

The Messenger

Au Revoir from Pastor Lori

Mary Poppins taught us that supercalifragilisticexpialidocious is the word to say when you don't know what to say. This crazy "word" makes for a mood-lifting song but is not actually useful in most situations! When I don't know quite what to say, I pick up my Book of Common Prayer. Its pages contain Holy Scripture, prayers derived from the ancient church, and the words of faithful followers who lived in times of great strife.

Today I paged through the BCP and, not finding what I was looking for, I then turned to another useful resource: The Book of Occasional Services. Yes, our Episcopal tradition has an actual compilation of rituals and circumstances that happen only "occasionally." These occasions include: Prayers for Rogation Days/*A Rite for the Blessing of a Garden*, *Service for All Hallows' Eve*, *Blessing of a Creche*, and *A Service for the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship and Leave-taking from a Congregation*. This last resource is what I was searching for and below are words from one of its prayers:

"O God, you have bound us together for a time as pastor and people to work for the advancement of your kingdom in this place: We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared in this year now past."

All relationships, pastoral and otherwise, come to an end. Relationships evolve and change as we know from the death of loved ones who are gone from our sight but alive in our hearts. We will no longer be in a pastoral relationship, but we will ever remain friends in Christ. Knowing from the beginning that we had only this one year as pastor and people doesn't make it any easier as we reach its end. The cost of love is grief at its loss. It is a price always worth paying.



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Vestry

Peter Jennings, Sr. Warden
Neil Swift Jr. Warden
Gayle Archey, Treasurer
Rich Ecke, Clerk
Barb Eliason
Pat Holt

*At Church of the Incarnation,
we welcome all to join in the
beauty of timeless ritual,
seek Christian connection,
and share God's abundance.*

As we prepare to part, let us give humble and hearty thanks for the ministry we have shared. Let us celebrate:

- Church of the Incarnation is no longer a canonically impaired parish,
- Incarnation is on stable financial and spiritual footing.
- Deepening relationships in Christ and the beauty of the timeless ritual shared every Sunday.
- God's everlasting goodness to us!

Please continue to work for the advancement of the kingdom. Shower compassion on those who enter your sanctuary hungry for grace and mercy, open Gilliam Hall to organizations committed to meeting significant needs in Great Falls and continue to offer kindness and respect to those you meet at FISH, Grace Haven, and Helping Hands.

I continue to pray for the search committee and vestry as they do the laborious work of calling a rector. I continue to pray for the clergy person who hasn't even heard of Church of the Incarnation or Great Falls, Montana yet, but will soon know without a doubt that this is the place the Holy Spirit needs her or him to be.

Let us say, as the French do, "au revoir," which means until I see you again. I know we will see each other again, if not in this life, then surely in the sweet by and by...

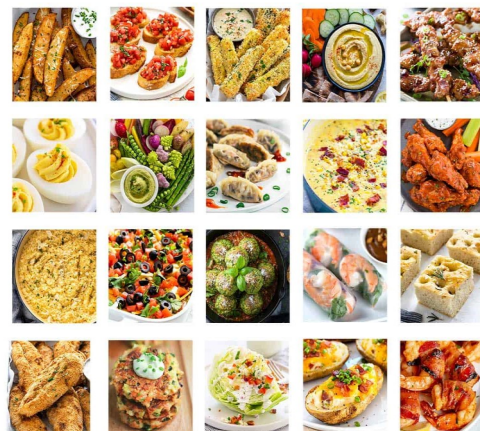
Much love,

Lori+

March 10 - Celebration of Ministry

We will be having an appetizers and beverages gathering after the service on March 10 in the Guild Hall to celebrate our time with Pastor Lori. – All are welcome and encouraged to attend. It will be potluck and the theme will be small bites - "finger food" - and a variety of beverages. Everyone is encouraged to bring something fabulous and adventurous that expresses their willingness to explore new opportunities and ideas, i.e. Vienna Sausages and BBQ meatballs will likely not contribute to the inspirational theme, (but would, no doubt, be joyfully consumed, as usual).

Appetizers & Small Bites



Stories of our “Saints”

Interviews to offer a glimpse into the lives of longtime members of Church of the Incarnation.

