

# ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 7      JULY 2019

## A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter July, I do so with a profound awareness that I am one of the most fortunate people on earth because I have had the pleasure of being in your company these last fourteen years and nine months. Our congregation has had somewhere in the neighborhood of thirty five clergy, maybe a few more, since 1895, and I am guessing, that as the longest serving of them all, I've therefore been the luckiest who has had the honor of signing the service book Sunday after Sunday, attesting to the fact that I had the great privilege to worship with you on that particular day.

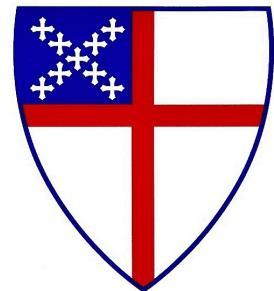


On the evening of Wednesday, June 19th, I went down memory lane with around fifty folks in Memorial Hall, following a wonderful supper and recalled times in my last 43 years since I started seminary which were pivotal for me. There have been a few occasions of trial but overwhelmingly, it just has been grace upon grace, with the love of God showing through the folks who made the parishes and dioceses in which I served, such islands of hope and good news in a world that can be harsh and difficult. And, of course, All Saints' is right up there as a church that has made not just a profound difference in the community in which we find ourselves, but in my life as well. You have climbed into my heart and have taken up a residency that is profound and permanent. And for that I am grateful beyond words.

As I was driving up to Whitefish - Columbia Falls, this morning as I write this, my thoughts turned to the first letter I wrote a congregation, that being as the new Curate at St. Mark's Cathedral in Salt Lake City, thirty-nine years ago. I undoubtedly typed it up, corrected it and then retyped it, and then handed it to the parish secretary, who typed it onto a "master" and combined with the other news of the parish, and a letter from the Dean, ran it through our mimeograph machine and it was delivered ten days later by bulk mail. Compare that with today where my thoughts reach you the second you click on the link for the letter to appear on your screen. (By the way, thanks to Jan, we have an e-letter second to none in the wider church. Many, many thanks indeed.)

Four decades ago, we used to audio tape our services to take to people not able to attend them. Now, thanks to Shawn's brilliance, sermons are posted on our website within a day or two and folks all over the country, and on a couple of occasions, across the sea, can watch them. Two years ago I did a baptism at Camp Marshall in which a godparent was patched in live, from northern Iraq, and participated in real time with video and audio clear as a bell. The way we communicate has indeed changed but even with the technological advances, what still has left the deepest impressions upon me, concerning you, has been our conversations, the handshake at the door, a pat on the back, or the hug we have exchanged.

I've always thought a lot about all those with whom I shared the day-to-day



## IN THIS ISSUE

Rector's Letter	pg. 1-2
UTO	pg. 4
Walkabout	pg. 5
Rector Search	pg. 6
Calendar	pg. 7

**LETTER FROM THE RECTOR (cont'd)**

Ministry of helping a church run. Those who have made everything possible include staff, wardens, treasurers, members of the Vestry, parishioners in the pew, altar and flower guilds, folks engaged in hospitality, the youth of the church, people at home or elsewhere who have received communion from the Reserved Sacrament, Sunday school teachers and assistants, fellow clergy and lay ministers at the altar, people who have helped out in communications, organists, greeters, lectors, ushers, those working on the building and grounds, people who have responded to emergency needs, residents of The Springs, as well as parishioners whose assistance can defy a category I'm able to articulate. Your conviction in Christ, commitment, dedication and humor have made it all work. And for that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I also know that there have been times in which I was not at my best. For those moments in which I offended you or caused hurt and pain, I ask you to forgive me. Despite it being unintentional, that stuff happens in life and I sure have contributed my share over the years. Being particularly human does have its drawbacks. Thankfully the grace of God overcomes division and sends sin and division to the dustbin of history.

