pews (and people !) back in the sanctuary, but still do not have our speakers, organ, microphones, and the rest of our sound system connected yet. We hope when the whole sound system is reconnected this will help solve some of the sound problems.

Recently we purchased a new camera and a laptop which will allow us to broadcast simultaneously to both Facebook and YouTube (as well as other services which we have yet to explore). So far the sound quality on this new camera setup seems to be much better than from the iPhone (which we even tried various microphones with). So we appreciate your patience and comments as we continue to work to get the best broadcast that we possibly can. If you don't like using Facebook, remember that there is always a copy of the service on the home page of our website. It doesn't usually get uploaded until Monday, but the sound quality is usually better than that of the Facebook Live broadcast. And hopefully with this new camera and computer setup we will continue to make progress in improving our live-stream worship services. Of course we look forward to the day when the sanctuary expansion is truly complete and we can all safely gather together to fulfill the goal of our Capital Campaign "That we all may be one".

Links to all the pages can be found on the last page of the E-Letter.

WE HAVE RETURNED TO IN PERSON WORSHIP

Welcome Back!

For the love of your neighbors please:

- STAY HOME IF YOU'RE SICK.
- WEAR A MASK WHILE INDOORS.
- REMAIN 6-10 FEET APART.
- REFRAIN FROM SINGING.
- AVOID TOUCHING SURFACES.
- WASH YOUR HANDS!

Thank You!

• THE BISHOP IS REVIEWING, ON A WEEKLY BASIS, THE ACTIVE NUMBER OF COVID CASES IN THE COUNTIES IN WHICH ALL DIOCESAN CHURCHES ARE LOCATED. SHE WILL EVALUATE THE SITUATION AND MAKE A DECISION FOR EACH PARISH AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY CAN HOLD IN PERSON WORSHIP.

• ALL SAINTS' WILL CONTINUE TO BOTH LIVE-STREAM A SERVICE AT 9 A.M. AND DISTRIBUTE COMMUNION FROM 10 - 11:00 A.M. IN THE PARKING LOT EVERY SUNDAY.

- PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE OR CALL THE OFFICE TO CONFIRM IF SERVICES ARE BEING HELD.
- THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND FLEXIBILITY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. REMEMBER WE DO THIS OUT OF AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION TO PROTECT OUR ELDERS, LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS, AND SUPPORT OUR MEDICAL PERSONNEL.

HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE SERVICES

- MASKS REQUIRED AT ALL SERVICES
- NO MUSIC AT THE 7:30 AM & 7 PM SERVICES
- MUSIC & HYMNS AT THE 9 & 11 AM SERVICES
- MAINTAIN A 6 - 10 FT DISTANCE BETWEEN FAMILIES
- COMMUNION (IN BOTH KINDS) WILL BE BROUGHT TO YOU

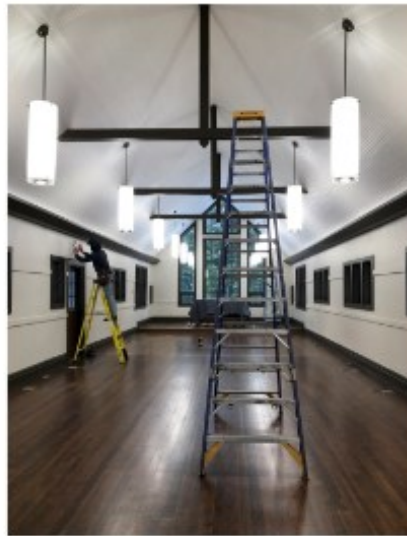


BUILDING UPDATES

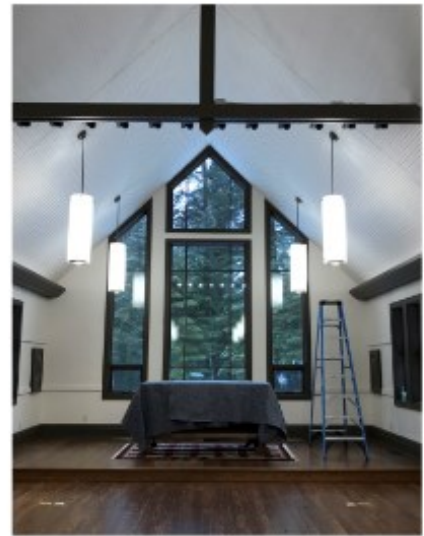
January building project highlight



Jan 6 - ready to remove old and install new lights



Jan 7 - new pendant lights



Jan 7 - "stage" lighting for the chancel area



Jan 7 - speakers rehung



Jan 8 - narthex light gets centered



Jan 8 - ready for pews to return



Jan 8 - new snow break over back door

BUILDING UPDATES (CONT'D)

