

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2016

RECTOR'S LETTER

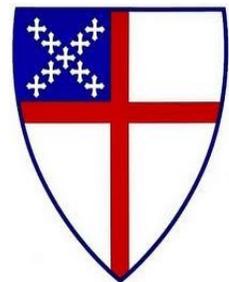
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I wrote this yesterday morning, at 8:21, the season of fall began. And I must admit, I got a little sad. I was having regrets for not doing more of the fun things I vowed to do when June 19th rolled in with summer. On the other hand, I did "get back up on one" in water skiing, a goal heretofore unreachable for me for the last eleven years. And I did have a fabulous vacation with all our extended family. And I did spend lots of time with my brothers, seemingly much more than in previous years. And I did play a lot of golf with my friend and colleague, David Gunderson, the Rector of St. Andrew's in Livingston. And in that, I did get within just two strokes of a hole in one. The reality is, of course, summer was ridiculously full of remarkable gifts given to me. And while sometimes the mind's eye will search for that which we didn't do, the heart can recall for us moments when the hand of God touched us tenderly.

Admittedly, at that hour yesterday, I could have also just been saddened by the fact that I was about to enter a web call-in meeting with 19 others for a gathering of the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons, in which we spent an hour and a half talking about, among other things, canon law, by-laws, and policy of the Church which included, honest to God, a discussion of where in the room ecumenical members of the Executive Committee of the Episcopal Church sit, exercising their prerogative of being in attendance at these meetings, having seat and voice but no vote. (In the above photo, Bradley is in the little square, top row, second from left.)

Being aware of our blessings is an extraordinary discipline. Sometimes we are so caught up in the stuff of the world that we fail to notice the gifts within our hands. While lamenting what I may not have done, at that same moment I realized that I had a view out of my study at home of a lovely scene which includes the trees starting to turn colors, and when those leaves fall, the Swan Mountains which can be seen in the distance. Not to mention, of course, I'm also in a home that is heated and more comfortable than I could have ever dreamed of living in when struggling as a student in a one and a half room dive. (Of course at the time, lots of college kids, not to mention thousands in the City of Seattle, could only dream of having such a place. To them my quarters would have seemed palatial. At that time, I must confess, I wasn't very good at counting my blessings.)

Here and now we are called to not just give out of the extraordinary blessings of God which fall down upon us...from the beatings of our hearts to the companions



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RECTOR'S LETTER (cont'd)

along the way that we have. We are also to live in the moment constantly aware that to begin, we are alive and over and above that, for everyone who is reading this, we are also aware that there are others who not only know we exist but love us. And of course, over and above that, we are called to realize that we are the unconditionally beloved of God.

Sometimes I wonder what I am going to write for the e-letter. Earlier this morning, I was pondering that very question and then I noticed on my phone, an article from *The New York Times*, "Moments of Giants Glory - What Alzheimer's Couldn't Steal" by Conor Dougherty (I have that app that sends me stories from *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*). For those who want to read it, you can click on the hyperlink here: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/25/sports/baseball/san-francisco-giants-alzheimers-disease.html?_r=0

After reading that story, I knew exactly what to write. It even reminded me that even when I found myself longing for a root canal during my web cast meeting yesterday, every time I actually gather with these folks, via the computer or in a conference center, in Dallas, Baltimore, or Salt Lake City, I really enjoy each and every one of them. I am so extraordinarily fortunate as are we all because we are the beloved. Happy Autumn!

Faithfully yours,

Bradley

ALL SAINTS' WOMEN

By Vera Smith

After a summer break, the All Saints' Women meetings will reconvene for a very important agenda item. On Tuesday, October 11th, at 10:30 am in Memorial Hall, suggestions will be welcomed for a fundraiser to be held before the end of the year. All women of the parish are invited. Please mark your calendar and plan to participate in this worthy endeavor.

If you should have any questions, please contact Barbara Grove or Vera Smith.