So, dear friends, I wish you well. I can't wait to see the construction completed. In time, I will see you around. I will never cease in my love for you. I will count this time in my life as an abundant blessing beyond description. And when your new Rector arrives, I will know him or her, as I have known myself, to be simply the luckiest priest on earth.

Faithfully yours,  
Bradley



*The Vestry of All Saints' Episcopal Church*

*requests the pleasure of your company*

*as we honor the retirement of*

*The Reverend Canon Bradley S. Wirth*

*and celebrate his 39 years of ordained ministry*

*Please join us on Sunday*



JULY 21 2019

*Service at 11:00a.m. followed by a reception at 12:30 p.m.*

*At All Saints' Episcopal Church,*

*2048 Conn Road, Columbia Falls, Montana*

*Please RSVP by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

**"Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine..." Ephesians 3:20**

## AND A FINE PENTECOST WAS HAD BY ALL!



9 O'Clockers



11 O'Clockers  
(and one stray 9 O'Clocker)

## AND A GRAND (GRAND)FATHER'S DAY WAS HAD, TOO!

On June 21, Bradley celebrated a grand (Grand)Father's day by baptizing the newest member of the Kemmit and All Saints' family, Hannah.



## UNITED THANK OFFERING INGATHERING

The article below is by Vicki Van Rensselaer and is from the Diocese of Montana Newsletter, June 2019.

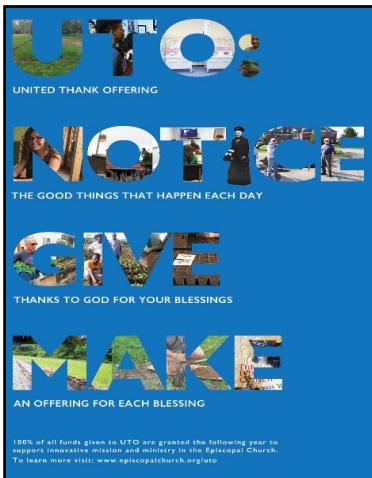
*Delegates at the 2019 Diocesan Convention in Bozeman will have an opportunity to make a donation to United Thank Offering (UTO).*

*UTO supports God's mission around the world by providing funding for important projects.*

*In 2018, UTO funded 44 projects including loaning water tanks to provide clean water to at least 4,500 starved people in Kenya.*

*In Montana, UTO grants funded a new septic system for Camp Marshall nine years ago and enabled the Tri-County/Tri-Parish Woodbank to purchase equipment six years ago to cut larger quantities of wood in order to heat homes during the winter months.*

**The UTO ingathering for All Saints' will be on July 7th. Don't forget to bring your blue box!**

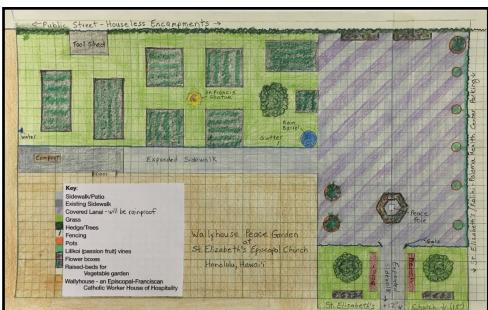


## A UNITED THANK OFFERING STORY WE CAN BE PROUD OF

Fr. Bill Baumgarten's wife Barbara runs the Wallyhouse Catholic Worker House, sponsored by St. Elizabeth's Church, in the poorest section of Honolulu. Barbara applied for an United Thank Offering grant in order to build The Wallyhouse Peace Garden. The purpose of this community peace garden will be to facilitate community among a variety of peoples who don't always get along, the homeless, immigrants and the poor of all colors.

The application process was a long and arduous process, but Barbara's hard work paid off and Wallyhouse received a UTO grant for the garden.

Barbara says they plan to start work on the garden in the fall to be ready to plant in the spring.



On the left, the garden plan.

On the right, David Catron, Barbara Bennett and Niambi Mercado of the Wallyhouse Catholic Worker House.



