

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2016

Parish Picnic and Meeting



Sponsored by the Vestry



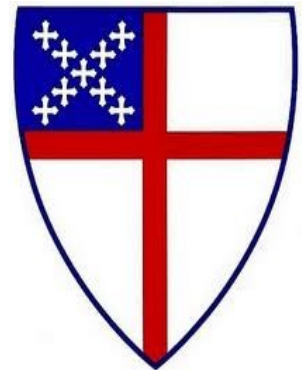
And

The Building Discernment Committee

Our Buildings – Where Do We Go From Here?

Sunday, September 11th

Immediately following **single 11 am service**



On Sunday morning, following a single joint service at 11:00, we will have a church picnic hosted by the Vestry. It will be followed by the report of the Building Discernment Committee and the Vestry regarding possible future building plans.

Last January, at the Annual Meeting, we discussed how our congregation could not worship together because our ninety year old church could not hold us all at one time. Having just come off an exciting and packed joint service to watch the installation of the Presiding Bishop a few months earlier on All Saints Day, November 1st, which was a Sunday, and experiencing the vitality of all of us together, in singing hymns and joining together in prayer, it was unanimously agreed to, at the Annual Meeting, that we should look at expanding our present worship space enabling us to be together on a Sunday as a single congregation.

Our present building is designed to hold 72 people under perfect conditions. That usually means that when we have around 58 people in it, it is full to the point that a family of three cannot find a pew in which to sit together. In church building and planning, this is known as the 80% full rule. Outside of funerals and weddings, on a normal Sunday, when a church gets to be 80% filled, people find it full to the point that a couple or family have difficulty being together for the hour of worship. We now average between 75 and 85 on a Sunday between the two services.

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CHURCH MEETING (cont'd)

This has impacted us in a variety of ways. Our Christian Education program for youth has two sessions with a few attending each. Were they together, the liveliness and vitality of Children's Chapel and Godly Play would be noticeably higher. As well, there is not time for Adult Education as only about 45 - 50 minutes separate the first service from the second. And perhaps most importantly, many who attend regularly at one service as opposed to the other do not know parishioners in the service they do not attend.

And then there are the steps... Our present structure is really not very handicap accessible when it comes to worship. While it is true that one can get into the place without climbing stairs, which is a huge improvement as to where we were nine years ago when we were located in the churches in Whitefish and Columbia Falls, it still remains difficult to get to the communion rail. And if one is in a wheel chair or using a walker, it is difficult to find a place to easily be with dignity. We need to fix that.

And then there are the offices... Hardly any commentary is needed about their inadequacy.

And that leads us back to the picnic and meeting to be held on September 11th following a single service at 11:00 in the morning, the purpose of which could not be more important.

At this moment, the Vestry and Building Discernment Committee are drawn to considering the construction of a building which would contain a new sanctuary, bathrooms, and a sacristy-vesting area. The design would incorporate bringing the outside in through a generous amount of windows. The current church structure would be given over to Children's Chapel, youth activities, and use, if desired, for a smaller chapel area on occasion. Memorial Hall's social space, where we currently have coffee hour, would be expanded to the west, maintaining much of the same character of the area such as the expansive windows, and offices would be put in the current Christian Education room. All of this activity represents what the Vestry currently believes is the most simple and economically responsible way to proceed.

The Vestry now is eager to have feedback from all members of All Saints' concerning this direction it feels currently called to pursue. If the general sense of the congregation is to proceed, then the Vestry will begin the process of selecting a business or organization to develop sample plans and a cost analysis for the potential project and will engage their services to take us to the next step. Upon completion of that process, if we proceed, then we will be in a position to decide if we are actually going to build and remodel as well as engage in a capital funds drive for a specific amount of money. That is how important this afternoon presentation will be as well as obtaining feedback from all.

So please keep Sunday, September 11th, from 11:00 through the afternoon open and plan to attend this wonderfully exciting celebration of a parish dealing with its vitality. Whether we go with this plan or embrace something different is an indication that the Spirit of God flows decidedly through our part of the Body of Christ.

There is a sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall where you can let us know if you will be there...but, of course, everyone is welcome whether signed up or not!



A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This morning, August 22nd, as I write this, I'm very aware of how different a day can be from just 24 hours earlier. Yesterday, as I drove to church in the early morning hours, I could not get over the loveliness of the scenery. This morning, I have the beginnings of a splitting headache from all the smoke in the air, presumably from the fire around Thompson Falls as well as those around Spokane.



For the vast majority of us, this is basically an irritation in our personal lives. But for many, their homes are being destroyed, their livelihoods are in jeopardy, and for some, they are risking their lives to fight the fire. All we need to do is look at last Sunday's paper and we see the story of the young man, Justin Beebe, who lost his life while battling the Strawberry fire in Great Basin National Park, Nevada. A memorial service for him was held in Missoula honoring this member of the Lolo Hotshots. I will never forget the day I watched hotshots from California arrive on the Lindbergh Lake cabin road, in the Swan Valley, to protect all of our various cabins, as we were headed out of the area with cars full of keepsakes. It is a remarkable thing to see those race towards possible danger while one is escaping it.

