

Update on the Bishop Search

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE met February 15-16 in Livingston to determine which candidates to invite for in-person discernment in early April at Chico Hot Springs. Between now and then, the committee will undertake extensive reference and background checks. That information and time spent with the candidates in April will be used to determine a formal slate to present to the Standing Committee. Thank you for your continued prayers for guidance in this process. Please direct comments and questions to bishopsearch@diomontana.com.

More information is available at www.diomontana.com/bishop-search. Check back often for updates.

Update on the Budget Shortfall

We've reduced the Financial Shortfall by half; time extended for others to participate too!

Your Vestry has committed to overcome an ongoing yearly financial shortfall which has affected Holy Spirit for several years. You will have heard about this at our Annual Meeting, in letters sent to all parishioners and in announcements during church services. Funding what it actually costs to run the church is doable. If each of our pledging households pledges an additional \$5.30/week (equal to \$275 for the year), the recurring shortfall will be gone. The alternative is to further cut our budget. However, here is no fat in the Holy Spirit budget; simply put, cutting our spending to match our current annual income means deciding which staff positions should be reduced.

Fortunately, the initial results of our effort have produced results: over 50 of our pledging households have stepped forward, and an additional five households have made new pledges. As a result, our shortfall has been reduced by almost 50%. We understand that making an additional pledge is not possible for everyone; others may be able to do more than requested. The Vestry has extended the time period for this critical challenge, to give others the opportunity to support the church that brings so much to us.

Together, with God's help, we can do this. **Please fill out a pledge card for the additional amount you can give toward reducing the shortfall, a gift beyond your 2019 pledge, by March 31.** Additional information is in the letter from our Senior Warden Jim Wiley at www.holyspiritmissoula.org and with your Vestry.

Thank you!
The Vestry

■ WELCOME TO HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Our Parish Life

DURING LENT THE 10:15 A.M. SERVICE MUSIC CHANGES to reflect the penitential nature of Lent. We sing the "Trisagion" (Holy God) instead of the more joyous "Gloria," we move to a more meditative "Sanctus," and we add the fraction anthem "Agnus Dei" (Lamb of God). The settings can be found in the service music section in the front of the Hymnal. Please join us in singing them. **Any form of sung or said "Alleluia" is omitted during Lent.**

Today is **EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT SUNDAY**. Join with Episcopalians throughout the United States today as we pray for those living in poverty or without the basics for life, for victims of conflict and natural disasters and for all those around the world utilizing local resources and expertise to counter scarcity and imbalance. Please give generously. Your offering will go to ERD's Area of Greatest Need, which enables ERD to reach people who are most in need worldwide. Episcopal Relief & Development envelopes are included with your bulletin. Please use it for your offering. Please make checks payable to Episcopal Relief & Development or ERD. Thank you!

HOLY SPIRIT'S SUPPER CLUB will meet for its monthly potluck tonight at 5:30 p.m. in the parish hall. The social time will begin at 5:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. This month's theme is Irish! We will have some Irish songs to sing and listen to, courtesy of Dalton Anderson. Also, Charlotte Orr has hinted that maybe there will be an Irish Jig lesson for those so inclined! Come out of the cold and into the warmth of the potluck!

ADDITIONAL HOSTS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR LENTEN POTLUCK ON MARCH 27. The sign-up sheet will be available on the Coffee Hour table today or contact the church office, 542-2167. We will send you an instruction sheet to help you through the set up and clean up for the Lenten potluck. Please consider being a part of this wonderful ministry of hospitality!

Please help yourself to the **2019 LENTEN MEDITATIONS** booklets on the table at the back of the church and in the parish hall. ERD'S *2019 Lenten Meditations* bring together the wisdom from the *Lenten Meditations* from the last decade. It is hoped that these Lenten meditations will deepen your faith in the risen Christ and strengthen your connection to our neighbors and partners around the world.

The **2019 LENTEN COUPON BOOKLETS** are also available at the back of the church and in the parish hall. Please take one. The purpose of the coupon books is to help people contribute to the ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development by intentionally counting their blessings and then giving out of an awareness of the abundance of God's grace.

