

# The Vine and Branches

SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DILLON, MONTANA

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Mar Apr 2022

## DEAR ST. JAMES FRIENDS,

I was happy to visit you a few Sundays ago and meet the parish leadership, and a number of others. Following the visit, the Vestry invited me to accompany you on the “next steps” and the discernment work that will result in the calling of your next rector. I am passionate about parish ministry and welcome the opportunity to share in this journey with you.

First, let me tell you a bit about me. A Montana native, I grew up in Billings, but as many do, I left for college and job opportunities, returning to the state permanently in 2010. My Bachelor’s degree was in Business Administration and I spent a number of years in the Commercial Insurance industry, first for Transamerica Insurance, followed by a private Commercial Broker in Orange County, California.

I went through the ordination process in the Diocese of Los Angeles and attended seminary at both Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, and Church Divinity School of the Pacific, part of the Graduate Theology Union in Berkeley. I was ordained a Transitional Deacon in 1998 at my home parish in Orange, CA and a priest at Holy Spirit Parish in Missoula in 1999, where I served as the Assistant Rector for five years.

I have served amazing and diverse parishes in the Dioceses of Montana, Missouri, Oregon and Spokane, several during transitions. I retired for the first time in 2014 from Calvary, Red Lodge, and the second time in 2019 from a two-year Interim at St. Stephen’s, Billings. For the past couple of years I have done supply in Miles City and Forsyth.

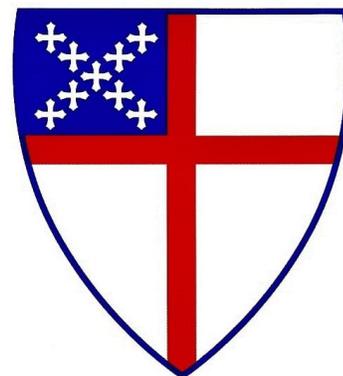
We live in Billings in the house my parents built when I was in first grade. My husband, Ben and I have three grown children and five grandchildren, including one grandson in heaven. Our daughter lives next door so

we are very involved with them. Our daughter-in-law and granddaughter lived with us during much of the pandemic allowing us to help as much as we could during such uncertain times. She is divorced from our son, so it was pure grace that they spent the time with us. They have recently moved out but are still in Billings

We enjoy all outdoor activities: hiking, canoeing, soaking in hot springs, camping (with a trailer now), but have done a lot of backpacking. The perfect Montana adventure for us is enjoying a scenic drive complete with a roadside picnic. I also love to read and listen to music. And, recently, we have become quite the travelers, thanks to our youngest son & daughter-in-law whose careers take them overseas, giving us exotic places to visit.

We look forward to meeting you all and beginning to do some great work together building the Kingdom of God in Dillon.

*Faithfully,*  
*Rev. Joan Yetter*



Greetings from our Senior Warden

We are looking forward toward the next phase of life at St. James. We have chosen to have The Rev. Joan Yetter come and be our next interim priest and to share her gifts of ministry with us. Her dates of services and being in Dillon will be announced by church email. Her first service will be the Imposition of Ashes at noon on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd.

Our adult education program is coming along. We would like to hear from YOU; what you are interested in discussing, either topics or books or subjects or a thought provoking movie. Come and make St. James a fun and interesting church to be involved in.

Happy Easter to you all!

*Lee*

#### **Calendar of Events**

**Worship, Sundays, 10:00 am:**

**Holy Eucharist; March 6 and 13,  
April 10 and 17 with Rev. Joan Yetter.**

**Morning Prayer: all other Sundays at 10 am.**

**Bible Study (Guild Hall or by ZOOM),  
every Wednesday at 9:30 am.**

**Contemplative Prayer (Guild Hall), 2nd and 4th  
Wednesdays, March 9 and 23, April 13 and 27 5:00 PM.**

**Ash Wednesday Service; noon on March 2 with Rev.  
Joan Yetter.**

**Palm Sunday Service, 10 am April 10 with Rev. Joan  
Yetter.**

**Good Friday Service noon on April 15 with Rev. Joan  
Yetter.**

**Easter Service 10 am April 17 with Rev. Joan Yetter**

**Vestry meetings: March 20 and April 24  
Following morning service.**

**Theology on Tap meetings will be announced.**



*To the St. James Community:*

As most of you know, there are two members of St. James that have begun the classes for the Diaconate. The process of discerning whether we are called to the Diaconate is not taken lightly and certainly, I am discovering, has developed over a good number of years and depth of experience.

I would like to involve you on my journey and give you updates on the process and what is turning out to be a rich and rewarding experience for which I am very thankful.

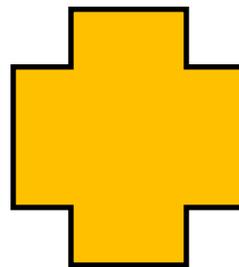
In my situation, a discernment committee was established some months ago (August? - time flies) to begin the process of whether our community feels there is a calling for me and at the same time, the process allows me to discern in depth, my sense of calling to the diaconate.

Our Diocese allows a candidate to begin classes before the discernment process is completed. This is the 6th class of deacon candidates as I understand it, to begin the training that is a 3 year process.

Candidates meet once a month—via ZOOM for now—with the exception of June and July, for an evening session and all day on Saturday. We had our first weekend of classes the first weekend of February. The staff, material and breadth of what we will be covering is rich indeed. There are 5 candidates, including Tammie Rich-Worden, in this 6th class, each of us from a different background and bringing different reasons to the process for exploring what our call will be.

I will be writing more about the diaconate and the process in the future. For now, I am grateful for the devoted members of the discernment committee that are so giving of their time and support and the St. James community. Your encouragement means more than you know.

*Until next time,  
Mary Ann Nicholas*



# ADULT EDUCATION

After a year of interesting and informative Adult Education programs we have begun plans to select and share presentations and discussions for 2022. These gatherings take place on Sunday afternoons at 4 PM in the Guild Hall and usually last no more than 2 hours.

The first was Father Donnel O'Flynn's review of his book "Holy Cross, Life Giving Tree" on Sunday 2/20/2022. If you haven't read this book and/or attended his presentation, please consider obtaining a copy for your enjoyment. There were 12 in attendance and a lively discussion ensued.

During Advent Kay Roach planned a different topic for each Sunday. It was a wonderful way to prepare for Christ's birth.

Now we are looking for suggestions for other topics of interest. In the past there were studies on Islam, reviews of various books, movies, the history of Lewis and Clark and most recently Janet O'Flynn's informative presentation about Haiti and the clinic she founded there.

So, as you can see, the topics have been varied and quite interesting. We would like any and all ideas. If there is a book you feel would be of interest for the program, please let us know. (Often, if we are going to review a book it may require more than one meeting.)

If you are interested in leading a discussion, know of someone who is knowledgeable about a topic, or perhaps there is a movie you think would be a good fit, please let us know.

There has been a suggestion that we offer something for teens or children, with the thought of encouraging young families to visit St. James. Any ideas will be welcome.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Contact information: Lee Graves, Senior Warden: [bannack2@yahoo.com](mailto:bannack2@yahoo.com)

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***Knowledge is the best tool we can have to live our lives rewardingly.***

*Carol Meacham, Editor*