January building project highlights



Jan 8 - pews return to the sanctuary



Jan 8 - pews return to the sanctuary



Jan 12 - kneelers getting reconnected



Jan 12 - kneelers getting reconnected



Jan 21 - altar rail redone - new steel tubing and original 100 year old wood



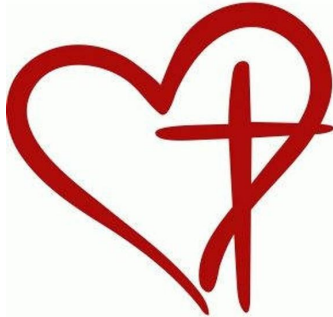
Jan 21 - new threshold into the narthex

FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	2 Office Hours 5:00pm-6:00pm	3 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	4 Office Hour 11:00-12:00pm Book Group 6:00-7:00pm	5	6
7 Service Hours: See page 8	8 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	9 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	10 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	11 Office Hour 11:00-12:00pm Book Group 6:00-7:00pm	12	13
14  Service Hours: See page 8	15 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	16 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm Shrove Tuesday	17 Ash Wednesday Bible Study 10:30-12 noon Ash Wednesday services on pg 3	18 Office Hour 11:00-12:00pm Book Group 6:00-7:00pm	19	20
21 Service Hours: See page 8 Vestry Meeting 12:30 Zoom	22 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	23 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	24 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	25 Office Hour 11:00-12:00pm Book Group 6:00-7:00pm	26	27
28 Service Hours: See page 8						

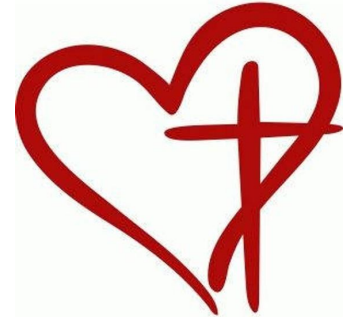
SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

7:30 am - service only, no music



9:00 am - service with hymns

9:00 am service is also streamed live on
Facebook & coming soon to You Tube
Live



10:00-11:00 am - Drive through commun-
ion

11:00 am - service with hymns

7:00 pm – service only, no music

HOME COMMUNION AND VISITATIONS

If you have had to take some time away from church, but would like to receive the sacraments, please let us know! While the bishop has requested that clergy refrain from scheduling home visits, (hospitals and senior living facilities won't allow them either!), Fr. Charlie would be more than happy to bring you the sacrament/say prayers with you on your doorstep, the hospital parking lot, or at the church.

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Church location:

2048 Conn Road
Columbia Falls, MT
Phone: 406-862-2863

Church mailing address:

PO Box 1923
Whitefish, MT 59937

Rector: Reverend Charlie Knuth
Email: cknuth@allsaintsmt.org
Cell: 801-635-5162

Parish Administrator: Shawn Sloan
Email: allsaintsmt@gmail.com
Cell: 406-291-3613

Christian Formation Minister/Children and
Youth: Cynthia Benkelman
Email: cynthia@allsaintsmt.org
Cell: 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. and ever.*

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_oAl6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAl6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA)

Webpage link: [http://
www.allsaintsmt.org](http://www.allsaintsmt.org)

Vestry Members

Rector: Reverend Charlie Knuth
Senior Warden: Suzanne DeVore
Junior Warden: ?
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Betsy Paugh
Margaret Anne Payne
Jan Rayford
Jenanne Solberg

Diocese of Montana:

Marty Stebbins, X Bishop of Montana
www.diomontana.com

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