Ardelle Watkins

Who says a woman can't make it as a homesteader in Montana? Ardelle Watkins's grandmother left NYC in 1910 where there were no opportunities for women, and with her mother took a train to Chester with her beloved canary. Grandma set up home in the Sweet Grass Hills where she met Ardelle's Norwegian grandfather when he came across the border from Canada. They married and started a family. Ardelle's parents bought the old homestead house for \$30 next to her grandparents and eventually had indoor plumbing. Ardelle and her two brothers attended a one-room schoolhouse in Sweetgrass Hills, where she was the only student in her class. She didn't care for that arrangement and felt the teachers weren't very good. After completing 8th grade, she attended Shelby High School which was much better. Following high school graduation she enrolled at Kinman business school in Spokane. This gave her the education and training she needed to get a job at the bank in Shelby where she learned a lot about finance from her boss and his brother who became good friends of hers.

She met her husband, Bruce, through his brother. After they married they went to Fort Worth, Texas, where Bruce had a job as a helicopter pilot trainer for men heading for war in Viet Nam. Ardelle loved living in TX, but Great Falls was calling, and in 1964 they settled in Great Falls when Bruce bought the beer distributing business Gusto Distributing which was run by Bruce and four employees. Over the years it has been a very successful business and a wonderful contributor to the Great Falls community. Ardelle still owns the business and her son, Lenny, is the manager.

Ardelle and Bruce have two children, Lee Anne who is an Episcopal priest in Minnesota and Lenny. Besides Lenny, her grandchildren, Shyam and Madison, live in GF and are employed at the family business.

Ardelle has enjoyed life in GF. She has been a member of the Junior League, Ad Club as well as other local organizations. Her favorite activity at parties was charades which she'd love to be doing today. Around 1980 she flew with the kids to Richmond, VA where they picked up a truck for the business. It allowed her to take the kids to New York City and Washington DC. It was such a good trip that they repeated it next year picking up another truck for the business. Their cabin on Holter Lake provided many years of enjoyment for the entire family.

Ardelle grew up Presbyterian, however, there was no commitment to any church. Ardelle went to Incarnation to seek information and ended up chatting all afternoon with Jackson Gilliam about our US involvement in Viet Nam. She learned a lot about the Episcopal religion from Jackson, joined the church and has been a member since 1965. She has served on the vestry, altar guild, provided goodies for many coffee hours and most recently served as treasurer of the Memorial Foundation. As we can all attest, Ardelle has been a committed member of the Church of the Incarnation.

Interview by Gerry Jennings

Many thanks to the men of the church, especially Peter Jennings, Organizer
For a wonderful Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13!



Search Committee

The Search Committee for a permanent Rector met with Rev. Mikayla Dunfee, Canon to the Ordinary via Zoom on February 21. We had sent our latest version of the information the Diocese requires in the search process to her for review. She was very pleased with the work we have done and offered additional thoughts for us to consider. We are modifying the documents slightly and will resubmit them to her by March 1. Once they are approved as updated, the position can be posted on the Diocese website and other appropriate social media sites.

We believe that we will be able to post the position very soon and open the application submission period from March 15 to April 15. We, of course, pray that just the right person will find us and appreciate all that we and Great Falls have to offer.

The position description and other information will be included in our redesigned Incarnation website, which is nearly complete. A huge thank you goes to Leigh Larson, Pastor Lori and Peter Jennings. You will be thrilled to see the representation of our beautiful church and worship community. The new website will allow potential applicants and other interested readers to learn much more about the greater Episcopal church, Church of the Incarnation and our parishioners.

Lovingly serving our Lord and worship community,

Pat Holt and the Search Committee

Rich Ecke, Becky Scott, Gerry Jennings and Leigh Larson

ECW

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Just a quick update. We had a wonderful tour of the Grace Haven facilities last month, which benefits women veterans and children.

Since we started up meetings again last July we have had great attendance at our ECW meetings. Eleven to seventeen in attendance. Our February meeting however only had five. I figure because of the weather. I would like to thank Barbara Eliason for stepping in as temporary secretary in our meetings. We also had a guest speaker, Carrie Parker, the Executive Director of Helping Hands, who gave a great presentation. We look forward to seeing a way to participate. We are planning a tour as well.

Looking ahead - We look forward to a flower arranging class at local business, Life in Bloom, on Saturday, April 20th from 1—2:30 pm. This is a great way to gather socially and a PERFECT opportunity to invite a friend to join our supportive community. Please call Sara or email the church office at incarnationgreatfalls@gmail.com to sign up. Only 15 spots are available, so don't delay!

We are once again going to put together a garden basket to be auctioned off at the fundraiser for Family Promise. Items that could be included are: seeds, tools, gloves, décor, etc.

Bring them to the church office by April 3. Contact Sara for more info.

