

PARACLETE



FEBRUARY 2019

HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

130 South 6th Street East • Missoula, MT 59801 • 406.542.2167 • E-mail: office@holyspiritmissoula.org • Website: www.holyspiritmissoula.org

A publication of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church



Date set for Gretchen Strohmaier's Ordination to the Priesthood

We have received word from the Standing Committee in their role as Ecclesiastical Authority that all requirements have been met for Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier's Ordination to the Priesthood! Bishop Jim Waggoner, retired and living in Spokane, will be the Celebrant. He will ordain the Rev. Angelique Bolling in Troy on Friday, February 22, as well.

We invite you to join us at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 23, for the Ordination of Gretchen Strohmaier to the Priesthood. It has been quite the journey and now it is time to celebrate! Please mark this date on your calendars now. More details will be forthcoming.

Congratulations to Gretchen and Angelique!

— REV. TERRI

Join us for an Inquirers Class in February: Learn more about the Episcopal Church at Inquirers Class

Are you new to the Episcopal Church or have you been away for a number of years and want to get up to speed on what we are about and how we live out the Gospel from this place? Would you like to learn more about us, or do you have questions about how to become a member? Please consider yourself invited to the next series of Inquirers Classes starting Sunday, February 3, at 9 a.m. between services and running concurrent Sundays through March 3 (if needed). We will meet in the Guild Room.

We will explore such things as the Book of Common Prayer, the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, our Liturgy (our way of

worship) and Music, our Polity (how we make decisions in the larger church) and History, and what makes us who we are in the wider Christian community. These gatherings are for anyone who has an interest or wants to ask questions or contribute to the conversation. It is ideal for those who would like to engage their faith more fully or deepen their understanding of the Episcopal Church. Please let me know if you plan to participate by calling the church office, 542-2167, or by emailing me at revterri@holyspiritmissoula.org. All are welcome!

— REV. TERRI

Grow your faith ADULT INQUIRERS CLASS

Sunday mornings
9 am - 9:50 am
February 3 - March 3
Meet in the Guild Room

Please sign up in advance by email Rev. Terri at revterri@holyspiritmissoula.org or by calling the parish office, 542-2167



OUR STAFF

Clergy:

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger,
Rector

revterri@holyspiritmissoula.org

The Rev. Judy Anderson, Deacon

The Rev. Doug Anderson, Deacon

The Rev. Myrna Chaney, Deacon

The Rev. Anita Rognas, Deacon

The Rev. Dorcie Dvarishkis,
Deacon

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier,
Deacon and Director of Spiritual
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NEWSLETTER

Paraclete, from the Greek meaning 'Holy Spirit,' is published monthly, September through May, by Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. All material is due by the fifteenth of the month preceding the month of publication.

**HOLY
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**EPISCOPAL
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Community Ministries:

The gifts reflected in a new pillow

Follow me on a Parenting Place journey of the many gifts reflected in a brand-new pillow...

It begins at Bed, Bath & Beyond (BB&B), a special corporate partner of the Parenting Place. Each week, a volunteer drives to BB&B to load up a donation of one, two, or maybe six or more boxes of surplus store items. The boxes are taken to a nearby storage unit lined with shelves to hold the bedding, kitchen and household supplies, and lots of pillows.

Parenting Place staff, assisted by volunteers, unpack and organize the items so they are ready for the next family in need who becomes a part of the Parenting Place family through respite, or a parenting class, or when partnered with a parent aide, or when referred by another family agency.

Today that family might be a mother and her two children who have just found housing but have little else to make it a home. At Donation Warehouse, they can afford to get started with a couple of beds, a couch, a small table. And from the BB&B bounty, mom picks out a new pillow. Tears well up, and she says it is the very first new pillow she has ever had.

From a generous BB&B partnership, through a cohort of loving volunteers, to a compassionate and competent Parenting Place staff, aided by the wonders of Donation Warehouse, a mom finds a community to rest in within her first-ever new pillow.

In celebration of the communities you are helping to build,

– THE REV. DORCIE DVARISHKIS
239-7655 ~ dorcied@gmail.com



Baptism dates announced

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 at 542-2167. The deadline for the April 20 baptism date is March 17.

The remaining dates for baptism for this year are Pentecost Sunday, June 9, and the Sunday after All Saints' Day, November 3. If you are interested in any of these other dates for baptism, please contact the church office and ask to speak to Rev. Terri.

