

# ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 8      AUGUST 2019

## A MESSAGE FROM THE VESTRY

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make Bradley's last service and the reception following it go so smoothly. What a great day! The following are some answers to questions people have had about what comes next. We are very optimistic about the future! Our search committee is working hard, and we are a vital and healthy parish. We have been prepared well for this time. Bradley, in his exit interview, reminded us that we are not stopping any of the things that we do; All Saints' will continue to run "business as usual". We are not in an "interim period," we are an active healthy church which is without a rector at the moment. But that is no reason to pull back or slow down!

### Services

We will continue worship as usual, and have both a 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM service with Communion every Sunday, just like always. We have a wonderful group of Supply Priests on call, and Shawn has scheduled services through October. We will operate as we always have!

The Thursday service at noon will go on as usual with Noonday Prayers, followed by a book study group resuming in the fall. The 10:00 AM Wednesday service at The Springs will continue. Lay leaders will provide morning prayer for the next couple of months.

### Pastoral Care

Priests are available for pastoral emergencies; in addition we have licensed Eucharistic ministers available to bring home communion to those who desire it, and people available for hospital and home visits. Please contact Shawn for any requests or needs.

### Wardens

When Bradley left at the end of July, we also said thank you and goodbye to Ben Pomerantz, who had been our Senior Warden from afar in Michigan. Their last day was July 31. The Vestry voted to appoint Leif Peterson as the new Senior Warden, and we are delighted that he has accepted! Leif is a longtime member of All Saints'. He has been the Jr. Warden several times, the chair of the building committee for the educational wing, and has a deep knowledge of our church and the people in it. We're very excited to have him on board.

Grace Benkelman will continue as the Jr. Warden, also known as the People's Warden. She is available to the congregation to take questions or concerns from them to the Vestry, which is her job as the "People's Warden."

### Rector Emeritus

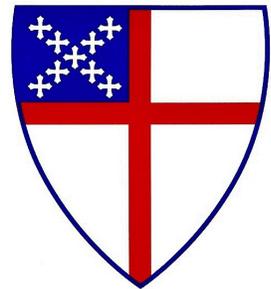
Bradley's official final day was July 31, and he plans to be gone, either traveling or cleaning his garage, for a couple of months. Beginning in October, the vestry has asked, and Bradley has agreed to do several things including:

Resume the Eucharist at the Springs on Wednesday.

Do Pastoral Care visits and provide emergency pastoral care.

Conduct special Services such as St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Weddings, and Funerals.

Be Available to meet with youth group if requested.



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE VESTRY (cont'd)

Be available to be on rotation on the Supply Clergy list.

He will not be involved in the day to day administration or running of the church. He will be compensated at the normal rate for supply activity, and for travel only for other activities. When a new Rector is called, that person will review the agreement and change it as they please. Bradley serves with a limited portfolio of activities as "Rector Emeritus" solely at the pleasure of the Vestry, and then the new Rector should that person wish to use him. We're fortunate to have Bradley available to us in the next few months. If you have any questions about this, please ask a vestry member.

**All Saints' Vestry: Sr. Warden (beginning August 1) Leif Peterson, Jr. Warden Grace Benkelman, Treasurer Carl Thomas, Secretary Kathy Thomas, Cynthia Benkelman, Betsy Paugh, Shawn Sloan, Heidi Sobczak**

## A THANK YOU FROM BRADLEY

July 23/2019

Dear all,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your incredible kindness and generosity of spirit at my last Sunday celebrating the Holy Eucharist as your Rector. Thank you to every one who had a hand in making the grounds so beautiful and for working so hard to put on such a wonderful brunch. The food was delicious and the company of all of you was simply magnificent. Thank you as well for all the gifts and the special tributes and music. I was moved beyond words by it all. And as I sit in Husky Stadium and watch the DAWGS at a football game this fall, I will remember who made it all possible.

You are the best and I am grateful in ways the poverty of speech can't express.

