



The Vine and Branches

SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
DILLON, MONTANA



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Rector:

Rev. Theresa Kelley-Bergmann

July/August 2026 Issue

Thank you for the love, prayers, and kindness you shared with me as we celebrated the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. Your thoughtfulness made the occasion especially meaningful, and I am deeply grateful.

Summertime in the Rockies!

(at last)

Recreation or Re-creation?

Summer is a natural time to think about this question. It is the season when many of us slow down, take vacations, relax, and spend more time with family and friends than we do during much of the rest of the year.

At first glance, the difference between *recreation* and *re-creation* seems very small: just one little hyphen between the ñeò and the ñc.ò Yet that small mark points to a much deeper distinction.

Many people recreate, and not only during the summer months. Far fewer, however, truly re-create when they recreate.

Two Meanings

- **Recreation** means activity done for enjoyment when one is not workingð or, for the young people among us, when one is not going to school.
- **Re-creation** means something much more: *to create anew*.

So what is the difference between recreation and re-creation? Recreation may be enjoyable and rewarding. Re-creation is enjoyable and rewarding too, but it does something more: it *renews us spiritually* and draws us *closer to God*. Jesus often went off by himself to pray, to ponder or just escape the large crowds that gathered. He also encouraged his disciples to do the same.

For me, time spent in God's creation, especially kayaking on a mountain lake, restores a deep sense of peace. The gentle rocking of the water, the beauty of the surrounding flora and fauna, and the quiet awareness of God's presence all work together to renew my spirit.

So, get out there! Find that place that recharges your batteries, whether it is the garden in the backyard, a dusty road or a mountain stream that may have a fish or two.

Then Jesus said, ñLet's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.ò Mark 6:31a

Theresa +



From our Senior Warden...

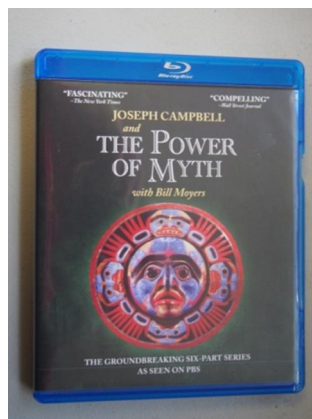
Our upcoming Adult Education program will be the PBS series "The Power of Myth". It is described as:

"an exhilarating exploration into our shared experiences across the ages. It is a landmark series of interviews recorded at Skywalker Ranch and New York's American Museum of Natural History between acclaimed journalist Bill Moyers and renowned scholar Joseph Campbell. In conversations that span millennia and cover the far reaches of the globe, the two discuss how myths are clues to the spiritual core of human nature, while touching on such diverse topics as religion, folklore and pop culture."

Some of our parishioners have watched this in the past and are looking forward to experiencing it again. I hope you will consider joining us.

There are 6 episodes and we will view one episode per session. The sessions will be held on the following Sundays after the service during coffee hour.

Watch your email for the scheduled dates.



F. Lee Graves, Senior Warden



On Sunday, June 14, 2026 we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Rev. Theresa's Ordination. Bishop Marty was here and offered a special blessing at the end of the service.

We at St. James are so very fortunate to have Rev. Theresa as our priest. She has guided us in so many ways: our Holy Eucharist services, weekly bible studies, adult education programs, pastoral care, community chats on Friday mornings, counseling and sincere friendship.

The day began with a Holy Eucharist service, followed by a wonderful pot luck luncheon, as we all know that only St. James can offer. This included a scrumptious chocolate cake made by Janet at Sweetwater Coffee.



Calendar of Events

Worship: Sundays, 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist led by Rev. Theresa Kelley-Bergmann on second and fourth Sundays each month.
7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23 2026.

Morning Prayer will be held all other Sundays.

Contemplative Prayer

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:00 PM in the Guild Hall.
7/8, 7/22, 8/12, 8/26.

Vestry meetings are held on the 4th Sunday of each month at 8:30 am: 7/26, 8/23.

Ingathering of **donations for the Food Bank** will be blessed on the 4th Sunday of each month: 7/26, 8/23.

Weekday fellowship at Sweetwater coffee: Fridays at 10 am.

Bible Study group: Fridays in the Guild Hall. We will be discussing the readings for the upcoming Sunday.
Bring a bag lunch and join us at noon.

Join Lee on Sundays at 3 PM at the Beaverhead Brewery for **"Theology on Tap"**.

Adult Education program:

We will be watching "The Power of the Myth". This is a PBS series with Joseph Campbell and Bill Moyers. Schedule to be announced.

As you can see in this newsletter, St. James offers support for many people and needs in the community. Jenny Given has offered this way to serve our church family:

I am available to drive folks to appointments out of town. Although a week or more notice is ideal for planning, I am willing to try to fit urgent needs as well.

Although I am willing to make trips without any compensation if needed, ideally the traveler would supply money to cover fuel for the journey.

The name "*Traveling Mercies*" comes from the idea of traveling together as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate God's mercies in our lives.

My best to you,
Jenny
406-925-9091



MONTANA CURSILLO APRIL 17-19 2026



From April 17-19 38 members of churches in the Diocese of Montana met at Camp Marshall to sing, search and pray their way to an even deeper faith in God.

