

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 8 AUGUST 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Saints,

Fr. Todd, my former rector, would jokingly call me a “thorn in my flesh”, a reference to 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, where Paul writes, "Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’"

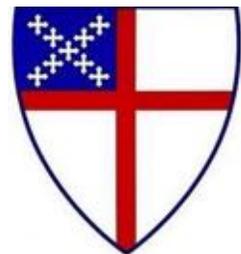
Though I suppose an assistant rector could be a thorn in your flesh, Biblical scholars have always wondered what affliction Paul was writing about. Some of the more popular theories of the thorn’s interpretation include temptation, a chronic eye problem, malaria, migraines, epilepsy, and a speech disability. Some say that the thorn refers to Alexander the coppersmith, who did Paul “great harm” (2 Timothy 4:14). While no one can say for sure what Paul’s thorn was, we know it was a source of real pain in the apostle’s life.

But in the end, it doesn’t matter much, because if you read 2 Corinthians in its full context, it’s clear that Paul meant this to be a picture of the normal Christian experience. The difficult things of daily life often bring us to moments of despair that none of us would willingly choose, where we say, “The Christian life is too much.”

This is important. This is the great apostle Paul, who had said in one of his other letters that "if righteousness was a matter of Law-keeping, I'd be second to none." It is not a coincidence that Paul prayed three times for the thorn to be removed. For example, the book of Daniel talks about how the prophet prayed three times to the Lord with his window open towards Jerusalem. David indicates in one of the Psalms that he prays three times a day. Growing up, I was taught that the prayer life of these Old Testament heroes was meant to be emulated. But then Paul inverts the whole idea that a diligent and fervent prayer life is what gets us closer to God and what facilitates our sanctification. Paul is indicating that he prayed three times a day that God would remove this pain from his life.

Now this is contrary to how Jesus instructed us to pray. And it's contrary to how Jesus himself prayed for the church. When you look at the priestly prayer in John 17, or the Lord's Prayer in the sermon on the Mount, we're actually supposed to be praying in everything that God's will be done in our lives. We should be praying that we would get closer to God in the midst of our suffering. And I'm going to be honest with you.... I rarely pray that. Probably 99% of the time, my prayer life sounds more like 2 Corinthians 12. Very rarely does my prayer life resemble the Our Father or Jesus' desperate plea in Gethsemane, "thy will be done".

And I take great comfort in knowing that even someone like Paul came to the



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A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR (CON'TD)

point where he said, "God, this is just too much." If Paul could pray, "Lord, just make the pain stop", it actually makes me feel a lot better about my prayer life. But what's even better about this passage is that even in the midst of Paul's extremely un-biblical prayer life, God gave him grace. Jesus said, "My grace is sufficient for you." God gave more grace to Paul in the midst of a weakened or broken prayer life. And he gives more grace to you, in the best of your weakened and broken prayer life.

Be encouraged and be well,

Charlie+

NEW FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY THAT'S GOING TO THE DOGS!

Fr. Charlie has found that our colleagues from the rest of the diocese lovingly refer to us as "the dog church". We're pretty sure it's lovingly, anyway! Either way, perhaps we'll just lean into that moniker?

You and your four-legged friends are invited to join in for some socially distant fellowship. We'll meet every Tuesday at 10 am in Hugh Rogers WAG Park in Whitefish (1720 E. Second Street). Get the dog and yourself out of the house, reconnect with old friends, and make new ones. If you don't have a dog, come for the doughnuts!



DAY BY DAY

The Forward Day By Day booklets for August-October have arrived. They are available in the narthex as they usually are. If you are someone who is not yet attending church due to the social distancing concerns, you will find both small and large booklets available for pick up in the mailbox in front of Memorial Hall. Or if you let Shawn know she will gladly send you one in the mail. Just let her know if you'd like a small or large print version and she'll gladly add you to the list of Day By Day postal delivery recipients.

You can also find it online at: <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/>

In addition, there is a place on their website where you can sign up to receive it daily via your email.



THERE'S A CHANGE A COMIN'

After the month of June appeared as though no visible progress had been made, the building project made great strides in the month of July. Here are some highlights.



