



# *The Vine and Branches*

SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
DILLON, MONTANA

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***November/December 2024 Issue***



## *Notes from our Senior Warden Kathryn Hatch*



*May the spirit satisfy you with the water of grace.*

Alex and I went to the Diocese Convention in Helena. It was a super COVID spreader that included Reverend Theresa.

The following resolution was passed:

"That the Diocese of Montana model a welcoming faith community by publicly advocating for the rights of immigrants, refugees and asylum seeking families in Montana."

I was able to talk to our former supply priest, Donnel. He is doing well, working at St. Patrick's' in Big Fork. Janet is still involved with a PT school in Haiti, but she is no longer going there.

*Kathryn*



*From Reverend Theresa Kelly-Bergmann*

The long green season of “Sunday’s After Pentecost” is nearly over. Soon there will be a bustle of activity in our liturgical year beginning with All Saint’s Day on November 1<sup>st</sup>. An added bonus for All Soul’s Day (Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>) will be the investiture of The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe as the 28<sup>th</sup> presiding bishop. The service will be live-streamed and can be found at this website -- <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/investiture/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/episcopalian>. The service will begin on Nov. 2, with a prelude featuring a “roll call” of dioceses starting at 9:30 a.m. ET. The service itself starts at 11 a.m. ET.

Before we can blink twice it will be Christmas! But, can we try not to get ahead of ourselves?

I have been enjoying Autumn. Each day brings a changing landscape of color and light, unique smells and the rustle of fallen leaves. There is a sense of urgency also! Get the flowerbeds ready for winter! Get the snow shovels on stand-by! You know how it goes.

So, I force myself to slow down and appreciate moments during this rapid change of seasons. May you find the following quote helpful to pause and take delight in the wonders of God’s creation.

A Reading from The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Love all God’s creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf, every ray of God’s light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love. Love the animals: God has given them the rudiments of thought and joy untroubled. Do not trouble it, don’t harass them, don’t deprive them of their happiness, don’t work against God’s intent.

*“If it’s not about love,  
it’s not about God.”*

~ **Presiding Bishop Michael Curry**



### **THE FOOD BANK IS BACK!!!**

**One of the wonderful community outreach programs St. James has fostered is the Community Food Bank. It was the brainchild of the late Millie Brown and has grown and flourished to aid many, many residents of Beaverhead County.**

**Once again, there will be a large tote in the Narthex where you can put your contributions of non-perishable goods.**

**They will be blessed on the 4th Sunday of the month when Rev. Theresa Kelley-Bergmann will be here to lead Holy Eucharist.**

### **Calendar of Events**

Worship: Sundays, 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist led by Rev. Rev. Theresa Kelley-Bergmann on second and fourth Sundays each month.

11/10, 24, 12/8, 22/2024

Christmas service TBA.

Morning Prayer will be held all other Sundays.

Contemplative Prayer:

11/13 and 12/11/2024 5:30 PM in the Guild Hall.

Vestry meets 3rd Sunday of each month: 11/17 and 12/15/2024.

Adult Education:

November 10, 2024 after church.

We will be discussing the book "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr.

Theology on Tap Sundays at 3:00 PM at the Brewery

## **Our Peace Candle**

I'm sure you have noticed the single candle in front of the lectern. That is our Peace Candle. There is a dish with smaller candles next to it. We light one of them to honor all of our military personnel; active duty, retired, living or deceased, any branch of service.

**Lee Graves offered this saying for your contemplation.....**

*The man who will never declare his thought  
Conceals a soul of honor or of sin.  
Dost think yon silent jungle holdeth naught?  
Perchance a lurking tiger sleeps therein.*

**SA'DI**

## ***EUCCHARISTIC VISITS***

For those of you who may have a friend or relative that would like to receive Eucharist, St. James can accommodate those people who aren't able to attend church in person.

We have a lovely traveling Eucharist kit, donated by the late Edith Boothby. It is a lovely addition to our church and allows Eucharist to be set up and administered gracefully and with reverence.

Please let me or a vestry member know if you are aware of someone that would like to have a visit and/or be administered Eucharist.

*Mary Ann Nicholas  
406-660-0339*



## ***Everything and Every Thing..... from Deb Huber***

I'm reading *The Universal Christ* for Adult Ed and doing some *Lectio Divinia* (contemplative reading) as the author (Richard Rohr) recommends in the introduction. Some key phrases from this book that I've been working with are "Christ is everywhere," and "Everything visible, without exception, is the outpouring of God." Every tangible thing is "Christ-soaked," as Rohr has put it – everything.

I've always loved moving water – being in it, floating on it, or sitting beside it. We are lucky to live where we do and still have some public access to this water. I ran across this prayer by Sarah Bessy that ties the idea of a Christ-soaked world with my love of rivers, so I'd like to share parts of it with you here.

### **Instructions For an Evening of Your Life**

Find a bit of water to look at, it doesn't have to be much..go there alone at sunset. Alone. Late in the day.

Leave behind the book. Leave behind your prayer journal. Leave behind the notebooks and schedule planning. Leave behind the mobile phone– if you're in a good spot, there won't be any reception anyways.

And here is your assignment: sit down and watch the water. That's exactly it. Sit in silence at the end of the water and learn to be satisfied.

This is the tricky part when your life is full with good and necessary and hard things, I know. Your mind will jump around from thing to thing to thing. You'll feel guilty and then you'll feel indolent. You'll feel like time has slowed down....You'll get restless. You'll think of all the Things You Should Be Doing. You'll feel twitchy perhaps...Be silent and watch the water. Do one thing right now and do it with your whole self.

Prayer will come, it just might look a bit different than you expect...You'll start to notice life as it is happening in that moment...Become acquainted with the silence in your own world; you might be surprised by the sound of you.

Let the sun set over the water. Be baptized in the gracious last light of the day.

(from *A Rhythm of Prayer* (2021) edited by S. Bessey)

## PRAYERS NEEDED FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY HURRICANES HELENE AND MILTON

I recently travelled to Florida to visit some friends who had moved there from New Jersey. While I was there, Hurricane Helene hit. It was heartbreaking to see the damage and realize how severely people's lives were impacted. Tide surges went through some homes leaving sand and debris filling them. In the days following the hurricane, people had dragged most, if not all, of their ruined furniture to the curb to be hauled away.

After I returned to Montana, Hurricane Milton roared into the area with its eye landing, again, on the gulf coast. Luckily there was no significant damage to the homes of my friends. However, the area that was already impacted suffered. Even today, bridges and roads are closed to everyone except home owners who need to salvage what is left, if anything.

Also, many, many business have felt the impact of this disaster. Some restaurants have over 4 feet of water in their kitchens and dining areas. Waterfront establishments are pretty well washed out. Appliances are destroyed as well as just about everything else in them. Many stores have lost their entire inventory as well. It's hard to fathom how many jobs have been lost due to the storms. And it is right at the beginning of the tourist season. I can't imagine how most of these businesses will be ready to open to take advantage of it.

Similar tragedies have happened as the storm moved north, particularly in North Carolina. The loss of lives is heartbreaking.

FEMA is offering some assistance at this time, with more in the future. Unfortunately, many do not have adequate flood insurance, if any.

So, I am asking for your prayers for those whose lives have been turned upside down by these horrendous disasters.

Thank you,  
*Carol*