

RECTOR SEARCH PROFILE

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DILLON, MONTANA



**SERVING
CHRIST IN
BIG SKY
COUNTRY**



St. James Episcopal Church is a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Montana, the Rt. Rev. Marty E. Stebbins, Bishop.

GREETINGS

To Our Future Priest at St. James Dillon,

Allow us to introduce ourselves. We are a faithful, but small, in number, Episcopal community in Southwest Montana. We are resilient, creative, curious and eclectic. We come together in worship and in service to one another. St. James is proud of our outreach tradition. From its beginnings, our Guild Hall provided space for voting, meetings, community decision making and was the center of social life in our Church. More recently, members turned over to the broader community our local food pantry and wood bank. Both of which serve untold community members. Inspired service is rooted in our parish.

We invite you to explore what we have to offer you as a church and as a larger community within one of the most beautiful places in the West. John Steinbeck wrote in Travels with Charlie, “For other states I have admiration, respect, recognition, even some affection, but with Montana it is love, and it’s difficult to analyze love when you’re in it.” We would agree. (cont.)



The Beaverhead Valley is big and broad, surrounded by mountain ranges, with amazing vistas. Beaverhead County is the largest county in Montana with more cows than people. A river runs through here too--the Beaverhead and the Big Hole Rivers are two of the most renowned fly-fishing streams in the West, ready for you to cast your fly to tempt rainbows and browns.

If you like beautiful scenery, the roads through our back country have endless delights. The myriad of lakes in the Pioneer Mountains and surrounding ranges will give you an endless variety of country to explore.

Dillon is home to the University of Montana-Western, a four-year university with a renowned reputation for degrees in teacher education and environmental studies. We are fortunate to have Barrett Hospital a Critical Care Center, a YMCA and a community rich in the arts and volunteerism.

St. James is creative in our worship - we have a Contemplative Prayer group, hold Taizé Services, Blessing of the Animals, and have a curious community hoping to grow in service to our community and one another, as well as to enhance and deepen our personal faith life.

We invite you to come and see what we have to offer, and we ask in return that you lead us deeper into "Being" the presence of Christ for one another and the broader community.

Blessings and we look forward to the next chapter in the history of St. James Church of Dillon.

The St. James Search Committee

St. James was established in 1881 and our Guild Hall was constructed in 1911. Our Guild hall has been a cornerstone of the community. As times have changed so have we. We are an adaptable community having a tradition of full-time priests, and half-time priests. Absent a priest, our community has a tradition of Morning Prayer.

WHO WE ARE

We have a curious and faithful community that has moving Taizé services, a faithful Contemplative Prayer Group, Blessing of the Animals Service, Theology on Tap, successful Dinner for Ukraine and we have an ongoing hunger for more adult ed and theology. In the past we have had EFM, book and bible studies.

The laity is our powerhouse. We have a high participation from our congregats who serve as eucharistic ministers, lectors, and greeters. One of our members has taken on the Altar Guild as her ministry for as long as any of us can remember and another failthfully assembles and writes our newsletter, the Vine and Branches, with a dedication which is a benefit to all. We have outreach to the Beehive Assisted Living and home visits.





The Beaverhead Community Food Pantry and Beaverhead Woodbank are two community supported ministries that were started by Millie Brown and Fr. Harry and Val Neeley, respectively. Both of these ministries were later turned over to the broader community, where they continue to thrive. We are inspired by these ministries and look to the future to expand more services like these to our community.



OUR MINISTRY



OUR HISTORY

Set in the broad and expansive Beaverhead Valley, St. James has been worshipping together since the early 1880's. Sacajewea pointed out a rock crop along the river Lewis and Clark were traveling, her people called it the beaver's head. The name is used today for the county, high school, streets and businesses.

Bishop Daniel S. Tuttle held the 1st Episcopal service in Beaverhead County in the gold mining town of Bannack in 1868. St. James Episcopal Church was established in 1881, the church was built in 1885 and The Guild Hall in 1911. Our Guild Hall was the location for many of Dillon's social and community events and continues to be used by organizations in our community including AA, Rotary and other groups.



Episcopal Church. Dec 25-1887



SOUTHWEST MONTANA LIFESTYLE



Beaverhead County is the largest county in Montana with more cattle than people. Dillon is the county seat but the County is also home to the Grasshopper and Big Hole Valleys. In the Grasshopper valley you will find our local gem of a ski hill, Maverick Mountain. Elkhorn Hot Springs is located nearby. The Big Hole Valley is one of the most stunning valleys in the West, a big, wide, flat valley floor with the Continental Divide rising to the West. To the South of Dillon lies the Centennial Valley home to the Red Rock Refuge, Alaska Basin and more stunning landscapes. West of Dillon you will find the Pioneer Mountain Range with a myriad of mountain lakes, and equally amazing vistas.

Gold drew people to this majestic land in the 1860's. Cattleman and farmers soon followed. Today, Dillon's economy is still primarily based in agriculture. Year-round tourism, Barrett Hospital (a Critical Access Hospital), the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, the University of Montana-Western, Barrett minerals, and Great Harvest Franchising Offices are our major employers.



WE INVITE OUR NEW RECTOR TO:

Help us expand our
Outreach, Service,
and Mission

Help us to be the Presence
of Christ in our
community and the world



Inspire us to live with
compassion and
gratitude

Expand the musical
elements in our worship

ARE YOU OUR NEXT RECTOR?

If you would like to start a conversation, please reach out to either of our Search Committee

Chairs: **Kathryn Hatch | 406.925.0722**

kathrynhatch@yahoo.com

or

Mary Ann Nichols | 406.660.0339

mnicholas3@me.com

In our Diocese, interested parties first contact the parish and submit their application materials—cover letter, resume, and OTM portfolio—directly to the Search Committee.

If you would like to reach out to our Transition Officer with questions, please email:

Rev. Mikayla Dunfee

mtcto@diomontana.com