Next meeting is March 13th at 5:30 in the Guild Room, followed by a social hour in the Parish Hall with our own Sarah Justice, Executive Director, Paris Gibson Square as guest speaker! See you then!

Contact me if you would like to go on the tour, go to class, and or donate to the Family Promise garden basket. Be sure to note our minutes are posted in the parish hall monthly. Our next meeting is March 13th at 5:30 in the Guild Room, followed by a social hour in the Parish Hall. Sarah Justice, the Executive Director of the Paris Gibson Square, will be our guest speaker.

Thankyou and Blessings to all

ECW President

Sara Quay

Spring Youth Retreat MT Diocese

Who: All middle & high school students
What: Gather for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and service
Where: St. John's Episcopal, 15 N. Idaho St., Butte, MT 59701
When: April 12th-14th 2024
Check in Friday night at 6 pm' Check out Sunday morning at 11 am
Why: To provide an opportunity for our youth across the state to build connections with one another.

Contact Person: Janelle Willett, Youth Minister, Christ Church and All Saints
406-871-5661

Pastor Lori invites you to join a study of the book: *A Practical Christianity: Meditations for the Season of Lent* by Jane Shaw, former Dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and now Principal at Harris Manchester College, Oxford. Despite Shaw's highbrow credentials, this is an accessible book for Christians of all knowledge levels. The focus of the book is on how Christian practices (worship, prayer, confession, almsgiving, and care for the needy) transform our lives and the world and ultimately help us comprehend the basic beliefs of our Christian faith. A link to purchase the book from Amazon is below or let Pastor Lori know if you would like her to order a copy for you. Even if you can't commit to reading the book or attending every session, you are welcome to join the discussion which should prove thought provoking and edifying!

Feb. 18	Introduction and Chapter 1 “Being Dust”
Feb. 25	Chapter 2 “Letting Go:
Mar. 03	Chapter 5 “Love”

Social Concerns Committee

By the time you read this newsletter, the committee will have met again to look at area ministries to explore (February 26). We hope you enjoyed the presentation by Carrie Parker of Helping Hands. Helping Hands can use donations of time, food, and funds. They distribute meals every Saturday from 1-3 pm.

Each month, beginning in April, the Committee plans to present a speaker who will tell us about the many needs and opportunities for engagement we have here in Great Falls. We will work toward providing a variety of opportunities for our congregation to volunteer on a regular basis. All are welcome. If you have questions, contact Deacon Donna at 406-223-9588 or donna0220@gmail.com.



Easter Flowers



It is time for us to start planning for our Easter celebration. If you would like to donate funds for Easter flowers, please complete the form you will find in your bulletin during the month of March. When you write your check, please make a note in the memo line that it is for flowers. The deadline for having your message in the bulletin is March 20.



Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday, 10 am

Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday, 6 pm

Friday, March 29, Good Friday, 6 pm

Saturday, March 30, Great Vigil of Easter (tent.) 8 pm

Sunday, March 31, Easter, 10 am

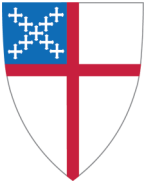
Discretionary Funds

On the 4th Sunday each month, the plate offering goes to the Discretionary Fund—to help those in need—both within and without of our congregation. Please be generous!

Church of the Incarnation

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Schedule for March- One Service @ 10 a.m.

Date	Musicians	Lector	Intercessor	Acolyte	Euch. Minister
March 3 <i>Lent 3</i>	Melissa Smith	Patti Liston	Camee Dohrman	Tom Dohrman	Chuck Jennings
March 10 <i>Lent 4</i>	Holly Neibauer	Trudy Nelson	Barb Eliason	Trudy Nelson	Dcn Donna
March 17 <i>Lent 5</i>	Lana Furdell	Sara Quay	Lana Furdell	Tom Dohrman	Dcn Donna
March 24 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Shad Bailey	Barb Eliason	Pat Holt	Trudy Nelson	Dcn Donna
March 28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Cheryl Quintero	Rich Ecke	Peter Jennings	Tom Dohrman	Dcn Donna
March 29 <i>Good Friday</i>	Melissa Smith	Gerry Jennings	Chuck Jennings	Trudy Nelson	Dcn Donna
March 30 <i>Great Vigil of Easter</i>	Cheryl Quintero	TBD	TBD	Tom Dohrman	Dcn Donna
March 31 <i>Easter</i>	Lana Furdell	Barb Eliason	Mary Ann Cosgrove	Trudy Nelson	Dcn Donna