Church School 2019:

We're trying something new in Church School

A decade ago we heard from families that what they wanted when they came to church was an opportunity to worship quietly with other adults while their children participated in a separate Church School program. Church School teachers worked hard to create a learning environment that was authentic and honored the spiritual lives of our children, recognizing that children's worship was real. It wasn't just pretend or glorified baby-sitting.



Kids actively participated in all aspects of the service, and it was designed to meet the broad range of their developmental needs. It worked, resulting in rich child-centered worship opportunities. The kids *were church* for each other, sharing prayers of joy about everything from soccer to restored health, and prayers of intercession for things like a parent who lost a job, to family members facing serious illness and death. But the downside of this model was that it tended to create a separate worshipping community, resulting in two congregations, one of children and one of adults.

Over the last 8 months we hosted two parent summits here at Holy Spirit to learn about the changing dynamics of family life. We asked parents what they value for their children here at Holy

Spirit. We also conducted interviews with staff at different local churches in Missoula and within other Episcopal churches around the diocese. We learned that families' needs are changing. We learned that theories of Christian formation are changing too. We heard more about integrating kids into the life of the whole parish, rather than always separating them out. Though it has always been our practice to periodically include children in community-wide worship so they got a taste and feel for our Episcopal style, we'll be working more intentionally to integrate children into worship and into the life of our parish over the coming months.

We'll be experimenting and learning together what makes sense for our kids and families. Likely, you will see children beginning worship with you in the pew, leaving for a short while for a child-specific sermon, and then rejoining the larger congregation for Eucharist. Already we have started implementing more opportunities for kids to learn about service. This was a theme we learned has growing importance for families. In February and into the spring there will be hands-on opportunities for kids to practice service. Keep an eye out. You, the rest of our church family, will likely be invited to join us. Creating more intergenerational opportunities is also important according to our families and according to other families within Missoula and around the diocese. Trying something new, as we know, is not easy, but we look forward to learning and to a refreshed worship experience for us all as we do something new.

— THE REV. GRETCHEN
STROHMAIER
DIRECTOR OF
SPIRITUAL FORMATION



Here's what's happening in February in Church School as we try something new!

Sunday, February 3rd

Children try a new format, starting in the pew, exiting for children's sermon, and returning for Eucharist.
Lesson: *Four Friends*

Sunday, February 10th

Regular children's worship.
Lesson: *Mary and Martha*
Activity station

Sunday, February 17th

Regular children's worship.
Lesson: *Good Samaritan*
Activity station

Thursday, February 21st

Service opportunity at Missoula Food Bank, 6:00-7:30 p.m. to help build Power Packs

Sunday, February 24th

Regular children's worship.
Lesson: *Lost Sheep*
Activity station





Explorations:

Opportunities
to cultivate,
challenge
and live our
faith

A new book study looks at poverty in American city life due to housing insecurity:

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

Join Facilitators Carla Mettling and Kate Laney for this book study. It started the end of January but feel free to join the group in progress. Check with the church office about availability of the book (\$13). The group meets on Wednesday evenings in the Guild Room from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and runs through February 27th.

We are often told to care for the poor, but who and where are they and why are they poor? Our culture tells us they are the lazy ones or the addicts or mentally ill. But the truth is that our system of laws, particularly those connected with housing, make people poor and keep them that way, ruining families and individuals along the way.

Following our parish's chosen ministry to children and families at risk,

Social Concerns Committee invites interested parishioners to read together *Evicted*, by Matthew Desmond, winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in General Nonfiction. The book provides a ground-level view of some of the most urgent issues facing America today: poverty in American city life due to housing insecurity, economic exploitation, public policy, and racial inequality.

In *Evicted*, Princeton sociologist Desmond follows eight families in the poorest areas of Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Even in the most desolate areas of American cities, evictions used to be rare. But today, most poor renting families are spending more than half

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*Join us for this book study on Wednesday evenings in the
Guild Room from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
The group will meet through February 27.*

Join us for Compline on February 3 at
8 p.m. in the church:

The Light of Epiphany in the quiet of Compline

*Perfect Light of revelation,
whose epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy*

Please join us in celebrating the light of Christ in the candlelight of Compline on Sunday, February 3, the fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, at 8 p.m. The choir will sing Ubi Caritas (God is Love) and chant the 71st Psalm ("In you, O Lord, I take refuge").