ALL SAINTS' YOUTH

**All Saints' Youth Group
For
Middle School/High School
Meets October 9 and October 23
4:45-6:30 pm in Memorial Hall at All Saints'**



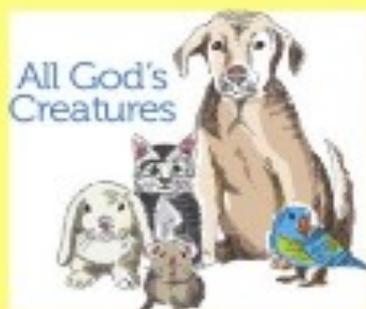
PET BLESSING

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

**Saturday, October 1, 2016
12 Noon**

at All Saints' Episcopal Church

*Pets will receive a St. Francis Medal,
a certificate commemorating their blessing, and a treat.
There will be an ice cream party following the festivities.*



All Saints' Episcopal Church

*2048 Conn Road
Columbia Falls, MT*

*Midway between
Whitefish and Columbia Falls
off Hwy 40*

*for more information contact
All Saints' at 406-862-2863*

Hey, Spot, I think
we ought to go to
that...looks like a
lot of fun!



*All pets must be on a leash,
in crates, or kennels, or otherwise
restrained for their
and other's safety.*

*(Thanks to editorial cartoonist, Pat Bagley, and
the Salt Lake Tribune for permission to use the drawing.)*

BUILDING DISCERNMENT CHURCH MEETING RESULTS

At a parish-wide meeting held September 11, the Vestry and Building Discernment Committee presented their reasons and a possible plan for expansion of the facilities of All Saints' Church. Comment cards were passed out to all those present at the meeting. In addition, a few days later an e-mail was sent to all those on the church mailing list with a comment card and outline of the presentation attached, as well as information on how to access a video or CD of the presentation if they desired. The comment card asks a specific question of responders: should we or should we not move forward with the expansion project, and reasons why/why not. Moving forward would involve engaging the services of a firm (at some cost) to work with us in formulating a more detailed design and cost estimate. After this is done, we would again present the information at a parish meeting to determine whether there is or is not support for an expansion project and what it might entail.

Below is a summary of the responses received to date to this question, both from the comment cards that have been turned in as well as from messages received via regular or e-mail.

NUMBER OF RESPONSES: Total 39 people.

SHOULD MOVE FORWARD: 37 people

SHOULD NOT MOVE FORWARD: 2 people

REASONS FOR:

The great majority of the respondents indicated support for moving forward, to, as stated by one parishioner, pursue getting a good cost estimate so "we'll have a better idea if we can afford to move forward" with all or part of the plan.

A few people indicated support for "All the reasons outlined at the presentation". These reasons fall into the following areas: handicap accessibility, increased sanctuary space for a single service, Christian education (children, youth, adult) program vitality and opportunities, Rector and administrator office needs, and space for parish gatherings and events (e.g., Memorial Hall).

The reasons that were most mentioned by those who supported moving forward are the following:

- * Need adequate space for current needs and for all church activities
- * Room for families to sit together
- * Great benefits associated with a combined and single Sunday service
- * Increased vitality and interconnectedness with combined services
- * Enhanced sense of community
- * Children ministries and adult spiritual education opportunities; energy and vitality increased; all children of the parish can know each other and grow together

(cont'd on next page)

BUILDING DISCERNMENT CHURCH MEETING RESULTS (cont'd)

- * Office improvements needed – Rector, Parish Administrator – efficiency, privacy, security
- * Music programs and choir opportunities
- * Memorial Hall expansion needed for fellowship and social events
- * Need “room and opportunity for potential growth”
- * “We can’t grow without expansion.” “We can either grow or slowly die. I vote that we grow”.
- * We should be “forward thinking”
- * Facility for dynamic youth program and potential for growth. Need for space is “urgent”.
- * “Our children are our future” and we need the space for growth, and the vitality of a combined congregation.
- * Greater opportunity for offering adult Christian education classes
- * Would need bigger kitchen and better appliances
- * Services need to be accessible to all
- * Handicap accessibility and for those with mobility issues

REASONS AGAINST:

The main reason by far that was mentioned was related to possible costs and uncertainty as to whether an expansion project would be affordable and feasible to accomplish. About a third of those who had indicated support for moving forward to the next step in this process also brought up some concerns for costs and potentially taking on debt. The changing demographics of the congregation and rate of growth were concerns mentioned by one that might affect ability to afford an expansion.