June 1 - foundation back filled



June 12 - gravel in what will be crawl space



July 1 - flooring materials delivered



July 2 - concrete tested with rebound hammer



July 7 - preparing for floor joists



July 9 - concrete drilled for core testing



July 15 - floor joists down



July 16 - prepping for steel moment frames

THERE'S A CHANGE A COMIN'

We finally "went vertical" on July 23



July 22 - Fr Charlie checking out the walls



July 23 - almost ready for the moment frame



July 23 - south side frame lowered into place



July 23 - north side frame is set



July 23 - here comes the top piece



July 23 - back wall gets lifted into place



July 24 - rafters in place and some plywood



July 30 - plywood starts to go on the roof

THERE'S A CHANGE A COMIN'

Change is always a bittersweet endeavor. Our feelings of excitement as we see progress on our sanctuary expansion are coupled with feelings of sadness as we say goodbye to what was. Very soon, during the first week or so of August, the back wall, behind the chancel, will be removed to make room for the expansion of our worship space to accommodate the growth of our congregation. The Holy Nativity stained glass window will be carefully removed, secured, and stored until we figure out a new home for it (along with the two St. Matthew's stained glass windows) somewhere on our campus. The wood on the outside of the back wall, which was under the siding, is original and will be saved and repurposed for some as yet to be determined use. So here is a look back at the chancel over the years (well as far back as Shawn has been around to take pictures). Here's a look as to how the "old" altar looked through various times of the year.



BACKPACKS

By Amy Peterson

"Times are uncertain, but at some point our valley's students will be heading back to school and some will not be able to afford the supplies and shoes that they need. All Saints' would like to continue our ministry to area children with a collection of backpacks, supplies, and funds to be spent on supplies needed and gift certificates for shoes. The backpacks and supplies will be distributed to the Columbia Falls and Whitefish food banks as well as to the Flathead Youth Home. The gift certificates will be distributed to both school districts for counselors or PE teachers to give out to students who have a need. You can contribute with a donation earmarked 'school supplies' or bring backpacks or supplies to church with you by Sunday, August 16th. You have always been so generous to our area students. Thank you in advance for making a difference for those who need it."



BACKPACK BLESSING

If there were ever a year in which we needed blessings for going back to school, it's this one. In his last parish, Fr. Charlie started a tradition of blessing teachers and students' backpacks before they started classes in the fall. Each student would also get a saint medallion to put on their backpack.

The saint to guide us through this school year will be St. Clare of Assisi, the patron saint of television (and by extension... Zoom calls and distance learning!). According to legend, St. Clare was distraught at being unable to attend church due to illness. God had mercy on Clare, and she was able to see a moving image of the Mass at the neighboring church projected onto the wall of her room, so that she could worship from her bed (for this reason, St. Clare was Fr. Charlie's confirmation saint!). The medal we'll pass out depicts St. Clare holding a monstrance* containing the sacrament. This is because of another legend where she fended off brigands with the sacrament as they were attempting to ransack her convent.



While students are free to bring their backpacks to be blessed at any service on August 16th, we'll bless the saint medals and leave them out for you to give to kids and grandkids.

*<https://episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary/monstrance>

KIDZINE

Although for health reasons we are unable to gather children's chapel at this time, the church wants to make sure that our young people are still hearing and getting acquainted with the scriptures. For this reason, we've gotten our hands on some Storymakers Kidzines*, which use (beautiful!) illustrations, fun facts, arts and crafts, and games to teach children how God works through the lives of ordinary people. Since our lectionary readings have been focused on Abraham and his descendants, we've settled on "The Stars" Zine, which explores the accounts of Genesis 12-34. If you are interested, visit the above link and let Fr. Charlie or Cynthia know if you'd like us to send you a copy or two. The Kidzines are best suited for children between the ages of 5 and 13.



*<https://www.storymakersnyc.com>

SOAP SELLERS AND FACEBOOK..what a combo!

Fr. Charlie and Mikayla spent a successful but very hot evening at the Columbia Falls Farmers Market on Thursday, July 30, selling SHIMA Soap. All proceeds will go to the Navajoland Area Episcopal Mission for coronavirus relief efforts. The Navajoland Area is seeing some of the highest levels of C-19 in the world.

Fr. Charlie wasn't given much advance notice that he and Mikayla would be able to sell soap at the farmers market, but because another vendor withdrew at the last minute, he was given the go ahead. Fr. Charlie had time to post pictures on our Facebook page to let people know he was there.

