



Shamrock

St. Patrick Newsletter



December 2017

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Breaking Bread

The Star is an enchanting animated Christmas movie. The birth of a child, who is Christ the King, is told through a whole new set of eyes. Bo the donkey, Ruth a lovable sheep, and Dave an aspiring dove easily capture imaginations of any age. Even in Renaissance art, stable animals are stars as well as the baby in the manger. They always reflect wonder, curiosity and adoration in their big eyes as the “star’s” light beams down on the newborn.

On our trip to Washington over Thanksgiving, we stopped at the magical travel center in St. Regis. Free hot popcorn beckoned us into the gift shop. This roadside Inn, decorated in gold and white, glows with all the wonder of the holiday season. Tucked in a display are several crèches carved out of wood—the characters are all wild critters! There is the moose crèche and then the black bear crèche. Adorable! Just as I am tempted, the Spirit gently reminds me neither will fit in my crèche collection. Why? The real ‘star’ is missing. “Adorable” does not tell the full story. Animals are props and a moose baby and a bear Mary are not the INCARNATION. There has to be a human baby in the feeding trough-born of his mother Mary! The Sony movie gets that part right—a real human baby is wrapped in bands of cloth and laid in a manger.

Are you and I and the church keeping the whole story in our minds and hearts?

The Evangelist Luke reports the angel Gabriel said to Mary “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy: he will be





called the Son of God (Luke 1:35).”

Composer John Rutter in *Candlelight Carol* hints at much more to come.

*Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation.
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.*



At 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve a small child will follow the cross and place Jesus in the manger. I invite you and those in your lives to come and hear the full story of Christmas’ real star-Jesus our Lord and Savior.

In the love that Christmas gives our hearts,

Louise+

FALL ACTIVITIES

Vestry Retreat:



On October 27 the vestry members met at the Flathead Lutheran Camp in Lakeside. It was a beautiful day and an opportunity for the members of the vestry to contemplate the future direction of St. Patrick’s. The topics considered helped spur discussion on short-term goals for the church. Contemplation of long-term goals for the church was also a topic for reflection. It was appreciated that the vestry and the financial committee dedicated a full day to planning for the future of St. Patrick’s.

Thanksgiving:



One of the outreach ministries that St. Patrick’s strongly supports is the Bigfork Food Bank (BFB.) At Thanksgiving, where there is such a focus on food, the BFB gives the community the food and the hope that they need to enjoy the holidays just like those of us who have more to share. On November 26, the BFB served 29 clients for a total of 71 individuals. They gave out 1,771 pounds of food that day.

To help support the Bigfork Food Bank for Christmas, there is free donation possibility. While doing your shopping for Christmas, you can go to Smile.America.com and specify that you want your donation made to the BFB. This means that a small percentage of your purchase will be donated to BFB! It costs you nothing, and is like free money for the BFB!



Puerto Rico after Maria



St Nicholas

Offerings:

St. Patrick's is a giving community. Our giving at Thanksgiving is emphasized with the United Thank Offering (UTO) being taken at that time. The UTO provides a way to remember our Thanks for our many blessings this season.

Our total special offerings this year have been as follows:

- UTO-\$458.22
- Bigfork Food Bank-\$1,358.00
- Bishop's Fund-\$370.00
- The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem-\$285.00
- Montana Fire Assistance-\$1,000
- ERD \$3,543.72, which breaks out as follows:
 - Peru - \$40.00
 - Boxes - \$393.72
 - Harvey - \$1,250.00
 - Puerto Rico - \$1,860.00

ST. NICHOLAS DAY

The Western Christian countries observe the feast day of St. Nicholas on December 6. The feast day is observed with the attendance of Mass or worship services. His day is also observed as a Christian festival and his reputation of being a bringer of gifts is celebrated.

The true history of St. Nicholas is hard to decipher because history has turned to legend. The most common stories of St. Nicholas are about him giving away all his wealth at an early age. He healed many people, and was not afraid to defend his Christ to other religious leaders who persecuted true believers at that time.

Supposedly he was imprisoned and stripped of his place in the church. He was released when Constantine became emperor. He supposedly saw visions of Christ and Mary, and was subsequently restored to his former position within the church.

His history and legend has captured the imagination of artists. He is said to have been represented by medieval artists more frequently than any saint, except for Mary.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Calendar

December 17, Third Sunday in Advent—

Adult forum lead by Ann and Tom Lepage on the Life and Ministry in Kenya (following coffee hour and Holy Eucharist)

December 24 – 10am – Holy Eucharist

*(Cookie Exchange will follow the morning service at coffee hour)**

December 24 - 5pm – Holy Eucharist

December 31, The Second Sunday of Christmas (New Year's Eve)

*(Tex-Mex meal after worship)**

*Linda Edwards is coordinating the special coffee hours for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

Bigfork Food Bank

December Requests: hearty soups, cereals, and cocoa packets



2017 Advent Wreath



Lee Murphy – our long-time food bank Representative retires. Thank you Lee!



Faye Harwood's watercolor rendering of St. Patrick



Dodie, Ellie and Ellie's new friend Rose



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Our Leadership Team:

Rev. Louise Baker, Pastor
 Linda Edwards, Sr. Warden
 Doreen Thigpen, Jr. Warden
 Jerry Southwood, Treasurer
 Carol Beyer, Asst. Treasurer
Nancy Fowler, Clerk
 Michelle Patterson,
 Community Garden
 Deb Roundy, Pastor's
 Secretary
 Marlys Anderson – Hisaw,
 Minister of Music

St Patrick Episcopal Church
 30631 Montana Hwy 209
 Bigfork, MT 59911

Phone:
 (406) 837 – 5249

E-Mail:
stpatricksepiscopalchurch@montanasky.com

Website:
<http://www.stpatricksbigfork.org>

November Birthdays

Lin Sultzer	9
Abe Serrato	11
Nancy Hammel	24
Fran Beyer	25
Jerry Southwood	26
Marlys Anderson-Hisaw	30
Joe McKernan	25

December Birthdays

Chuck Aker	1
Allan Baese	3
Clive Oliver	6
JoAnn Morgan	4
Jim Ramsey	7
Ann Bell	11
Sally Sebring	16
Carole Meyer	18
Norma Oliver	25

January Birthdays

Heidi Berendt	1
Claudia Bielenberg	17
Jerry Bell	25
Edwina Aker	30

Happy Anniversary!

November

Doreen and Greg Thigpen 9

December

Ann and Jerry Bell 6

January

Brian and Dana Whitney 2



Doreen and Greg Thigpen

Rest In Peace

Caroline Scheper