— KEITH KUHN, COMPLINE COORDINATOR

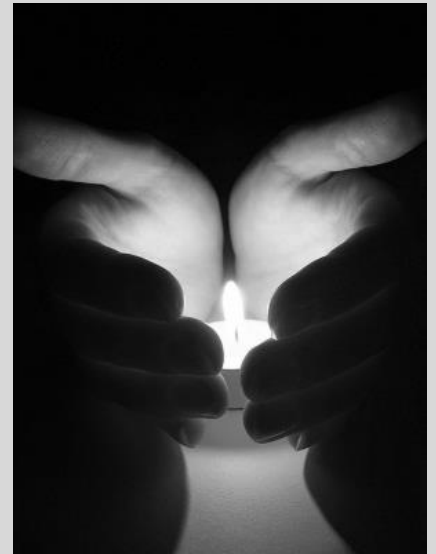


Join this small group facilitated by Jody Thomasson: **Love God and Love Yourself**

Join others once a month for these four guided discussions:

- **I Am Worthy.** During this session participants will explore what it means to be individuals cherished by God.
- **Loving One Another.** The group will explore what encouragement and support look like and address gossip and judgement.
- **Honoring Our Gifts.** During this session participants will consider how we are all necessary parts of the whole.
- **Celebrating Life.** The group will look at the celebration of life as our obligation.

Participants must sign up by contacting Jody at ethomasson@mac.com. Hand-outs, including Scripture references and articles, will be provided prior to each session so participants can read and reflect ahead of time. The group is open to all adults. Meetings are scheduled on Monday evenings 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on February 4, March 11, April 8, and May 5.



Deepen your experience of God with Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is offered twice a month at Holy Spirit by Willie Hoffer and Jennifer Dousset. Centering Prayer is a meditation process that invites us to enter an inner sacred space to quiet our minds, open our hearts and take rest in the Love of God. You will be gently led into the silence. No experience needed!

The Centering Prayer Group, led by Willie Hoffer and Jennifer Dousset, meets on the first Friday and third Tuesday of the month. **Due to a conflict with another church event, the first meeting for the month of February will take place on the Second Friday of February.** That means that our next gatherings are **Second Friday, February 8, at 12-1 p.m. and Third Tuesday, February 19, 4:30-5:30 p.m.** Come to either or both sessions!

If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Dousset at 406-880-1680 or Willie Hoffer at 541-815-9609.

Continued from page 4:

Evicted: Poverty and profit in the American City

their income on housing, and eviction has become ordinary, especially for single mothers. As we see families forced into shelters, squalid apartments, or more dangerous neighborhoods, we bear witness to the human cost of unjust

laws and policies, and to people's determination and intelligence in the face of hardship. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which everything else falls apart.

BOOK DISCUSSION

You're invited!

- Wednesday evenings, January 23 through February 27
- Book Study meets in the Guild Room, 6:30 pm-8 pm
- Facilitated by Carla Mettling and Kate Laney

Evicted
BY MATTHEW DESMOND



Join us for a second letter writing workshop

Social Concerns Committee invites interested parishioners to a 2nd letter writing workshop to put together letters from HSP to our state legislators to protect Medicaid Expansion. HSP is partnering with Missoula Interfaith Collaborative and the Montana Association of Christians to advocate for those living at or below the poverty line who depend on Medicaid Expansion for health care and would be greatly endangered if the State Legislature does not make Medicaid Expansion permanent this year. It is urgent that we convince our elected representatives to keep Medicaid Expansion in place for our state's most vulnerable people.

The most effective way to support them is to tell their stories. **Come join us after church on February 3, at 11:45 a.m. in the Guild Room,** to put stories into letters to our legislators about people we know or have heard about who have depended on Medicaid Expansion to keep their lives together and seen that support threatened. We will learn ways to organize and present these stories effectively in letters. And telling them would not mean revealing the identities of those involved. Do ask your friends and acquaintances if they have such stories to share and please send these to Gretchen, so we can use them in our lobbying letters. Let's be a voice for the voiceless to those in power.

Advocacy at Holy Spirit: supporting the most vulnerable

Holy Spirit's advocacy initiative stepped into high gear in January, as parishioners wrote letters to legislators and trekked to the capitol in Helena to make their concerns known about behavioral health funding and Medicaid Expansion.

Our parish's first advocacy effort has two goals: restoring full funding for case managers for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled and making sure that Medicaid Expansion continues in Montana.

Funding for case managers was slashed by the Legislature in 2017, resulting in hardships and dangerous conditions for clients. Montana Medicaid, which serves nearly 97,000 Montanans, is set to expire in mid-2019 unless the Legislature keeps it going.

