



The Vine and Branches

SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
DILLON, MONTANA

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January/February 2024 Issue



THE EPIPHANY - January 6

We ended 2023 with the celebration of Christ's birth, Christmas. Reverend Shipp led a wonderful service on Christmas Eve and delivered a very special sermon, which she posted on Facebook.

But now it's a new year. I was thinking about what is to come and then I had an "epiphany"; defined as "a moment when you suddenly feel that you understand or suddenly become conscious of something that is very important to you."

In my case it is that I want to know about The Epiphany, which is celebrated on January 6. It is the day that the magi arrived at the manger. A Polish neighbor (eastern orthodox) back east would always come up to our common fence and offer a toast on "Little Christmas". That was when I first heard about it. Actually, 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world.

On the Episcopal Church website it is defined as:

"The manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth." The winter solstice was kept on December 25 by the fourth century. Jesus' birth was celebrated on this day in both eastern and western churches. The western church commemorated the coming of the Magi on January 6. In opposition to pagan festivals, Christians chose this day to celebrate the various manifestations, or "epiphanies" of Jesus' divinity. These showings of his divinity included his birth, the coming of the Magi, his baptism and the Wedding at Cana where he miraculously changed water into wine.

The Magi were also known as the three kings or the three wise men, to the infant Jesus. In many eastern churches the feast is referred to as the Theophany. January 6 opens the church's "season of The Epiphany". The season ends on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the start of the Lenten season.

Hymns #116, 117 and 118 all include the following refrain to celebrate The Epiphany:

"Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid."

When you receive this newsletter, the Magi are still on the road, they haven't gotten to the stable, not until Saturday the 6th. So, as Reverend Theresa said on Sunday: *"Don't haul your tree to the curb yet."*

Carol Meacham, Editor

Notes from our Senior Warden

The vestry has continued to meet monthly with only minor issues to be addressed. Did you see our ad in the Dillonite Daily on Friday, 12/29?

The search for a new priest is continuing with advertising in the Living Church magazine, seminaries and through our Diocese. There are many other churches also searching at this time, so we need some prayers.

We are blessed to have Reverend Theresa providing Eucharist two Sundays of the month, the 2nd and 4th.

I continue to be grateful for St. James spiritual food and a congregational culture of friendship and love.

Kathryn Hatch, Senior Warden



Calendar of Events

Worship: Sundays, 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist led by Rev. Greg Smith this Sunday, 1/7.
Rev. Theresa Kelley-Bergmann on 1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 2/25/2024
(Second and Fourth Sundays each month)

Morning Prayer all other Sundays.

Contemplative Prayer:
2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:00 PM in the Guild Hall.

Adult Education:
Sunday 1/14/2024 following the service in the Guild Hall.
Information on page six of this newsletter.

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

Annual Meeting: 1/21/2024 following service. Please try to
attend. It will be held in the Guild Hall.



From Lee Graves:

For quite a while St. James has been encouraged to do a live streaming of our regular church services. This service is brand new for us and takes place on the St. James Episcopal Church Facebook page. It is still in its infancy but seems to be working okay. If you have any problem, please talk to either Ellen or myself and we will see if we can help you out. These recordings will be saved on our Facebook site for 30 days according to the information we received when setting it up.

If you cannot make it to our services, please try to catch them on Facebook at: St. James Episcopal Church Dillon, Montana



EUCHARISTIC 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 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.

Mary Ann Nicholas
406-660-0339



The Green Team

The **Green Team** Initiative aims to provide direct communication between Montana Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) and Montana's faith communities and individuals engaged in Creation Care. The objective is to take effective action on the climate crisis with solutions specific to Montana's needs that build a future for us all.

Whether your faith community is large or small, urban or rural, has an established team or not, we invite you to join us!

Green Team Initiative Goals:

- 1) Monthly virtual gatherings with Montana faith community **Green Teams**, Creation Care Teams and equivalents.
- 2) Provide direct communication between Montana IPL, registered teams and partner congregations.
- 3) Receive direct updates on state and national IPL opportunities, events and programs.
- 4) Provide space for teams to share their work and ideas.
- 5) Engage in collective opportunities and projects.
- 6) Networking between city, regional and state faith communities.
- 7) Guest speakers and educational opportunities.
- 8) Resource sharing

And **MORE!!!**

We would love to have you join us, and be a part of this new opportunity! All Montana faith communities with active or inactive teams, wishing to build a new team in your faith community, and individuals just representing their faith community are welcome to join!

Please join us for our first Creation Care Study opportunity of 2024!

Dates: THURSDAYS, starting January 18th through March 21, 2024. (Join as you are able.)

Time: 7PM - 8PM.

Where: Virtual - Link will be sent to the email address you sign up with. (Please check your Spam folder).

Book: "The Creation Care Bible Challenge" by Marek Zabriskie - Text available on Apple Books, Kindle and hardcopy editions. *Please* check with Debbie at The Bookstore to order it locally.

Description: Join Montana IPL and individuals across the state to explore Creation Care through weekly readings, reflections and conversation from a biblical theological lens. Whether you've explored creation care for years or this is your first time engaging the topic, we invite you ALL to join us! Feel free to join us at any time during these 10 weeks.

Submitted by Sharon Morehouse

406-925-2231



ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Lee Graves has made arrangements for our next Adult Education program.

The first session is on 1/14/2024 and will be a discussion concerning the book "Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism" by John Shelby Spong.

Lee has asked Debbie at the Bookstore to order 7 copies for us to purchase. If there is a delay in the order, which would cut the reading time too short, the first session will be delayed.

Personally, I can't wait to see what this topic is all about via my reading and the discussions.

Carol

Help Wanted

The Vine and Branches is the newsletter for St. James Episcopal Church. My goal, as editor, is to provide information, commentary and share thoughts and insights concerning our spirituality.

I welcome any and all contributions for the newsletter. If you have any thoughts or questions about a topic, do not hesitate to send me an email.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Carol

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