



The Vine and Branches

SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
DILLON, MONTANA

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Rector:

Rev. Theresa Kelley-Bergmann

March/April 2025 Issue



Greetings.....

Although I have known many of you for well over a year while serving as a supply priest, it is time to introduce myself to the wider membership as your new quarter-time rector! I was called to the Diocese of Montana in 2014 to serve as rector for the Pintler Cluster (Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge and Philipsburg). Changes in the Cluster configuration have reduced to the churches in Anaconda and Philipsburg and reduced my position to less than half-time. The good news is that it allowed me to travel to Dillon a few times per month. I was also seriously considering retirement.

I am originally from West (by God) Virginia where I served in a small church for 13 years as their non-stipendiary clergy. I also worked 3 part-time jobs to help make ends meet. My husband, Jim (now deceased) was a deacon, and we served as a clergy team in the Diocese of WV. My area of expertise focused on small, rural churches and I was blessed to attend conferences across the country. In addition, I served on committees that devised workshops for use in WV congregations.

My education and formation for becoming an Episcopal priest took a non-traditional approach. No, I did not attend a seminary. The diocese had a program in place that allowed education for candidates for ordination to occur locally.

I have two sons who live back East and a 15-year old granddaughter who has the most glorious flaming red hair! I am a little Irish.

So, why did I change my mind about retiring and accept the call to serve as your priest? It really is simple. I fell in love with you. Being with the congregation of St. James provided time and space for me to heal spiritually. I truly enjoy being among you. Your stories, passions and enthusiasms are joy-filled! It is exciting to watch you blossom as we begin to walk together in this next chapter of St. James.

My schedule for St. James includes being in Dillon on Fridays (weather permitting). A group of us meet at the Sweetwater Coffee Shop at 10 a.m. We are discussing putting together a Bible study group; details to follow. Holy Eucharist is offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays per month. If you would like me to visit, please feel free to contact me at 1-406-491-2332 or email at tmkelley57@gmail.com.

Peace,
The Rev. Theresa Kelley-Bergmann



MEET AND GREET

St. James Episcopal Church
invites you to meet and greet
our new rector!

Rev. Theresa Kelley-Bergmann

All are welcome
Sunday, March 23, 2025 @ 11 am
203 E. Glendale Street, Dillon

RSVP to Sharon Morehouse
406.925.2231 sharonjmorehouse@gmail.com

This is taken from "Forward Day by Day":

Acts 26:13b *I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun,
shining around me and my companions.*

"God comes to you disguised as your life".
Paula d'Arcy

Let us pay attention to the messages God is sending us in the
people we meet and the circumstances we face.

Calendar of Events

Worship: Sundays, 10:00 am

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

3/9, 3/23, 4/13, 4/27, 2025.

Morning Prayer will be held all other Sundays.

Contemplative Prayer 2nd and 4th Wednesdays:

3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23 2025.

5:00 PM in the Guild Hall.

Ash Wednesday service: March 5 at 4 PM

Meet and Greet Rev. Theresa Kelley-Bergmann
Sunday March 23 after church in Guild Hall

Adult Education:

"Lent Madness"

See article in this issue.

Coffee morning chat at Sweetwater coffee: Fridays at 10 am.

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

*Notes from our Senior Warden
Kathryn Hatch*



"For with you in the well of life and in your light we see light."

A reminder, come join us for these St. James activities:

- * Coffee and fellowship at Sweetwater Coffee, Fridays at 10 am.
- * Theology on Tap Sundays at 3 PM at The Brewery.
- * Continuing Education: We just finished our discussion of the book "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr.
Our current program is "Lent Madness". Saints are paired in a bracket (like March Madness) and you choose your saints in a special Lent Madness bracket. (More info on last page of newsletter).
- * Contemplative Prayer is held on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the Guild Hall at 5 PM.

*COMING SOON: Bible Study.
Details to be announced.*

Kathryn

Some food for thought from Lee Graves.....

Ah, make the most of what we yet may spend,
Before we too into the Dust descend;
Dust into dust; and under dust, to lie
Sans wine, sans song, sans singer, and - sans End!

Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, XXIV, dating from about the 11th century in Persia (Iran today).

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.

Rev. Theresa
1-406-491-2332



THE FOOD BANK UPDATE:

We continue to collect non-perishable items for the Food Bank. This is an ongoing ministry of St. James.

There are totes in the Narthex where you can drop off your contributions at any time. These will be blessed by Rev. Theresa on the 4th Sunday of each month and delivered to the Food Bank.

The Food Bank was started by St. James and organized by the late Millie Brown. Due to the unfortunate increase of people in need, it has now grown to the point where there are 2 different times that the recipients can pick-up their items.



LENT MADNESS 2025!!!!

Rev. Theresa mentioned this program a few weeks ago and we decided it would be a great Adult Education project. So, here it is:

This is set up ala the March Madness basketball bracket, only using 32 saints as your picks to fill out your "Saintly Scorecard". To begin, there is a free booklet, "The Definitive Guide to Lent Madness", which explains the whole program. It is available in the Narthex and contains bios of all 32 saints, and has an official scorecard for you to fill out.

The saints pictured on the cover are from the Dancing Saints icon at St. Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco, California. The booklet offers more info on this terrific icon. I mean, dancing saints?

There is a website listed in the booklet that I encourage you to visit.
lentmadness.org

It is where you vote for your pick each day. There are two members of the "Lent Madness Supreme Executive Committee", Rev. Tim Schenck and Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, who chat about the saints of the day. It is worth watching. Once the votes are counted, I will post the winners on our huge bracket. There is absolutely no charge for this program. At the end of Lent the winning saint will be awarded The Golden Halo. I kid you not.

Now, if filling out a bracket isn't your cup of tea, do not despair! You can just read the bios of the saints. Easy as that.

In case you are wondering, this entire program is from Forward Movement, who publishes the little Day by Day booklets in the Narthex.

Let the Madness begin!!!!

Carol