With much love to you all and best wishes for a fabulous future, I remain

Faithfully yours

Bradley

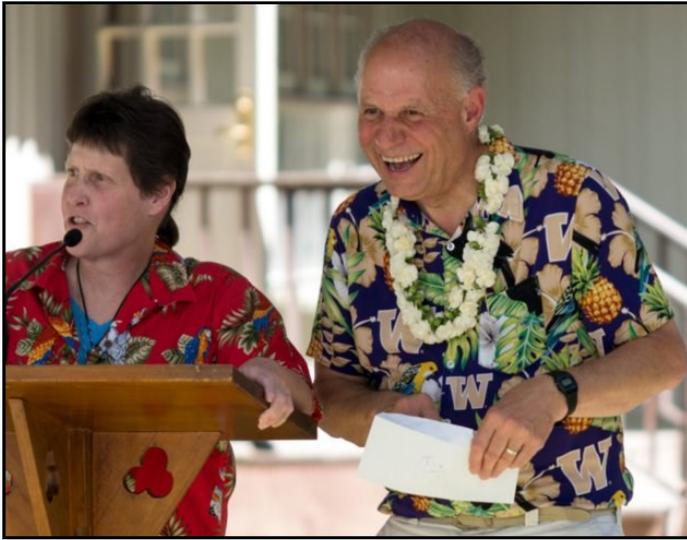
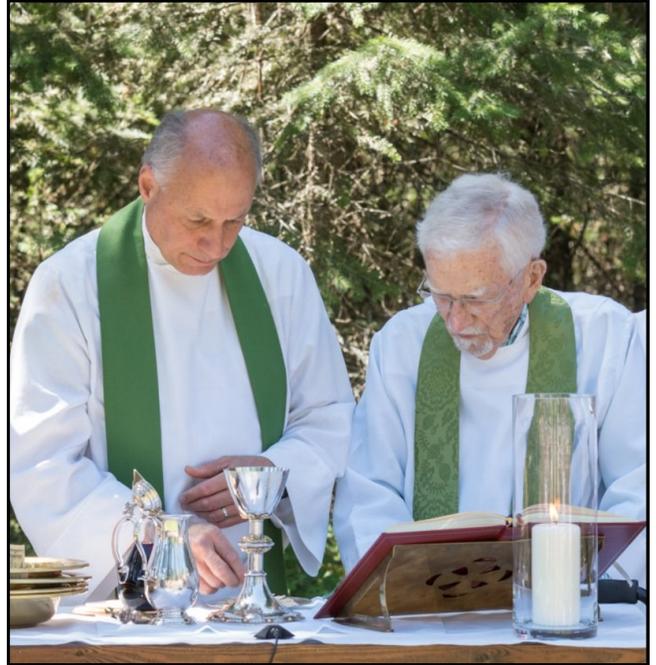


P.S.

On the afternoon I wrote the above, I spent the early evening reading all the letters and cards as well as the notes from the youth and the email special edition. Again, I was simply overwhelmed by such an outpouring of kind thoughts. Again, thank you so much!

Bradley

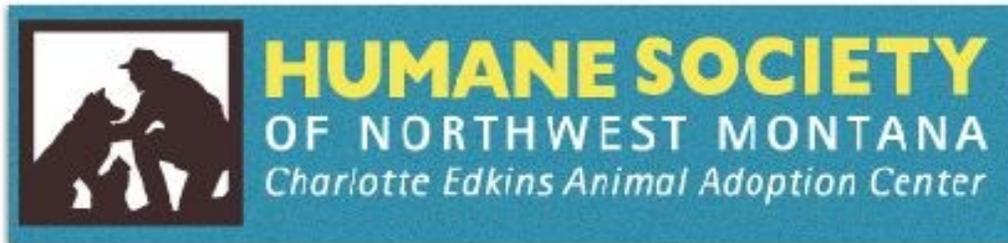
**BRADLEY'S FOND FAREWELL**



Photos courtesy of Beth and Hank Stamm

**BRADLEY'S FOND FAREWELL-DONATIONS**

From the parishioners and friends of All Saints' a donation has been made in your name to each of the following animal agencies in thanksgiving for your endless compassion for our animal companions.



