



The Vine and Branches

SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
DILLON, MONTANA

stjamesdillon@live.com 406-683-2735

March/April 2024 Issue



Adult Education during LENT * 2024

We are reading "Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism: A Bishop Rethinks this Meaning of Script" by John Shelby Spong. This book was written 33 years ago. Spong writes in simple terms - allowing the readers to see things in a new light. It makes for a good discussion during our coffee hour. It brings spiritual conversation to the table and talk where people are in their faith journey. An insightful look at scripture in the context of history, culture and science. A thoughtful look at the Bible and the world today.

We went to Forward Movement to help us focus more on Jesus during Lent. First, we are glad to have this ministry of the Episcopal Church which grew out of the determination of the General Convention in 1934 to counter a period of anxiety, distrust, and decline in the Episcopal Church with a "forward movement" charged to "reinvigorate the life of the church.

Our first book from Forward Movement is "Dust Bunnies in the Basket", finding God in Lent and Easter by Episcopal priest Tim Schenck. It has questions at the end of each section which allow the readers to actually Think about their relationship with the Christ, and how they can improve that relationship. The priest reminds the Easter bunny that he is dust, not to discredit who he is and what he has to offer, but to remind him that we are all dust, yet welcomed and worthy.

The second from Forward Movement is the Lent Madness. A basketball-inspired holy competition to see which of 32 saints earns the coveted Golden Halo. While it all seems very frivolous, we'll learn about the saints along the way. By the time Holy Week comes along, we'll see how God works in the lives of ordinary people to shine the light of Christ's love in a world in need of hope. Learn more and sign up for email updates at LentMadness.org

Please join us after church on Sundays in the Guild Hall to continue our conversation about Lent.

Lee Graves

Adult Education coordinator

Notes from our Senior Warden

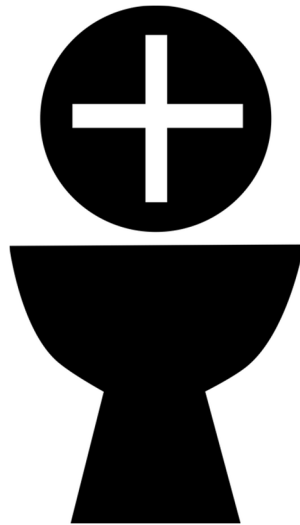
*God hugs you.
You are encircled
by the arms
of the mystery of God.*

Reverend Terri Grotzinger will be here on Sunday, March 3 for our Eucharist service at 10 am. She is from Missoula and works ½ time in Hamilton.

She has expressed interest in our ½ time position on a permanent basis.

Please come and see what she can offer us.

Kathryn Hatch, Senior Warden



From Rev. Theresa Kelley-Bergmann

I don't often (ever) share writing from my college years, but this poem sprang to mind. It was written for an assignment to shape words into a form that reflected the essence of the poem. The season of Lent and rapidly approaching Holy Week demanded that I share this poem and a brief reflection on why.

I was gifted a college education. It is a much longer and beautiful story that can be shared another time. However, I was determined to use this gift to equip my tool belt as I prepared for ordained ministry. Classes were chosen in the areas of psychology, philosophy and writing. Necessary tools indeed for one who was being called into ministry and felt inadequately prepared.

Our journey of discipleship can at times be a daunting challenge. God continually calls His people into new ways of being, thinking, seeing and doing. And while we may be fearful and thus hesitant, of feeling inadequately prepared, He has already equipped us for ministry to carry out His will in the world in His name. How many instances found in Scripture can you recall of God/Jesus/Angels saying do not be afraid? Better yet, how many stories have been told in Scripture of those whom God called that were met with "I can't do that!"? What is your favorite story, and why? (Mine is Gideon

□)

RuGgEd CrOsS

blood flowing
dripping down
from the thorny
crown reminds me
of whose we are
and who you are
bleeding hands once cradled children and comforted the lost
least of men searching for freedom hopeless cases until you
sought them out taught them how to love changing hearts and
minds turning back to the One disobeyed woman bleeding
pouring all her
faith onto the
fringe of your
robe pleading
for the crumbs
men believing
the stories told
of miracles and
wondrous signs
fear and hatred
sought you out
peddled the lies
then placed the
ball of red yarn
on your head to
be the scapegoat
creating me anew
washed clean in
flowing red blood



Calendar of Events

Worship: Sundays, 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist led by Rev. Rev. Theresa Kelley-Bergmann on second and fourth Sundays each month and with a visiting priest on the first Sunday of the month.

Morning Prayer all other Sundays.

Contemplative Prayer:
2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:00 PM in the Guild Hall.

Adult Education:
Sundays following the service in the Guild Hall. Details on page one of this newsletter.

