

The Vine and Branches

SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DILLON, MONTANA

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Sept. Oct. 2020

THE VINE AND BRANCHES IS BACK!!!

The Vine and Branches has been in production since the 1960's. It has always been the main means of communication for St. James Episcopal Church. So I am thrilled, as the new Editor, to be able to bring it back for everyone to share.

Included will be information about upcoming services, theological studies and other events. Items of interest submitted by our parishioners will always be welcome.

The Vine and Branches will be published every 2 months, this being the September/October 2020 issue. Ellen Daugherty will be handling the distribution.

PARISH NEWS

Many of you have been asking about the status of St. James; what is going to happen in the future and when we will begin the search for a new priest.

Bishop Marty Stebbins determined that we are an "impaired parish"; (Whenever in the life of a congregation, its ability to function is impaired by instability and stress, it is the responsibility of the Ecclesiastical Authority and the congregation to attempt to restore it to vitality).

Bishop Marty has formed a committee of 4 from around the diocese to interview various members of our St. James community. They are reviewing prior audits and Vestry minutes.

When done, they will make recommendations and present a plan for us to move forward as a healthy parish.

Once that is completed, the search for a new priest will commence.

I will include updates about this process in each issue of the Vine and Branches.

Carol Meacham, Editor

Dates to Remember

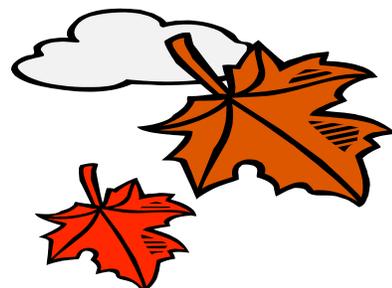
Morning Prayer every Sunday at 10 am.

Theology on Tap at the Brewery Sundays at 4 PM.

Vestry meeting Sunday 9/20 at 11 am.

RBC Wealth Management update: Thursday 10/8 at noon.

Vestry meeting Sunday 10/18 at 11 am.



EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) programs alleviate hunger and improve food supply, create economic opportunities, strengthen communities, promote health, fight disease, respond to disasters and rebuild communities. ERD follows an integrated model, implemented through a global network of partnerships.

If you would like to donate to ERD, please check out the website at: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/> You can designate an offering through St. James by noting "ERD" in the memo line of your check.

Ellen Daugherty

RBC WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Brandon Costley, our advisor from RBC Wealth Management in Great Falls will be here on Thursday, October 8th at noon for the twice yearly review of the Salsbury endowment. This was a \$1,000,000 bequest to St James Episcopal Church by the Salsbury's. They were very close friends of Rev. Jane Shipp.

RBC is the same management group that the Diocese of Montana uses for managing their funds.

It is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

MEET THE VESTRY

As we work to continue our services during the pandemic, we thought it would be good to learn about the members of our Vestry. Lee Graves, our Senior Warden, has asked them to provide some background information to share with you. They are all working very hard to make St. James a spiritual and community-based place of worship.



F. Lee Graves, Senior Warden

I was born and raised in Dillon and always attended St. James growing up. When I was born, my mother was Lutheran and my dad was Presbyterian. Neither wanted to attend the other's church, so they picked St. James because the church had a good youth program and it was close to their personal beliefs. So, when I was six or so months old, I was baptized in St. James by the Rev. Arthur Lord. I attended Sunday School when old enough, and for confirmation we did not have a priest, so we borrowed the Rev. John Hay who was in Sheridan and Virginia City. We liked him a lot and he liked St. James so he decided to come to Dillon. Fr. Hay started me as an acolyte at age 13 and also reading a lesson for Morning Prayer once in awhile. I have always gone to the Episcopal Church because you do not have to leave your brain at the door. Now I am in the first church I ever attended, and certainly do not plan to leave. St. James is a wonderful place with great people and history. It is one of my blessings to be worshiping at St. James.

Ellen Daugherty, Junior Warden

I was born and raised Episcopalian in West Los Angeles at St. Alban's church. My husband, Jeff, and I married in the mid-70, spent our careers working for both the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service., and retired after 30 years. We started our family in the late 80's while living in Pinedale, WY. It was my first time on a Vestry at St. Andrew's in the Pines. We moved to Baker City, Oregon where we attended St. Stephen's church. Our children, Jenny and Glen grew up going to Episcopal camp at Cove, Oregon. Jeff was on the Vestry and I was active in "Cursillo" that was held at the Cove every year. We moved to Dillon in 2001. We went to family camp at Camp Marshall along with my sister from Missoula and my Dad. I was on the Vestry at St. James 2001-2003, and again in 2016 after I retired.

Dorothy DeHart, Clerk

Besides being the Vestry clerk, I am an Occupational Therapist working at Barrett Hospital serving my favorite age group: 0-102!!! I am married to our own Deacon Steve and we enjoy traveling (pre and post pandemic) with our two dogs Micah and Aussie. Gardening is my other passion and I love trying new techniques (insert eye roll by Steve). With no children of our own we get to spoil our 37 nieces and nephews and 29 great nieces and nephews. St. James has been our church home for the last 8ish years, and we have grown to love this congregation and the presence all of you are in the community.

Debra Mathis

I moved to Dillon in the 5th grade I turned 19 and joined the army. In the army I was in Maryland, Virginia, Alabama, Texas, Washington state and Germany for 4 1/2 years. After 10 1/2 years I got married and moved to Oregon. 6 children and an interesting marriage led me back to Dillon. I have 3 boys and 3 girls. I have been an army sergeant, security guard, unit secretary, data entry specialist and caregiver along with lots of other jobs.

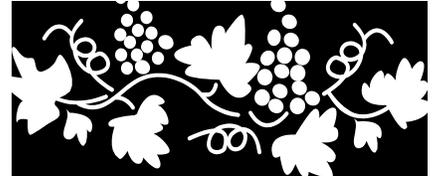
Alyce Wassall

My name is Alyce Wassall and this is the second time I have served on the Vestry of St. James Episcopal Church. I have been an Episcopalian all my life, beginning in New Jersey where I was born and baptized, continuing on to San Francisco where I taught Sunday School for 5 years and was in charge of Vacation Bible School one summer. Here at St. James I am a member of the altar guild.

I hold a BS in education from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and taught first grade for 25 years. I was head of the Reading Recovery program at my school.

Dr. Brent Kirkpatrick

Brent resides in downtown Dillon and has his own consulting business. This is the first year he has been on our Vestry and has contributed many valuable suggestions regarding the health of St. James Episcopal Church.



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CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!!

As we continue to plan our services, it has become apparent that we need more help in the form of worship leaders, lectors, acolytes, greeters and members of the altar guild. If you would like to explore these rewarding opportunities, please contact our Senior Warden, Lee Graves:

bannack2@yahoo.com

406-660-1919

BLESSINGS

In the past I have written about “Blessings”. As the pandemic has affected us with such magnitude since Phase 2 was implemented, it has been difficult to remain positive. However, I am very thankful for the blessings that have come my way. The main one is the continued camaraderie in the spiritual community at St. James. As most of you know, the past few months have been a difficult time of transition. But it is wonderful to experience the many ways everyone has come together to make our parish welcoming and comforting.

Carol Meacham