

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2018

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28th

12:30 PM

MEMORIAL HALL

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

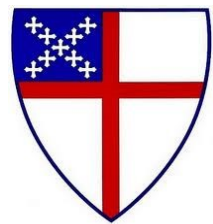
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

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, its 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 Church Meeting, which will be the last Sunday of this month, January 28th 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 world wide. 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



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A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR (Cont'd)

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 sun screen. 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 Eleventh Annual Chili Open is only around two and a half months away.

May Epiphany be blessedly joyful and revealing.

Faithfully yours,

Bradley

CRECH OFFERINGS

Once again, our collections at the crèche during Advent were very successful. You can see from the photos below that those coming to the four Advent services were very generous in their giving.

As a reminder, the stuffed animals went to the North Valley Hospital to be given to children coming into the emergency room. The food that was collected was delivered to the Columbia Falls food bank to be given to those less fortunate than we are. We collected over 1,300 pounds of pet food which went to the Flathead Valley Spay & Neuter Task Force to help those people who might not be able to afford food for their pets at this time of year...or any time, really. And the warm clothes that were collected the final Sunday were delivered to Samaritan House on Christmas morning to help the approximately 500 homeless people in and around our area.

Many thanks to those of you who so generously contributed All Saints' yearly outreach.



CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's Childrens' Christmas Pageant was a SRO event. (For you younger set, that means standing room only). We had visitors seated in folding chairs, standing in the back, overflowing the pews, sitting on laps. It was a sight to behold!

This year's pageant included 28 kids from ages 6 months old to 17 years old. Two played the piano, there was a string quartet, there were angels, and Mary and Joseph. It was, as the December E-letter claimed, the best pageant ever. Many thanks to all who participated and all who attended.



CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Each year All Saints' chooses charities to donate all of the plate offerings from the Christmas services. This year approximately \$3500 was collected. It will be divided between the following organizations:

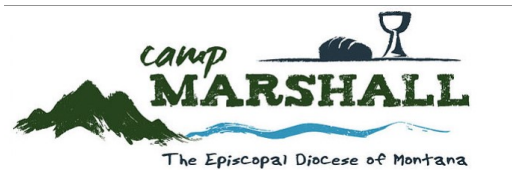
Samaritan House



The Abbie Shelter



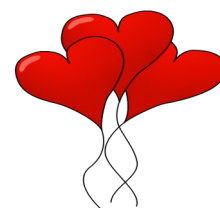
Claire's Campers



RezQ Dogs



RezQ Dogs
Providing hope for those with none



JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3* Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	4 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	5	6
7 Services at 9 and 11 am	8	9	10 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	11 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	12	13
14 Services at 9 and 11 am	15	16	17 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	18 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	19	20
21 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:30	22	23	24 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	25 Noon service at AS Followed by book study	26	27
28 Services at 9 and 11 am ANNUAL MEETING 12:30		30	31 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs			

* HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME

HAPPY, YET SAD FOR US, NEWS ABOUT WREN BLESSING

Dear friends,

At the close of 2017, I write to thank you for the privilege it is to serve Bishop Brookhart, the parishes of our diocese, and Camp Marshall. Over the last four years, my faith has grown and deepened in your company. In February of 2018, my family and I will transition to Bainbridge Island, where I will serve as Rector of Grace Episcopal Church. Bishop Brookhart, Canon Roberts, and I are working hard to smooth the way at Camp Marshall for those who will transition into leadership, and we will communicate more details about those transitions in the weeks ahead. We anticipate a vibrant year of retreats and camp sessions at Camp Marshall in 2018.

With gratitude,

Wren



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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: Heidi Sobczak
Junior Warden: Judi Williams
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Ben Bushnell
Jan Rayford
Shawn Sloan

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