If you are a Facebook user and you have not yet "liked" or are not yet "following" All Saints' on Facebook, please do. Facebook is where you will find our live-streamed Sunday worship services, pictures of the building project progress, upcoming events and other information (such as this last minute soap selling opportunity). Our Facebook link is: <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt/>.

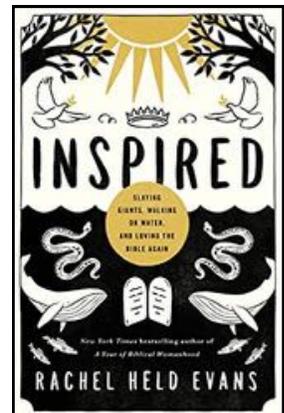


BOOK STUDY IS COMING BACK!

Despite the pandemic, All Saints' had a pretty great turnout for its mid-week Lenten discussion group, which had to go digital for its final weeks. So starting Thursday, August 27, we're going to start up an online book group from 6 pm to 7 pm where hopefully we'll cover different topics over the course of a year such as science and religion, race in America, what it means to be a Christian and others.

For our first book, we're going to read and discuss Rachel Held Evan's *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*. This is a really fun book that combines excellent (but accessible) scholarship with numerous genres of literature to try to answer the question of what it means to call the Bible an "inspired" text.

You can order it at Bookworks in Whitefish or Bad Rock Books in Columbia Falls. You can also order it online at Amazon.



SAINTS AND SAGES

All of us know gardening here is a race. You mill around in the starting gate for the cold weather to lift so you can plant then you rush toward the finish line only to slow down wondering where (when) the finish line is. Our 30% probability of last frost date is May 29 and first frost date is Aug 31. Except for this year. At the Elkhorn Underground Weather station in Whitefish, the entire second week of June was in the 30s and on June 15, the temperature dropped to 39.9. Not a freeze, to be sure, but cold enough.

What is a gardener to do? Enter St. Fiacre. Statues of St. Francis are so common in gardens that no one really thinks about the *actual* patron saint of gardeners, St. Fiacre (fee-AH-cruh). Yet another intrepid Celt, Fiacre was born in 600, AD in Connaught, Ireland to a noble family.



SAINTS AND SAGES (cont'd)

He was raised in a monastery where he learned about medicinal herbs and became a monk.

In 628, Fiacre followed in the footsteps of St. Columbanus and traveled to France to seek a simple life of prayer. Once there, St. Faro, the bishop of Meaux, remembering St. Columbanus's kindnesses, gave him permission to build a small hermitage where he planted a garden and founded a church. So many people came for healing he needed more land to grow herbs. Bishop Faro told him he could have as much additional land as he could dig in a day.

Fiacre took out his staff and drew it on the ground. Jacobus de Voragine, a 13th Century Archbishop of Genoa, records in *The Golden Legend or Lives of the Saints* the miracle that occurred. "For, by the will of our Lord, wheresoever the holy hermit Fiacre drew his staff, the trees fell down both on one side and on other, and round about where he drew his staff was a ditch suddenly made."

St. Fiacre's feast day is August 30, our 30% first frost day. Perhaps with Fiacre's help, we can eek out a few more weeks of garden time.

For more information see

The Golden Legend or Lives of the Saints <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/basis/goldenlegend/GoldenLegend-Volume7.asp#Fiacre>
<https://www.catholicireland.net/saintoftheday/st-fiacre-7th-century-patron-of-gardeners-and-taxi-drivers/>

INTERNET OPTIONS

By Fr. Charlie

Throughout these several months, I've been so grateful for the faithfulness of this community. This has been a time of great disruption, but we've persevered in offering up dignified and heartfelt prayers, and we've loved our neighbors by seeking to provide a safe environment for the Eucharistic community to gather.

An important part of this has been our ability to offer up virtual programming and worship. However, though we are a vibrant community, our physical plant is rather "off the beaten path". One has to wander the grounds to find "sweet spots" for cell phone service and the upload speed on our internet is quite poor. You've likely noticed this if you've joined us virtually on Sunday morning... where I'm told there's a lack of focus, some jumping around, and frequent skipping or loss of sound. A few Sundays back, Shawn and I were scrambling to get any kind of Internet connection in order to stream at 9am.