In the late seventies, we had extreme dryness in this part of Montana. In his book, *A Swan Valley Journal*, a dear friend of mine, the late Dr. Edward L. Foss, who resided down by Condon, wrote on August 13, 1979, in his journal, *The drumming of rain on the roof in the afternoon was sweet music. The dogs who haven't heard this sound for such a long time were intimidated by it. It was a token shower, of short duration. But there was enough moisture to leave puddles in the roadway that were welcomed by bathing birds. The greatest benefit of this shower has been psychological. We now know that it is possible for rain to fall.*¹

In the weeks coming, there will be sweet music of the rain falling again. We always live in hope and hope shall never disappoint us. That is one of the sacramental signs of God's presence among us. So while we enjoy the last couple of weeks of summer, and then enter into the beautiful season of autumn, let's remember, pray for, and thank those extraordinary civil servants who keep us safe and protect this remarkable corner of God's creation.

Faithfully yours,

Bradley

¹Edward L. Foss, *A Swan Valley Journal* (Helena: Sky House Publishers, 1994), p. 24

PET BLESSING

The Annual Blessing of the Pets will take place **Saturday morning, October 1st**. This popular community event involves blessing of each pet, the giving of a St. Francis medal for the pet to wear, a refrigerator magnet certificate, and ice cream for humans and a special ice cream treat made for pets. We also take the occasion to remember and thank God for those pets who have entered the glory of their Lord. As the time gets closer, be on the lookout for emails and bulletin notices giving a specific time the service begins. Now is also a good time to tell your friends about this service. We are fortunate that the Episcopal Church has such a service acknowledging these creatures as a special presence of yet another image of God in our midst.

KEEPING DOGS ON LEASHES AND EVERYONE SAFE (EVEN THE DOGS!)

Soon there will appear signs on our property calling for dogs to be not just on a leash but also under the control of their owner. Our expansive property is being used by lots of folks, including those from outside the parish, who are running their dogs and in some cases, training them in our field. Unfortunately, that presents two significant problems. The first involves the safety of the dogs. With all the traffic, the possibility that a dog will be hit is high. Bradley nearly ran over the little dachshund who lives next door while leaving the parking lot after the last Vestry meeting. We have an obligation to do all we can to minimize the possibility of physical injury to the dog and the emotional trauma to the one driving the car. The second reason we need notify all, including the general public, to have dogs on leashes involves our liability. During the day camp, several unaccompanied dogs were running amongst the campers. We don't want a dog on our property biting someone and to that end, we mitigate our exposure by at least posting signs requiring dogs to be restrained and in their owner's control.

BROTHERS OVER BORDERS FOR DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Most of you have met the Rohde family, John and Susan, their daughter Aubrey, and sons Aiden and Asher from Steamboat Springs, Colorado. They have been with us again this year for some of summer and will be with us again at Christmas. As many of you know, Aiden and Asher are hiking the Pacific Crest Trail to raise funds for Doctors Without Borders. You can follow their trekking adventures on Facebook at Brothers Over Borders or on Instagram at either Asher Rohde or Aiden Rohde.

You can help them reach their fundraising goal without needing to dust off your hiking boots, spray on insect repellent, eat dehydrated food, or even leave the comfort of your own home! Just click on the "Donate Now" button on their Facebook page. You can also find them on the Doctors Without Borders website and make a donation there. The link is:

<http://events.doctorswithoutborders.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.personalcampaign&participantid=3525>

Aiden and Asher will spend between 4-5 months hiking the 2,650 mile trail.

As their brothers and sisters in Christ at All Saints', let's support them by pledging to help this worthy cause.



OUR NEW CHORAGUS

The Vestry is delighted to announce that **Grace Benkelman** responded to our call last month to serve as a Choragus for All Saints' Church. We look forward to her ministry among us.

ALL SAINTS' YOUTH

By Cynthia Benkelman

Youth group for middle school and high school students begins September 25th. We will meet for dinner and activities in Memorial Hall from 4:45 – 6:30 am. Youth in 5th – 12th grades are invited to join us, and bring their friends if they would like! We will have a joint dinner and activities for all of the youth, and then, separate, short programs for both the older and younger teens.

Going forward, we will meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

CAMP MARSHALL YOUTH RETREAT

By Cynthia Benkelman

I will be taking our youth group members to a youth retreat at Camp Marshall on September 30th. Please let me know if your son or daughter will be joining us. We will get to meet and interact with Episcopal youth from all over our state, and these youth events are always a lot of fun! Call me at 261-9636 for more information.

2016 DAY CAMP PHOTOS

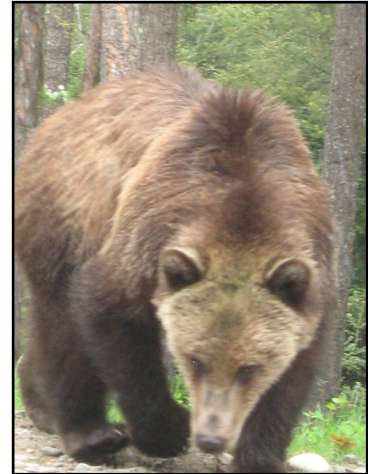


SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	2	3
4 Services at 9 and 11 am	5	6	7 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	8 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	9	10
11 11 am service only Followed by picnic/bldg. discussion	12	13	14 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	15 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	16	17
18 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:15 pm	19	20	21 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	22 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	23	24
25 Services at 9 and 11 am	26	27	28 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	29 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	30 Camp Marshall Youth Retreat	

PET BLESSING PHOTOS

Okay, so the headline here is a little misleading. Bradley didn't actually come to my house and bless these "pets" of mine but maybe he'd try for the right incentive! The photos are a subtle reminder that these creatures are out foraging for food before hibernation time....and it's not that far off. So keep your eyes open when you are out hiking about in our nature wonderland.



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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!

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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)

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Junior Warden: Judi Williams
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
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