## THE DIOCESE OF MONTANA HAS ELECTED A NEW BISHOP!

Montana Episcopalians have elected the Rev. Martha (Marty) Stebbins of North Carolina to be their new bishop. She was among three women considered for bishop at the electing convention held in Bozeman on July 26 and will be the first woman to head the 34 congregations that make up the Episcopal Church in Montana. Once all the Consents have been received, she will be ordained and consecrated on Dec. 7 in Helena.



Stebbins heads St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Wilson, N.C. where she has been priest-in-charge for nine years. Before entering the priesthood, she was a veterinarian. She holds advanced degrees in veterinary epidemiology and bacteriology and has worked in academia and industry. Stebbins studied for the ministry at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Tex.. And was ordained in 2005. She has been active in numerous church and community organizations. She and her husband, Bob Grudier, will make their home in Helena.

## CONVENTION DELEGATES

All of us at All Saints' send our thanks to those who attended the Diocese convention as delegates, Standing Committee members and as youth delegate from the Lake Missoula Deanery.

Our delegates were Grace Benkelman, Shawn Sloan, Heidi Sobczak and Jenanne Solberg. Standing Committee members were Cynthia Benkelman and Fr. Bradley. Our youth delegate was Katie Benkelman.



## OUR CONVENTION ACOLYTES

Katie and Grace Benkelman proudly represented All Saints' as acolytes at the opening Eucharist of the 116th Convention of the Diocese of Montana.



## CONVENTION COURTESY RESOLUTION

The following Diocesan Courtesy Resolution was read by Shawn Sloan at Convention:

**WHEREAS** The Reverend Canon Bradley Stephen Thisted Wirth retires in 4 more days on July 31, 2019 after serving All Saints' in Columbia Falls and Whitefish for nearly 15 years, and currently serving on the Standing Committee,

**WHEREAS** his infinite knowledge of the canons both baffles and amazes us,

**WHEREAS** the dogs of the diocese all know and love Bradley and are grateful for his profound love and ministry for all creatures great and small,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the 116th Convention of the Diocese of Montana, says thank you to this gifted preacher, exceptional priest and dear friend.

It was received with a resounding standing ovation.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

By Sam Baldrige

The search committee has compiled the necessary parish profile components and will be presenting that profile to the Diocese for its system-wide placement search.

We have also been working on an online parish and community profile, which will be on our website.

We are excited to be at this step of our process, and look forward to receiving names of possible candidates starting in the next few weeks. This will be open for at least six weeks and then the process of evaluating candidates begins.

We are excited about the profiles and look forward to sharing them with the parish once the editing is complete.

Look for more information soon!

**DAY CAMP**

By Cynthia Benkelman

Our day camps begin Monday, August 5! We have two sessions, August 5-9 and August 12-16.

Our first week is completely full and we have a couple of spots still available for the second week. Camp staff will be arriving August 4 to run these free, all-day camps for kids in grades 1-6.

Thank you to the Peterson family for providing housing for the staff. We are still in need of dinners Monday through Thursday of each week for the camp staff. We are also in need of snacks for the kids attending the camps and drivers to take kids to the beach and to the retirement communities for their service projects.

If you can help, please let **Cynthia Benkelman** know: [cgraine@montanasky.us](mailto:cgraine@montanasky.us) or **406-261-9636**.

We are looking forward to providing this amazing community outreach to families in the area again this summer.

**A NOTE FROM OUR NEW SENIOR WARDEN**

By Leif Peterson

It is a great honor and privilege to serve as your Senior Warden. I've been an active member of this church for twenty-five years. I've served as Junior Warden on multiple occasions, been a part of building committees, and witnessed the transition of at least six priests. I can honestly say that I've never seen the church in a healthier or more vibrant place. We are a strong, cohesive bunch that is operating out of a strong spirit of abundance. Yes, change is always a little scary, but we experience change every day the sun rises. I have such a strong sense of hope in our future. This is an amazing group of people that sees possibilities, not limitations. I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds for this family because I think it may surprise even the most optimistic among us.