Both individually and together, all present re-committed to living out the Baptismal Covenant together through the Church.

Ellen, Jenny and Kathryn from St. James attended and were filled with love and the joy of living with their faith in God.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 the late 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.

Also, we have an ongoing prayer list. Please advise Rev. Theresa when to add or remove a name:

"For all who are impacted by war and strife around the world.
For the victims and families who suffer acts of violence.

For Brent, Alyce, Brooke, Alma, Mel, Mark, Deb Mathis, Melissa, Oliver, Wally, Donald MacTavish, Nadia, Ryan Welty, Dave Grohusky, Hannah and Melissa, Julie, Marilyn, Grace, and pet cat.

Rev. Theresa
1-406-491-2332



Walking Toward the Light

While reading "The Dangerous Dozen" with our after-church book group, we were recently discussing Mary Magdalene. This brought to my mind an Easter message from Bishop Budde at the Washington Cathedral in 2021. She spoke of Mary awakening and going to the tomb in the early morning and walking toward the light while it was still dark.

The bishop's message was that God calls us to walk toward the light while it is still dark in times of pain to let healing take place even while we are suffering; to walk toward the light letting faith be our beacon to guide and comfort us in times of confusion or sorrow.

I'm glad I have returned to St. James, where I've found renewal in our congregation that stimulates me and encourages me in my faith.

Carol Higgins

Extraordinary Time

When the Ordinary Breaks Open

To speak of extraordinary times is to acknowledge seasons when history seems to inhale sharply, when the ordinary fabric of existence stretches thin and something luminous presses through. These are the moments when the familiar grammar of life breaks open and we find ourselves standing in a narrative larger than our own. Scripture names such moments not as anomalies but as epiphanies, interruptions in which God does not merely accompany human experience but reorients it.

Extraordinary Time is not a formal season in the liturgical calendar, yet it is woven through salvation history like a bright thread. Abraham beneath the desert stars, hearing a promise he could not number (Genesis 15:5). Moses turning aside to see a bush that burned without burning out (Exodus 3:2ï 3). Mary receiving a greeting that rearranged the cosmos (Luke 1:28). These are not episodes of spiritual spectacle; they are revelations that disclose the deep structure of reality. They remind us that the divine is not an occasional visitor but the One who bends time toward redemption.

In extraordinary times, the question is not whether God is present, but whether we are attentive. The disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration saw Christ's glory blaze like the sun, yet their first instinct was to domesticate the moment, to build tents, to contain the uncontainable (Matthew 17:1ï 4). Extraordinary Time resists containment. It invites us to relinquish our need for control and to receive the world, in Hopkins's words, as charged with the grandeur of God.

Such seasons often arrive unannounced. A diagnosis. A birth. A loss. A calling. A moment of clarity that slices through years of confusion. Extraordinary Time is rarely comfortable. It is the terrain where faith is stretched, where hope is tested, where love is refined. It is the place where God's purposes move from abstraction to incarnation.

Yet the extraordinary is not opposed to the ordinary; it reveals what the ordinary has been holding all along. The burning bush was a shrub like any other until Moses noticed. The road to Emmaus (Luke 24) was just a road until Christ walked it. Extraordinary Time is not the suspension of the mundane but its transfiguration. It is the unveiling of the divine pulse that beats beneath every moment.

To live faithfully in extraordinary times is to cultivate holy attentiveness, to listen for the whisper within the whirlwind, to trust that God is not merely reacting to events but guiding them toward a horizon we cannot yet see. It is to believe, with trembling confidence, that the same Christ who walked through Nazareth's quiet streets also walks beside us when the world tilts and the future feels uncertain.

Extraordinary Time does not ask us to be fearless. It asks us to be faithful. It invites us to stand still long enough to recognize that the God who sustains the ordinary is also the God who breaks it open, revealing a glory that has been there all along.

Bernd

"Our Newsletter"

I was reviewing my notes for this issue of the Vine and Branches and wondered about its history. My earliest recollection is when Katie Bump and Gerta Mular edited it. Then there was a lapse before I became editor. I checked with Katie (who supplied some of the information in this article) and she remembers that the newsletter was called The Vine and Branches before she and Gerta took it over. But there's no record of when it had its first issue.

John 15 is the bible passage that first mentions the Vine and Branches: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower....Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me."

In the metaphor of John 15, Jesus is the vine and the people are the branches of the vine. This is about Jesus instructing his disciples about what to do after he is gone: Abide in me, love one another as I have loved you.

So, my conclusion is that the Father is represented as the newsletter itself, the vine, and the branches are its contents.

Another thought concerning the vine and branches is through horticulture.

A vine supports its branches and the branches bear leaves and fruit. Leaves gather sunlight and make sugars that feed the vine. The vine gathers water and minerals through its roots and feeds the branches. They are parts of the same plant. Abundant fruit comes from a healthy relationship between branches, vine and environment. And the third party in this metaphor, the vinegrower who tends the vineyard, is who Jesus says is his Father.

I found various interpretations of this online (where else), and you may want to do some investigating on your own.

Carol

