

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

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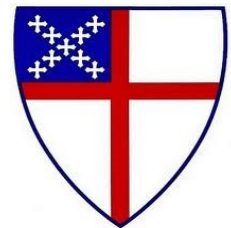
A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have told this story before. When I was in seminary, I could cross register at Harvard Divinity and Harvard College and one of my favorite classes was Church History A which met in Harvard Yard, in a classroom, but a sand wedge shot from Emerson Hall. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, I walked past this building on my way to Sever Hall, where my class was held, and I always noticed the saying carved in the stone bordering the roof line: "What is man that thou are mindful of him?" "Clever guy, that Emerson," I thought. On the morning of the first day of the General Ordination Exam, an eight-day-long ecclesiastical hazing if there ever was one of seniors in seminary, prior to getting our first set of questions, we had the Eucharist celebrated by Dean Guthrie. And it just so happened that on that day we had Psalm 8, containing that which reads in the prayer book, "What is man that you should be mindful of him..." "Ah Ha! It was not Emerson but rather the psalmist who penned that," I realized. Three days later, on that Wednesday in the midst of our 300 term multiple guess portion of the exam, there it was: "Who said: What is man that you should be mindful of him?" A. Ralph Waldo Emerson. B. The author of Psalm 8 and then there was a C and D but, thank the Lord, I needed not to read further. It was B!

As most of you know, last month I tried to reach the top of Lindy Peak in the Mission Mountains. My daughter, Jennifer, was the leader of our expedition and we nearly made it...700 feet from the vertical summit with 1000 lateral feet to cover. This is what I told folks when I sent out my sermon three weeks ago to those who receive it through the email list:

Jennifer and I hiked nearly to the top of Lindy Peak, missing it by 700 feet vertically and 1000 laterally. We got to a ridge line that Jennifer could have done blindfolded, with one hand tied behind her back and carrying a six pack of Moose Drool beer in the other, not to mention hopping on one foot, backwards, but I looked at the 6 foot slanted ridge with drop offs of 900 feet to the left and 700 to the right and said that my ability to go the next 500 feet until it flattened out to maybe 10 feet at the summit was, at best, problematic. Not enough Xanax in the world to have helped me crawl the distance. So thanks to her incredible understanding and realizing, "Dad, for Gawd's sake, a ringed tailed baboon could do this." was not erring on the side of safety, we turned back. She was fabulous in understanding that getting someone beyond his or her comfort and expertise zone when hiking a mountain peak, was really stupid at best. So, to both of our reliefs, we arrived back at the car, eight hours later (from when we started) having not fallen off a cliff or seeing a grizzly bear. Yelling "Where's the bear?" "Here bear!" every two minutes helps in that department. Anyway, cross off the bucket list one of the top ten that has been there since 1963.



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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR (CONT'D)

I didn't make it but then again, what do you expect of someone created not just in the mind of God but, to continue the verse of the psalm, also someone "made a little lower than the angels." Some translations say, "a little lower than God." Jennifer, the angels, and God could have climbed the remaining 700 feet whistling Beethoven's Ninth, Fourth Movement. I couldn't. But what allows me to cross this off the bucket list is the simple fact that even though I couldn't make the final push, I've been "crowned with glory and honor." How 'bout that?

Dear friends, all of us have been crowned with glory and honor. It isn't rocket science to understand that having been given the forgiveness of sins, release from the sting of death, and the sacred designation that we are the living, breathing Body of Christ, we have everything it takes to do anything. Some of us will climb to the top of Lindy Peak. Some of us will preach 48 times a year. Some of us will administer the church's daily life. Some of us will have the gift of faith inspiring others. And so it goes. But the important thing is this: Together, we will move mountains...maybe even making them a bit easier for a priest in his seventh decade to climb them.

Faithfully yours, Bradley

BISHOP BROOKHART'S LAST VISIT BEFORE RETIREMENT

Next month, on Sunday, October 14, Bishop Brookhart will be with us, in church, for his last visitation prior to his retirement on All Saints' Day, three weeks later. On Saturday, October 13, he will meet with the Vestry, have dinner with Bradley following the meeting, and then Sunday, we will have a single service at 11 am where he will preach and celebrate as well as confirm, receive and reaffirm baptismal vows for those who seek such rites. (See the article below for a very brief description of these rites. Over the next few weeks, we will also be talking about these opportunities during the announcements.) Following the service, we will have an elegant reception for him where we will honor him with several gifts enabling him to think of us now and again, hopefully with a chuckle in some cases and a tear in his eye in others.



Bishop Brookhart has had a very special relationship with us over the years, as we have had with him, perhaps taking its most poignant turn in July when we interned the ashes of Sue's and his beloved pet, "Lizzie-Best Dog Ever" in our memorial garden.

We are aiming to have this a most extraordinarily meaningful and festive weekend for him so please mark your calendars now for his visitation and join us all at 11 am on Sunday, October 14, for the single service and reception following.

CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION AND REAFFIRMATIONS FOR ADULTS

As you see, we are making preparations for Bishop Brookhart's visit, his last among us before retirement. It has been mentioned in the prior article, that during the service he is presiding over on October 14, he will be receiving, confirming and reaffirming baptismal vows for those who desire it.

If you have never been confirmed by a Bishop of the ELCA Lutheran Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Churches or the Episcopal Church, and you would like to affirm your baptismal vows and ministry, then confirmation is for you. If you have been confirmed in one of those other denominations, then the Bishop "receives" you into our branch of the Christian Church.

If you have been confirmed and or received, but you wish to reaffirm your baptismal vows, he can help you do that as well.

CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION AND REAFFIRMATIONS (CONT'D)

When I was confirmed fifty-one years ago, confirmation class involved learning lots of things about the church, but I remember nothing about hearing how I was to minister. To that end, I try to walk people through their baptismal vows, which are the instruction booklet for what we are called to be. To that end, I would love to sit down with those who would like to either be received, confirmed or reaffirmed in their baptismal vows to help prepare you for one of the rites. Please contact me if this interests you and we will arrange a time(s) for our time together.

Faithfully, Bradley

DIOCESAN CONVENTION - OCTOBER 5-7

An image of who we are as a church is seen when a gathered portion of the faithful take part in the administration of the Diocese of Montana. Delegates and clergy gather with diocesan lay and clergy officers, and our two bishops, to “take control” of the operation of the church. In other words, for the running of the church, also known as the “business of the church.” Always remember that this is as much a spiritual endeavor as is preaching or healing as St. Paul lists “administration” and “leadership” as spiritual gifts. To that end, we will gather in Polson for this three-day convention, the last over which Bishop Brookhart will preside as Bishop. Please hold +Frank in your prayers as he joins us all in this moment marking the last month of his special ministry among us as Diocesan Bishop.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We are getting closer and closer to getting the Capital Campaign rolling. We will be sending mailings and special emails in our communication with you, having copies of everything sent available in the back of the church every Sunday, just in case you failed to receive something. It is an exciting time for us, rich with possibility. Enjoy the anticipation of the church ever moving forward!

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

This year, simultaneously, we will engage in our Stewardship of Financial Resources Program as we conduct our Capital Campaign. Be on the lookout for letters from our officers and other laity, Bradley, our Stewardship Chair, the Ministry Narrative, and, of course, a pledge card. Both the Capital Campaign and the Stewardship of Financial Resources Program are about ministry. Giving of our resources is a sacramental offering of an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. This aspect of stewardship simply is a third element that accompanies bread and wine to the altar Sunday after Sunday. So, be on the watch. And again, we will always have materials sent during the week, available on the Sunday following their mailing.

THREE WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Fr. Bill Baumgarten has graciously agreed to lead a Bible study at All Saints' on the Sundays of Sept. 16, 23 and 30. The Bible study will be held at All Saints' after the 11 am service, from 1 to 2:30 pm. This will allow time for people to either have lunch or bring a brown bag after the service.

In the Bible study, Fr. Bill has been asked to elaborate on the sermon he gave on July 29 on the Gospel of John and Jesus telling the disciples that they must eat his body and drink his blood. Fr. Bill spoke about the Jews whose mindset was to take Jesus literally, as did Nicodemus asking how he could reenter his mother's

BIBLE STUDY (CONT'D)

womb to be “born again,” and the woman at the well asking for the “living waters.” We will dig deeper into these and other passages to understand the message for us in these misunderstandings.

Please let Shawn know by Sept. 13 if you will be attending the Bible study. Please provide her with your email address if she does not already have it. Kathleen Martin will email participants the pre-session scripture reading assignments for each week.

PET BLESSING

**All are welcome to a Blessing of the Pets
in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi,
the patron saint of animals.**

**Saturday, September 22, 2018
10 a.m.**



Blessing of
the Animals

**at All Saints'
Episcopal Church**

*Pets will receive a St. Francis medal,
a magnet commemorating their blessing, and a treat.*

The Blessing of the Animals is an annual service welcoming pets and people of all denominations. Prayers with special intention will be offered for each pet present. As well, those wishing to honor their companion animals who have died are welcome to bring the ashes of the pet, a toy, a picture, or another article which reminds them of the pet for that portion of the service.

All pets must be on leashes, in crates or kennels, or otherwise restrained for their and other's safety. For pets that can get anxious or aggressive among other animals, and would not do well at the service, Fr. Bradley Wirth, the Rector of All Saints' Church is more than happy to make “house calls” for the blessing of that pet.

*for more information contact All Saints'
at 406-862-2863 or email allsaintsmt@gmail.com*

*All Saints' Episcopal Church
2048 Conn Road, Columbia Falls, MT
Midway between Whitefish and Columbia Falls off Hwy 40*

ALTAR GUILD



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, September 15th 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 clean up 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.



SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Services at 9 and 11 am	3 	4	5 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	6	7	8
9 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:15	10	11	12 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	13 Noon service at AS	14	15
16 Services at 9 and 11 am Bible Study 1 pm	17	18	19 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	20 Noon service at AS	21	22 Pet Blessing 12 noon
23 Services at 9 and 11 am Bible Study 1 pm	24	25	26 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	27 Noon service at AS	28	29
30 Services at 9 and 11 am Bible Study 1 pm						

BACKING THE BACKPACKS AND SUPPLYING THE SUPPLIES

Once again the congregation of All Saints' has shown just how generous they can be to those of all ages in our valley. At the time this e-letter was written, Amy Peterson who graciously heads up gathering backpacks, school supplies, shoe certificates and other things for the kids of our valley, has reported some great results. The best part is, she may not be done!

The current numbers are: 90 backpacks, 12 \$20 shoe gift certificates, a \$50 gift certificate for clothing for the youth homes and likely \$350 for purchasing supplies. Perhaps, with luck, the numbers will increase.

Amy sends her thanks to everyone for supporting this endeavor every year with your constant generosity. You never cease to amaze!

Below is a photo of some of the backpacks collected at church...all loaded up and ready to go!



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

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:

Rector: Reverend Canon Bradley Wirth
Senior Warden: Ben Pomerantz
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Shawn Sloan
Heidi Sobczak
Judi Williams

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