From Lee Graves:

For quite a while St. James has been encouraged to do a live streaming of our regular church services. This service is brand new for us and takes place on the St. James Episcopal Church Facebook page. It is still in its infancy but seems to be working okay. If you have any problem, please talk to either Ellen or myself and we will see if we can help you out. These recordings will be saved on our Facebook site for 30 days according to the information we received when setting it up.

If you cannot make it to our services, please try to catch them on Facebook at: St. James Episcopal Church Dillon, Montana



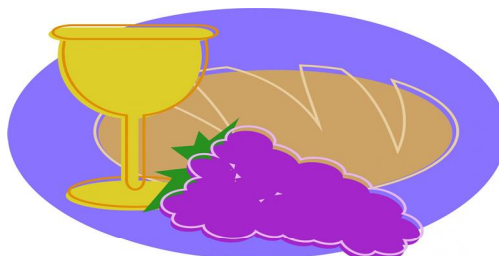
EUCCHARISTIC VISITS

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 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





EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MINISTRY

RELATIONSHIP EVANGELISM RECONCILIATION

Please visit the Diocese of MT at **diomontana.com** and under ministries, click on %Episcopal Cursillo+. The very first sentence, click on the blue, this will take you to a video %The Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invites you to explore Cursillo+. The resources are from the recently completed Episcopal Cursillo ministry conference held at Virginia Theological Seminary September 2023.

To the people without a computer, here is a little history and what Cursillo is:

The Episcopal Cursillo Ministry is an evolution of a Christian renewal movement which originated in Spain, and the Roman Catholic Church of the 1940s. The goal of Episcopal Cursillo is to help participants deepen their faith and strengthen their commitment to serving others.

Cursillo presumes that those who attend a Weekend are already well grounded in the faith. It is not intended to be a conversion experience, but an enriching and deepening of what is already there. It often provides new insights into our faith as well as fostering ministry among lay people.

In 2023, Bishop Marty shared her vision for bringing the Episcopal Cursillo program to the Diocese of Montana. She believes this program will help revitalize the faith of Episcopalians in the diocese, and create a community of committed Christian leaders who can serve the church and the world.

To make her vision a reality, Bishop Marty empowered a leaders team, known as a *Secretariat*, to begin work on bringing Episcopal Cursillo to the Diocese of Montana, by 2024. The Secretariat is responsible for planning and implementing Cursillo weekends. Cursillo Weekends are three-day retreats that include talks, group discussions, worship, and fellowship.

The Secretariat is also responsible for training and supporting the team of laypeople who will lead future Cursillo weekends. We had our first meeting February 10, 2024 in Helena. We had 26 people where we planned, sang, had lunch, and ended with Holy Eucharist. As you witness, I came back energized. **So** stay tune for the next phase.

Peace, Ellen Daugherty



This is from the Diocese of Texas, focused specifically on smaller rural churches.

(from the Episcopal News Services).

Five-step process to help congregations reimagine their approaches to serving local communities:

Define: Acquire a clear picture of the community in question.

Discover: Share your story and observe what the local community needs. Consider issues within a local context.

Dream: Consider what God is calling you to do.

Design: Use your assets and strengths to maximize impact.

Deploy: Act and measure results.

Help Wanted

The Vine and Branches is the newsletter for St. James Episcopal Church.

My goal, as editor, is to provide information, commentary and share thoughts and insights concerning our spirituality.

I welcome any and all contributions for the newsletter. If you have any thoughts or questions about a topic, do not hesitate to send me an email.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Carol

cam51948@gmail.com

Here's a really handy way to move our prayerful meditations *forward*...

Since 1935 millions of people have used *Forward Day by Day* as a way to spend dedicated time with Jesus, every single day. I recently realized that this is the same little booklet that my grandmother read every day when I was a kid.

Now, I read it every day myself. Many people talk about their time of prayer, meditation and reflection. I never could grasp that. However, when I discovered *Forward Day by Day* on the table in the Narthex a number of years ago, it was my "AHA moment".

I encourage you to pick up a copy and see what it's all about. Each day of the year has its own page. It begins with the date and what/who is honored that day. Then there is a bible passage, followed by the scriptures for the day. Then it really gets interesting!

There are 3 authors every issue and their biographies are included. Each one has been assigned a month. They share their thoughts about the day's passage. At the bottom of the page is a Diocese to pray for. Every single one in the world gets their day. The last item is called "**MOVING FORWARD**": a suggestion for how you can incorporate the message into your own life.

That's a lot of information on one small page! It is very usable. So, **PLEASE** pick up a copy from the table in the Narthex. There are always copies left over, which is a shame because it is such a "handy" way to worship each day.

Carol Meacham, Editor