



Celebrating birthdays at a recent Vestry meeting.

Thursday March 20, 2025

Here are a few updates from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Hamilton, MT:

One final Small Group Meeting to Discuss Capital Improvements is scheduled for Sunday March 30th, immediately after worship downstairs in the church basement. If you haven't been able to participate in one of the small group meetings, please plan to join us that day. You'll hear about the improvements that are already being considered and we will solicit your feedback about what else we may need to think about as we work to make our space welcoming to everyone.

Capital Campaign Next Steps. After our final small group meeting (which happens on March 30th), our Capital Campaign Committee (Roy Grant and Mary Lyn and Rev. Gretchen) will work to summarize the content of the meetings and create three different versions of how we might move forward with a plan A (basic needs and necessities), plan B (a souped up version of plan A), and plan C (the big vision). An architect will be engaged for some basic design work and to help us understand costs associated with our ideas. The three plans will then be presented to the congregation.

Volunteer Help Needed. The Easter letter will be ready to send on Monday April 7th. We need a volunteer to fold, stuff, and stamp the letter, sending it out that second week of April sometime. If you can do this job please reach out to Rev. Gretchen [here](#).

Lenten Study of Forgiveness is continuing on Monday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 in the church basement.

Help Unload Food for our Little Free Pantry. Rev. Paul will be unloading donated food on Thursday March 27th at 2 pm. He could use some help stocking our pantry and organizing extra food on our storage shelves. Please call or text him if you can help 406-360-2555.

Rev. Steve Oreskovich. We know and love Steve and we'll now get to see him a little more. Steve has volunteered to do some pastoral visiting and some teaching here at St. Paul's this spring. Be on the lookout for a class he'll offer some time after Easter.

Vestry Retreat happens on Saturday March 29th from 9-3. Your Vestry members will gather for community building and visioning for our parish. Please keep the Vestry in your prayers: Gary Andrews (senior warden), Debbie Andrews (treasurer), Woody Jones (Junior Warden), Sharon Powers (clerk), Melissa Armitage, Kathy Milne, Allie Tossberg, Clay Cruse, Revs Alana, Paul and Gretchen.

First Sunday of the Month Special Offering goes to clergy discretionary funds. The next Sunday for designated giving to our clergy discretionary funds will be Sunday April 6th. Use an envelope in the narthex and write discretionary funds on it. The money will be evenly

split between Rev. Gretchen, Rev. Alana and Rev. Paul's accounts. Please be generous as you are able. We are getting an increased number of calls for all sorts of assistance from rent support, to fuel. These are challenging times.

Vacation Bible School. Mark your calendar for July 7-11. We will be collaborating with area churches once again to co-host this event. Last year we hosted here at St. Paul's. This time another one of the churches will host, but they will need our help. Could you help with crafts, games, food or music? Please let Rev. Gretchen know.

Easter Flowers. If you would like to donate Easter flowers in honor or memory of a loved one please reach out to Rev. Gretchen [here](#)

Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday April 13th at 9:30 am. Join us for the palm procession and a dramatic reading of the passion Gospel.

Maundy Thursday April 17th at 6:00 pm. Gather in the basement as we recall the Last Supper and share a light meal of finger food together. There will be opportunities for foot washing as desired and a celebration of Eucharist. We'll go upstairs for the ceremonial stripping of the altar.

Good Friday April 18th at noon. Join us for a quiet and contemplative service as we remember Jesus's crucifixion.

Easter Sunday April 20th at 9:30. Celebrate Jesus's resurrection with music, flowers, Scripture and food. Easter reception and egg hunt immediately follow the service.

Vestry. Notes from the February Vestry Meeting are attached.

A Note from Rev. Gretchen. Friends, I want you to know that things are changing at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Missoula. Rev. Terri and I have been sharing a Co-Rectorship there over the last year. She will be retiring in mid-2026 and Holy Spirit offered me the full-time position. I have officially declined that job so that I can stay at my half-time position at St. Paul's. This is a decision guided by the Holy Spirit. I have a great sense that after four

years of being your rector, we have only just begun. I think there is much more to come for this little church! And I look forward to experiencing it with you! I will continue with Rev. Terri as Co-Rector over the next year and a half as Holy Spirit begins a search for a new rector.

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Rev. Gretchen 's schedule: She is here every other Sunday and EVERY Monday. She works remotely for St. Paul's on Tuesdays.

Next Holy Eucharist Days: March 30, April 13, 17, 20, May 4

The church office is open on the following Mondays: March 24, 31 and April 7, 14, (closed Easter Monday April 21), 28.