At a workshop on January 13, parishioners collected stories about individuals severely affected by the case manager cuts and made them the

centerpieces of letters to legislators on the Joint Health and Human Services Committee. And on January 21, parishioners from Holy Spirit and many other churches in Missoula were scheduled to travel to Helena for the annual legislative day organized by MAC, Montana Association of Christians.

Check out the advocacy bulletin board in the parish hall. It will remain there while the legislature is in session. Visit it to learn about the issues and to learn about ways you can get involved.

Watch for continuing news about our advocacy initiative in this newsletter, in *Spirited Times*, on the advocacy information board in the parish hall, and on a brand-new blog, Episcopal Advocacy in Montana, at defendtheneedy.blogspot.com.

— CLEM WORK

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Vestry approved an advocacy policy last spring. See our website www.holyspiritmissoula.org and click on the Outreach tab to see a copy of the policy.



Annual Blood Drive takes place on February 21 from 1 pm – 6 pm

Signups for the Holy Spirit Red Cross blood drawing to be held in the parish hall will continue through the first three weeks of February after both Sunday services and at coffee hour. Just watch for someone with a clipboard after church. You may also register to donate by contacting Heidi Kendall or Christine Hadlow, or by contacting the church office by phone or email.

This year marks the 18th year of our winter blood drawing at the church. Bob Deaton and Orson Murray succeeded every year in achieving their goal of registering parishioners and friends for all 21 slots available. Over the past 17 years, we have donated over 250 pints of blood. Let's keep that great tradition going!

For a successful drive, a few more

volunteers are needed for 1-2 hour shifts between 1:00 and 6:00 on February 21 to register donors and to host the recovery and refreshments table. We would also appreciate a few donations of baked goods or a cheese and cracker plate for the donors.

To register or volunteer to assist with the drawing, please contact Heidi Kendall, 550-2218, missoulaheidi@gmail.com, or Christine Hadlow, 549-5360, chris.had4@gmail.com. You may also contact the church office at 542-2167 to register to be a blood donor.

– THANK YOU!

HEIDI KENDALL AND CHRISTINE
HADLOW
BLOOD DRIVE COORDINATORS

What do I need to do to give blood?

Q.: Who can donate blood?

A.: The basic eligibility requirements are:

- Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds.
- You must be in general good health.
- Those under 18 are encouraged to donate, but a parent must sign a consent form.
- You must not have donated blood in the last 56 days (That means you have not donated blood since December 27th, but thanks anyway!).
- People who have traveled in certain foreign countries, have had hepatitis, HIV, or certain other conditions, take certain medications, or have had recent body art by needle must check with the American Red Cross Blood Services at 1-800-733-2767 or redcrossblood.org.

Q.: What else do I need to know?

A.: Bring a picture ID or your Red Cross donor card with you.

- Be sure to eat a good meal and drink plenty of fruit juice or water before you donate. Beverages with caffeine are not a good choice.
- Wear clothing with short sleeves or with sleeves that can easily be raised above your elbow. We don't want anyone having to strip down to his or her skivvies!
- Plan to stay after donating for at least 15 minutes and enjoy a snack and a healthful drink in the hosting area to be sure you are okay.

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



Holy Spirit Parish Blood Drive

130 South 6th Street East
Parish Hall

**February 21
1 pm – 6 pm**

To register please contact:
Heidi Kendall, 550-2218
missoulaheidi@gmail.com
or Christine Hadlow, 549-5360
chris.had4@gmail.com



I give blood. Will you?

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

Facts about blood donors

- One donation can save the lives of up to three people.
- The number one reason donors say they give blood is because they "want to help others."
- Two most common reasons cited by people who don't give blood are "Never thought about it" and "I don't like needles."
- Forty-five percent of people in the U.S. have type O (positive or negative) blood.

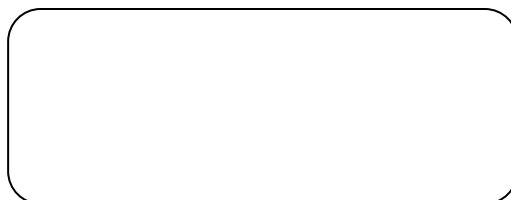
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**YOU
CAN
SAVE A
LIFE**

**GIVE
BLOOD**

**Holy Spirit
Blood Drive**

Location - Parish Hall
130 South 6th Street East

**Thursday, February 21
1 pm - 6 pm**

Sign up after church beginning
February 3!