One person expressed that they have been to joint services in All Saints’ but it “was not uncomfortable” to them, even though the church was full. They didn’t “really feel the need” for a new sanctuary. They agreed that combining services “could have many social benefits”, that the current building was not accessible to those with disabilities, and that Memorial Hall should be expanded. However, they would like us to wait on the sanctuary, first try and test the ability and the advantages to combined services, for example for one Sunday a month. This concept of testing having a regular combined service in our current church was also brought up by one other parishioner as a possible idea.

One person preferred the original idea of expanding the current church building and wanted to make sure we keep our options open, and to explore the expanding of the current church building fully.

(cont’d on next page)

BUILDING DISCERNMENT CHURCH MEETING RESULTS (cont'd)

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS:

- * Need to “honor the history and heritage of the place....the “new” needs to be a part of that”
- * “Maintain the “cozy” feel of our current church”. Keep it looking “softly Montana”, not too “sterile”.
- * One mentioned they’d like to see the children’s education rooms located within the new church, with the thought that it would be more comfortable for children/parents and reduce costs.
- * How does this expansion project fit in with the Diocesan Capital Campaign projects?
- * The “money will come to fulfill needs.”
- * “Are we building because of crowds” at special events?
- * “Present floor space reorganized” could provide adequate office space.
- * Landscaping needs, including thinning of trees, will be an expense.
- * “We should use cubits as unit of measurement”.

These results were compiled by Heidi Sobczak who, as you might know, is well-practiced in working with compiling hundreds upon hundreds of comments that come to the U S Forest system concerning long-term forest management plans.

CROP WALK



Columbia Falls CROP Hunger Walk

(Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty)

1k or 5k walk

OCTOBER 9th, 2016 1 p.m.
Mananette Park, Columbia Falls, MT

3/4 of all donations go towards helping people to lead self sustained lives
and

1/4 of all donations go directly to support the Canyon Community Dinners.

For more information contact
Louann Mohn
406-892-3942
louannmohn65@gmail.com

or talk to our own
Peggy Sebrowsky



Even when showers interfere,
you can still help end hunger.



Please note on the Crop Walk poster that 1/4 of the donations go directly to the Canyon Community Dinners, an event that our own Vera Smith and now, Peggy Sebrowsky, are so involved in. The Canyon Community Dinner currently feeds around 80 people a month.



OCTOBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Pet Blessing Noon 
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 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	7 Diocese Conven- tion	8 Diocese Con- vention
9 Diocese Con- vention	10	11 ASW 10:30 am Memorial Hall	12 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	13 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	14	15
16 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:15 pm	17	18	19 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	20 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	21	22
23 Services at 9 and 11 am	24	25	26 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	27 Noon service at AS Reading Group 1 pm	28	29
30 Services at 9 and 11 am						

BLAZE THE WONDER DOG

My friend, Shawn (who just happens to be the Parish Administrator and technical guru) sent me a photo from a trip she and her dog, Blaze, took over the Labor Day weekend. I was so impressed with Blaze (well, Shawn is pretty impressive, too) that I asked her to do a little bragging. Below are Blaze's accomplishments and after you read them, you, too, will call him "Blaze the Wonder Dog."

We went to a 3 day agility trial: The Copper Paws, in Butte hosted by the mBarking agility club. Blaze had 19 runs in 6 different classes (Hoopers, Jumpers, Regular, Tunnelers, Barrelers, Chances, & Touch N' Go) over the course of the 3 day weekend. He earned 15 purple qualifying ribbons (which earn him points towards titles - theoretically if there were 20 dogs entered in his level and height category all 20 could get qualifying ribbons if they did what they were supposed to do in the allotted time, but then they also give out one 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place ribbon in each height category); 14 first place ribbons; 2 second place ribbons; he earned 4 title ribbons (the big rosette ones) one for Outstanding Performance in Intro Regular Agility (100 pts), one for Outstanding Performance in Intro Chances (60 pts), one for Outstanding Performance in Intro Hoopers (60 pts), and one for Superior Performance in Intro Jumpers (100 pts) (which moved him up to the Novice level); and the big acrylic plaque was for "High in Trial" in the Intro Level (there are 4 levels: Intro, Novice, Open, and Elite).



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

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