**A NOTE FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN**

By Grace Benkelman

As many of you know, I am still the Junior Warden for All Saints! In the past, I haven't received much input from anyone, but as we move into a time of transition with both the rector search and the building project, I assume this might change. I am here for any concerns, questions, or comments regarding the church, and I will do my best to accommodate the needs of this parish. As the "People's Warden", I take these tasks very seriously and will work hard to help out in any way that I can.

I do feel the need to remind everyone to please keep conversations limited before church and during the Peace-I have had a few comments about the chatter. Coffee hour is the intended and ideal time and place to catch up with other parishioners! I am excited to bring the two services together so that we can all visit with

**A NOTE FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN** (cont'd)

one another after the service and become a tighter-knit community.

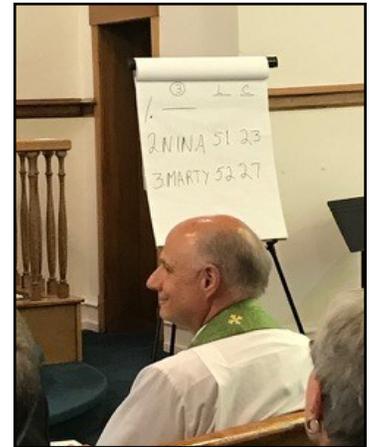
Please do not hesitate to contact me, I am here to assist the needs and concerns of everyone. I love this church with all of my heart, and I look forward to participating in its growth and evolution.

You can contact me at [benkelmang@icloud.com](mailto:benkelmang@icloud.com) or 406-291-2762

**A NOTE FROM A FIRST TIME VOTER**

By Katie Benkelman

I was so excited to be able to vote for the next Bishop of Montana as the Youth Delegate from the Lake Missoula Deanery. There were three youth delegates, which is a youth from a parish in each deanery under the age of 16 and this was our first time participating in something like this! We had to vote 3 times. "L" is for laity and "C" is for clerical (on the tote board). There needed to be a majority in both for the bishop to be elected.



**CELEBRATE!** ❤️ ❤️



The congregation of All Saints' was delighted to celebrate, along with their families, the 50th wedding anniversary of Carl and Kathy Thomas.



**A GENTLE REMINDER FROM THE FLOWER GUILD**

If you took flowers home from the reception for Bradley's retirement and have not returned the vases, would you please do so the next time you come to church? The Flower Guild thanks you!



**BUILDING COMMITTEE**

By Carl Thomas

Our sanctuary expansion and office addition project is proceeding with steady progress. We are waiting for reviews and bids for our final budget figures.

The building committee met on July 15 with our contractor, Dave Bailey, as well as Fran Quiram from CTA to finalize some questions which would allow CTA to complete the construction documents.

The construction drawings have now been completed by the CTA firm. All permit documents and applications have been submitted to the State of Montana for review. The review process will take approximately 3-4 weeks. We have received a proposal from Carver Engineering for civil engineering services for the remodel of our septic system.

Our general contractor, Dave Bailey, has reviewed the construction drawings and during the week of July 29 met with several sub-contractors on campus who looked at the scope of the project, gathered information, and took measurements. The sub-contractors are now busy bidding on electrical, lighting, heating, air-conditioning, concrete work, etc.

The building committee is meeting again on August 6 to continue our discussion with our contractor.

**NOTES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR**

By Shawn Sloan

As of July 1, my hours increased. I will usually be on campus on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and I will continue to work from home on Mondays. However, my days and hours are flexible and often change (like now, during day camp, when I'm working from home for the next two weeks or I will be in the office in the evening after the kids have gone home.) So if you need me or need to come by church for something, it's best to call ahead of time to make sure I'm there. From Whitefish to my house it is a cell phone "dead zone", so if you don't get hold of me on the cell phone, please leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. **Church office phone 406-862-2863. Cell phone 406-291-3613.**

I am now the official keeper of the calendar for use of Memorial Hall and the church. If you would like to schedule use of either building, or even the property, whether church related or not, you need to let me know. We do occasionally have meetings scheduled mid-week both during the day as well as in the evening, we have people who come to clean the church sometimes during the day and sometimes in the evening, we have gardeners and others mowing the grass and working on the property and now there will be contractors around as well. So everyone needs to check with me to see if the facilities are available and also so I can alert others that schedules may need to be adjusted.

