



# SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH FORT BENTON

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH-APRIL, 2024

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### WHAT IS A DEACON ANYWAY?

In the Anglican tradition, there are three orders of clergy: bishops, priests, and deacons. All are mentioned in the New Testament, and are ordained for life. Acts 6 tells of the first deacons, ordained when hands were laid on them by the apostles. The first Christian martyr, St. Stephen, was a deacon; see Acts 6 and 7 for his story.

What does a deacon do? Parishes with deacons become familiar with their work in a church service: a deacon prepares the table for Holy Eucharist and helps serve it. It is the special privilege of the deacon to read the Gospel. They may lead the Creed, the Prayers of the People, and the Confession, and may preach. The priest-in-charge or the bishop directs how the deacon serves.

The Ordination Rite for deacons (BCP 543) describes the role more fully. Central to a deacon's work is the charge to "interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world." The church must not be a closed enclave, whose members worship privately in isolation from the community. The deacon is to metaphorically hold open the door, alerting the church to needs outside, and those outside to the resources within the church. Deacons find a variety of ways to serve their community. In Montana, our deacons work serving the homeless, the hungry, the disabled and those in prison; work with those affected by violence or veterans with PTSD; providing education for parents, training for disaster relief, or leading Bible study; being present with single mothers or lonely seniors; working on the boards of shelters and LGBTQ centers, and serving as hospital or hospice chaplains.

All these good causes need eyes opened and voices raised. Deacons do this not only through preaching, but also by their presence outside the church. They may attend public meetings or demonstrations, write letters to the editor, reach out to elected officials, or simply hold conversations with those who need to know more. Often this work is through participation in an ecumenical or interfaith organization. Their ordination vows commit the deacon to follow the call of Jesus to care for our neighbors, and to encourage others in that work.

Deacons are deployed to parishes by the bishop. A deacon belongs to the diocese, not the parish, and reports to the bishop, not to the local vestry or parish priest.

The deacon assists the bishop, who is the chief pastor of every parish, by making them aware of parish concerns and needs.

It is my honor to have been appointed as deacon to St. Paul's, and to have served with you for over a year. We have a lovely parish in an historic building. If you haven't been to church in a while, please come join us.

The Rev. Marcia Lauzon  
Deacon, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 3, Morning Prayer, 10 AM

March 10, Holy Eucharist and Homily at 10 AM - Bible Study to follow service

March 17, Morning Prayer 10 AM

March 24, Palm Sunday - Holy Eucharist and Homily at 10 AM - Bible Study to follow service

March 29, Good Friday - Good Friday Liturgy at noon

March 31, Easter Sunday - Holy Eucharist and Homily at 10 AM

April 7, Morning Prayer, 10 AM

April 14, Holy Eucharist and Homily at 10 AM - Bible Study to follow service

April 21, Morning Prayer, 10 AM

April 28, Holy Eucharist and Homily at 10 AM - Bible Study to follow service

Please check the *River Press* for possible changes of service times

## PRAYER REQUESTS

For solace for the family and friends of Tom Denniston (Daphne Worrall's brother) who died on February 11

For solace for the family and friends of Jane Stockert who died on February 17

For continued healing for Gail Good

## SUGGESTED PRAYER

Before me in the planned shape of this day

I look for unexpected surgings of new life.

Around me in the people whom I know and love

I look for unopened gifts of promise.

Within me in the familiar sanctuary of my own soul

I look for shinings of the everlasting light.

Before me, around me, within me

I look for your life-giving mystery, O God,

Before me, around me, within me.

From *Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter* by J. Philip Newell (2002). Contributed by Ginger Harstad Glawe.

Please send contributions for future issues to Dean Glawe, [daglawe@earthlink.net](mailto:daglawe@earthlink.net), or call him (509) 332-9966, or mail to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, PO Box 463, Fort Benton, MT 59442.