**MEET THE CANDIDATES****In Search of Our New Bishop**

The Episcopal Diocese of Montana

**Bishop Walkabout****COME & MEET The CANDIDATES!**

The Rev. Mary  
Caucutt, Rector  
of Christ Church -  
Cody Wyoming



The Rev. Dr. Nina  
Ranadive Pooley,  
Rector of St.  
Bartholomew's  
Church -  
Yarmouth, Maine



The Rev. Marty  
Stebbins, Rector  
of St. Timothy's  
Church, Wilson -  
North Carolina

All Saints' will host the first Walkabout to meet the candidates for the X Bishop of Montana.

Please plan to attend on **Monday, July**

**15th, 2019.** The **candidate forum** will take place from **6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

followed by a **local reception** from

**7:30 - 8:30 p.m.** This is your chance to hear from the candidates, ask questions, and then visit with them in a more casual setting.



**RECTOR SERCH COMMITTEE**

By Kathleen Martin

The Rector Search Committee would like to thank everyone for your efforts in responding to the parish self-study survey. Seventy-seven completed surveys were received and the Data Subcommittee is analyzing the data now. We were deeply impressed by the level of participation and the input to the process.

While it is too soon to share any of the results, a summary report, subject to Vestry approval, will be available later.

**MEMORIES**

On June 19th, 40 plus people attended Bradley's night of reminiscing and heard stories looking back over his 43 years of involvement in the church. In those stories, he reflected on the events and the people who had shaped his ministry over the years.

Thanks to Vera for preparing a fabulous meal for the evening.

*the best thing about  
Memories  
is making them*



*Memories  
are  
timeless treasure  
of the  
Heart*

**DAY CAMP REMINDER**

**Day Camo session I: August 5-9, 2019**

**Day Camp Session II: August 12-16, 2019**

Registration for this summer's free day camp for first-sixth graders is open. This year, our day camp theme is "Faith Moves Mountains!" During day camp, we explore and experience God's good gifts through stories, music, outdoor play, arts and crafts, worship, and by serving others.

At day camp, campers may participate in the following activities: hiking, field games, songs, drumming, arts and crafts, skits and in other games that cultivate creative expression.

Campers will join in one day of service during the week together. There is no cost to participate.

Register online: <http://campmarshalldaycamps.campbrainregistration.com>



# JULY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7 Services at 9 and 11 am <a href="#">UTO Ingathering</a> <b>Vestry 12:30</b>	8	9	10 10 am service at The Springs	11 Noon Service at AS	12	13
14 Services at 9 and 11 am	15 <b>Bishop Candidate Walkabout 6:00-8:30 pm</b>	16	17 10 am service at The Springs	18 Noon service at AS	19	20
21 <b>Bradley's last service as rector</b>  <b>Single Service 11 am</b> <b>Reception after the service</b>	22	23	24 10 am service at The Springs	25 Noon service at AS	26 <b>Diocese Convention</b> <b>Election of new bishop</b>	27 <b>Diocese Convention</b>
28 Services at 9 and 11 am <b>Diocese Convention</b>	29	30	31 10 am service at The Springs			

## HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



### 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](mailto:allsaintsmt@gmail.com)

Bradley's E-mail: [canonwirth@gmail.com](mailto:canonwirth@gmail.com)  
Cell phone: 406-250-1690

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](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.all saintsmt.org](http://www.all saintsmt.org)

#### Vestry members:

Rector: Reverend Canon Bradley Wirth  
Senior Warden: Ben Pomerantz  
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman  
Treasurer: Carl Thomas  
Clerk: Kathy Thomas  
Cynthia Benkelman  
Betsy Paugh  
Shawn Sloan  
Heidi Sobczak

Diocese of Montana:  
[www.diomontana.com](http://www.diomontana.com)  
All Saints' website: [www.all saintsmt.org](http://www.all saintsmt.org)  
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