As mentioned in the Vestry letter, we do have priests available for pastoral emergencies. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have a pastoral emergency and need a priest.

**SAVE SOME TIME IN SEPTEMBER!**

Don't be filling up all your days in September! Rumor has it that there may be a BBQ right around the corner. Not sure when or where or what all will be going on. All Saints' comes up with all kinds of things that are enjoyable. Luckily, your e-letter editor is on the cutting edge of all that is All Saints' unless Shawn sneaks one of those pesky inserts into the Sunday bulletin without telling me. Sometimes, I guess, I'm on the dull edge of all that is All Saints'.

Watch the e-letter, watch your mail and most importantly, read all those inserts on Sunday. You wouldn't want to miss out on an end of summer BBQ!





It's time again to support our local children by collecting school supplies, backpacks, and money for shoes. Due to the generosity of other churches the needs have changed. We still need around 40 backpacks for Columbia Falls and The Flathead Youth Home, but the greater need is more cash for shoe gift certificates and expensive supplies like USB keys and earbuds or headphones are needed. Please bring supplies, backpacks, and donations (checks should have "school supplies" on the memo line) by Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup> so I will have time to distribute before school begins. Thank you for being the generous caring congregation you are! Any questions contact Amy Peterson at 863 - 2999.

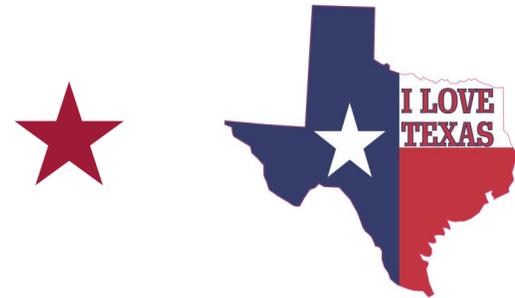
Thank you all.

# AUGUST 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Services at 9 and 11 am	5 Day Camp	6 Day Camp  Building Comm. Meeting 4 pm	7 Day Camp  10 am service at The Springs	8 Day Camp	9 Day Camp	10
11 Services at 9 and 11 am	12 Day Camp	13 Day Camp	14 Day Camp  10 am service at The Springs	15 Day Camp	16 Day Camp	17
18 Services at 9 and 11 am	19	20	21 10 am service at The Springs	22 Noon service at AS	23	24
25 Services at 9 and 11 am	26	27	28 10 am service at The Springs	29 Noon service at AS	30	31

# A VERY FOND FAREWELL

It was with much sadness (especially on the part of your editor) that All Saints' had to say good-bye to Judi and Jerry Williams. After being a part of our congregation for 5 years, the pull of the Texas heart-strings got too strong and they moved back to the Lone Star State to be closer to grandkids and great-grandkids. We know all of All Saints' will miss the contributions they both made. Judi as Junior Warden and Jerry working on the original building committee. Your editor will miss them because they are my family. (For those of you who don't know, Judi is my sister, Jerry my BIL).



## ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

**Church location:**  
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Columbia Falls, MT

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Parish Office Administrator: Shawn Sloan  
E-mail: [allsaintsmt@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsmt@gmail.com)

Christian Formation Minister/Children and Youth: Cynthia Benkelman  
[cgraine@montanasky.us](mailto: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](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA)

**Webpage link:** <http://www.allsaintsmt.org>

**Vestry members:**  
Senior Warden: Leif Peterson  
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman  
Treasurer: Carl Thomas  
Clerk: Kathy Thomas  
Cynthia Benkelman  
Betsy Paugh  
Shawn Sloan  
Heidi Sobczak

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