The vestry has concluded that the lack of Internet is one of All Saints' greatest barriers to ministry, especially in this time of social distancing. Shawn and Carl have been working tirelessly to address this issue, but no easy (or cheap!) fixes have presented themselves. Spectrum does not serve our area, and given the wooded nature of campus, there's no direct line to satellites or transmitters on Big Mountain. At the moment, Century Link remains our only option, and after several hours of consultation, the only way they have found to increase our Internet speed would be to lay down fiber optic cable all the way up our driveway from Conn Road. The estimated cost for this would be about \$20,000.

This is a pressing need and we do not have that kind of money. For this reason, the vestry has created a committee to explore the installation of a dish on campus so that we may be able to work with Montana Sky or Hughes Net.

INTERNET OPTIONS (cont'd)

If you are a tech-savvy individual, or have professional/personal experience in troubleshooting such things, we'd love to have you on this team. Please let me know if you feel called to participate in this project, and I will guarantee several jewels for your celestial crown!

UPDATE: Fr. Charlie has ordered Ooma Office which uses LTE technology. Although the cell service on campus can be spotty, Ooma has offered All Saints' a 60 day money back guarantee, so we'll give it a try. But we'd still love anyone with interest or experience to join our "improve the internet" quest.

JULY DISTANCING SPECIAL SERVICES: GRAD/WEDDING/FUNERAL



Upper left, the high school and college graduates

Upper right: Elizabeth Wilson/Michael Larson wedding

To the left: Angie Spring/Nolan Frese wedding

To the right: Melissa Hulvat/Pierre Kaptanian were wed

Below: The funeral service for Marylu Nolde



AUGUST ZOOM 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm	3 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	4 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	5 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	6 Office Hour 11:00-12:00 pm	7 Happy Hour 5:00-6:00 pm	8
9 Coffee Hour 12:00am-1:00 pm	10 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	11 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	12 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	13 Office Hour 11:00-12:00 pm	14 Happy Hour 5:00-6:00 pm	15
16 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm Vestry Meeting 12:30	17 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	18 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	19 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	20 Office Hour 11:00-12:00 pm	21 Happy Hour 5:00-6:00 pm	22
23 and 30 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm	24 and 31 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	25 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	26 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	27 Office Hour 11:00-12:00 pm Book Club 6:00pm-7:00pm	28 Happy Hour 5:00-6:00 pm	29

AUGUST LIVE 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Dogs and Doughnuts H. Rogers Wag Park 10-11 am	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Dogs and Doughnuts H. Rogers Wag Park 10-11 am	12	13	14	15
16 Backpack Blessing All services	17	18 Dogs and Doughnuts H. Rogers Wag Park 10-11 am	19	20	21	22
23 and 30	24 and 31	25 Dogs and Doughnuts H. Rogers Wag Park 10-11 am	26	27	28	29

COVID-19 SERVICE CHANGES AND PRECAUTIONS

Welcome Back!

For the love of your neighbor, please :

- **WEAR A MASK WHILE INDOORS.**
- **REMAIN 6'-10' APART.**
- **SING GENTLY.**
- **AVOID TOUCHING SURFACES.**
- **WASH YOUR HANDS!**

Thank You!

We resumed public worship services on May 24th adhering to guidelines set forth by the Bishop's office and in compliance with Montana's phased approach to reopening The Big Sky. In addition to the guidelines above, you can expect the following changes:

- ◆ **2 additional services (7:30 am and 7:00pm both without music) help achieve proper social distancing**
- ◆ **Masks must be worn at all times indoors (we have bandanas if you don't have a mask)**
- ◆ **Doors open for extra ventilation and air circulation**
- ◆ **All hymnals and BCPs removed from pews**
- ◆ **Large bulletins containing the entirety of the service available for everyone**
- ◆ **Every other pew roped off**
- ◆ **If you share a household, you can share a pew**
- ◆ **Changes to the order of the service**
- ◆ **Communion distributed outside**
- ◆ **Post communion prayer said outside after distribution of communion**

A complete list of the Sunday services can be found on the following page.



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

10:00-11:00 am - Drive through communion

11:00 am - service with hymns

7:00 pm – service only, no music

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: Leif Peterson
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Betsy Paugh
Heidi Sobczak
Henry Stamm

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