ANOTHER LENTEN ACTIVITY: In the spirit of simplifying and uncluttering our lives during Lent, why not gather up 40 items to donate to our parish's **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE?** Grab an empty box, basket or bag. Open up those cabinets, closets and drawers. Look through those attic, basement and garage boxes and see what you can easily do without. **This year's sale is on May 3 and 4.** Lighten your spirit as you prepare for Holy Spirit's Spring 2019 Rummage Sale!

FLOWERS WILL ONCE AGAIN BE SEEN ON THE ALTAR ON EASTER SUNDAY. Would you like to have flowers there on that day in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an event in your life? If you would like to give toward the Easter flowers and help beautify the church, please call the church office at 542-2167 by **9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3.**

OUR SINCERE THANKS to Kevin Borg and the many men who made our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper such a success. Check out the pictures on our Facebook page!

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the **VESTRY** takes place on Wednesday, March 13, at 1 p.m. in the Guild Room. As always, Vestry meetings are open to all members of the parish, and the agenda for the meeting is posted online at holyspiritmissoula.org a few days in advance of the meeting.

THE NEXT DATE FOR BAPTISM will be at our Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 20, at the 7:30 p.m. service. If you are interested in baptism at that time, either for yourself or for your child, please contact Rev. Terri. **The deadline for the April 20 baptism date is March 17.**

2019 Lenten Series:

Where two or three are gathered

Reflections on Community

*Begins at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, with the potluck supper
Program begins around 7:15 p.m. in the parish hall*

Join us on Wednesday evenings in March and April for our **Lenten program, *Where Two or Three are Gathered: Reflections on Community***. Julie Benson and Barbara Barmeyer are teaming up to facilitate our first Lenten potluck program, on March 13th, *Community: An Entry Point*. They will share some reflections on Church as community, thinking specifically about how we enter a spiritual community, and how we welcome others to join. They will help us to begin making new connections with one another.

This year most of our Lenten sessions will be held in the parish hall after the potluck. Time will be allowed for basic clean up and then facilitators will share short reflections. As our theme is community, most sessions are structured to allow time for both small and large group interaction as well.

The Lenten potluck supper will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Childcare will begin at 7 p.m., and the program will take place around 7:15 p.m. in the parish hall. Please join us!

WHAT TO BRING FOR MARCH 13: A-F, main dishes; G-S, salads or side dishes; T-Z, desserts.

Explorations

The following Christian formation classes and programs offer a wide variety of educational opportunities aimed at helping us Cultivate, Challenge and Live our Faith

EXPLORING PRAYER THROUGH WORD, ART AND MOVEMENT— Plan to attend this day-long retreat on April 6th here at Holy Spirit. Whether you are new to prayer, or you're looking to refresh your prayer life, this is a fabulous opportunity for all men and women in our parish. Three sessions in the morning will highlight different formats for prayer. Jody Thomasson and Betsy Holmquist will focus on the Book of Common Prayer, pointing us to some of its treasures and helping us to use it as a tool for our own prayer life. Willie Hoffer and Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier will discuss visual arts as a means to prayer. Suzy Wiseheart and Valerie Hess will share about movement as a doorway to prayer. The afternoon is hands-on. Participants will choose two of the three experiential sessions to attend. Each session is 90 minutes long.

- Practice using the tools within the Book of Common Prayer.
- Learn how to create a soul collage. Or, practice responding to art as a means of prayer. All supplies will be provided. No art experience is necessary.
- In our time together, we will begin to explore ways that prayer can be more "embodied" through movement, like walking a labyrinth or holding yoga poses.

When: Saturday April 6th, 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Holy Spirit Parish, starting in the Guild Room

Other Details: No fee. For adults, you're welcome to bring friends from outside the parish.

Registration: Please register by contacting Gretchen 542-2167 or gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org by March 25th.

Bring: A sack lunch, a journal (if you have one), and your favorite book(s) on prayer or the spiritual life. We will display our books on the *book look* table (please put your name in your books) in order to share resource ideas with one another.