

UNITY – THE PINTLER CLUSTER NEWSLETTER

The Pintler Cluster of the Episcopal Church in Montana



April

2008

God has made everything beautiful in it's
time. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Being raised in a state of year round sunshine, I always thought that it would be so wonderful to live in a place where it snowed. I thought, "How fun would it be to make snow angels, build snowmen, and have snowball fights?" Well, God sure did grant me the desires of my heart. Here I am in Montana, beautiful big sky country, where the winter ends in May and begins in June, or so it seems. Not only does it feel like there is an endless cold front, every time we appear to have nicer weather coming our way, a blizzard appears right before my very eyes. I personally find the unpredictable weather to be rather frustrating, and at the peak of my frustration, I call out to God, "WHY!!!!" That is when I feel His peace come upon me, and I remember that Spring will indeed be beautiful, when it does arrive, and I must be patient until then. I realize that I should probably enjoy the season that I am in, and take out of it everything I can!

In the same sense, I am reminded that for everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1) We go through seasons in life, and it seems that the cold and dark seasons last the longest, key word being "seems." I usually find myself focusing solely on how frustrating and inconvenient my circumstances appear, how I am tired and overwhelmed by the "bad" season. I most often forget or sometimes ignore that God has provided a shovel and studded tires for less than appealing driving

conditions, whether in the midst of a literal winter season or a personal storm, all the while arguing my point that if winter were over I wouldn't need the good ole shovel or clanking tires! (Just for the record, I don't ever win those arguments with God.)

Have you ever really noticed that every season has a transitioning period, winter to spring, spring to summer, summer to fall, fall to winter? Have you noticed that each season contributes in some way or another to the approaching season? April showers bring May flowers! It is through our seasons and transitioning phases that God grows us, betters us, instills His character in us. It is during the struggles that we build up the courage to face the next one when it arrives. It is through the struggles that our faith becomes stronger, knowing that God won't give us more "winter" than we can handle. It is through the struggles that we realize, they really are not as bad as they seem, if you change your attitude towards them, making an effort to seek the beauty in the storm. After the rain, comes the rainbow and at the end of the rainbow, there's a pot of gold!

Take in the beauty as we transition into Spring! Enjoy the blossoming flowers and the chirping birds. Remember that everything is beautiful when you wait on God and God is always on time!

Springtime Blessings,

Jane

Baby Sitting Schedule

St. Mark's
 April 6: Taylor
 April 13: Toni
 April 20: Nicole
 April 27: Tyler

St. James'
 Nursery Available

Kidz Church: Stacy Clark

Crossroads



Youth Program Mission Statement

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, through the examples set by our church's generations, I give you my word that I will contend for His chosen ones. I will help build the foundation that will bring our youth the love of Jesus' heart, the strength of our Father's wisdom, the knowledge of God's desires, and without judgement, I will be a vessel to the narrow yet glorious path to His most heavenly kingdom.

According to Scripture...

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ
 - Philippians 1:6

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them
 - Ephesians 2:10

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ
 - Philippians 3:20

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me
 - Philippians 4:13

The Book of Philippians

Find the hidden words.

T	T	H	N	L	S	A	H	T	I	A	F	G
Q	G	E	F	T	P	S	J	U	N	Y	N	H
Q	X	H	A	O	S	V	E	X	X	I	I	L
Y	P	M	S	C	P	I	M	N	N	O	R	H
H	P	T	O	P	H	W	R	R	I	W	P	T
D	L	F	W	E	L	E	A	H	G	L	A	B
E	D	F	J	B	J	W	R	B	C	L	O	D
U	N	I	T	Y	C	H	S	S	I	L	Z	H
H	U	M	B	L	E	N	E	S	S	M	G	T

APOSTLE

WARNING

CHRIST

TEACHERS

UNITY

HOLINESS

HUMBLENESS

FAITH

Crossroads & Godly Play Fun Facts

Name Game!

4 Tylers

3 Nicoles

2 Alex's

2 Ashleys

We have a "Chipmunk", a "Goat", a
"Bonsai"

"RomNee Noodles" "Fluffy" "Queen T"
"Miss A" "Buddy Boo" "Crash" "Rene"
"Buddy Boo" "Midget" "Zeke" "Pinky"

We have musicians, tumblers, swimmers,
basketball players, boxers, poets, writers,
actors and singers.

Youth Program Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 26th:

Global Youth Services Day

Our Crossroads youth group will be cleaning up the skate park and Friendship Park in Anaconda. This event is being sponsored by Walmart, Pepsi, and Kiwanahs. There will be a kick off barbecue on Friday, April 25th @ 5:00pm Rentals or donations of rakes and brooms are needed.

Our youth are also putting a talent show together for the CHA Nursing Home; a date has not yet been set.

St. Mark's received a grant to send 10 youth to Grace Camp this summer!

Plans are in motion for Crossroads to attend Camp Marshall this summer.

Watch for our May Crossroads gives back event!

Pintler Cluster Youth Program Schedule 2007 - 2008

Monday:

CROSSROADS

Jr & Sr High Students - 3:00pm - 5:00pm
St Marks Parish Hall, Anaconda

Tuesday:

CROSSROADS

Jr & Sr High Students - 3:00pm - 5:00pm
St Marks Parish Hall, Anaconda

Wednesday:

GODLY PLAY

K-5 Students - 3:00pm - 5:00pm
St James Parish Hall, Deerlodge

Thursday:

CROSSROADS

Jr & Sr High Students - 3:00pm - 5:00pm
St James Parish Hall, Deerlodge

The Youth Programs are being sponsored by The Pintler Cluster of the Episcopal Church... Volunteers and donations are ALWAYS welcome!!

The following items are needed the most:
sodas/drinks, paper plates, napkins,
aluminum foil and Ziploc bags, magazines
and tape.

*Thank you Wal-Mart for your
generous commitment of participation
within our youth program.*

Susan Bartlett

Cluster Youth Coordinator

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***Parents, to ensure that our programs continue to thrive in each community please pick up your children promptly at the end of Crossroads or Godly Play ***



Spirit vs. Flesh: Sports Edition

A Positive Grand Slam!



"I can't believe I just did that, I am so stupid!"

"I can't win for losing..."

"I will never be good at that..."

"I can't do it!"

"I QUIT!"

Please take a base if you have never said something or thought something like that about yourself...or someone else! Truth is, we are all guilty, and we all strike out when it comes to demeaning ourselves, and speaking failure over ourselves or someone else. It does not have to be intentional, it could even be impulsive, but still it happens and aside from the astounding negativity of the above phrases, the spiritual devastation as a result of those phrases can completely defeat a person!

Sometimes as the "perfect humans" that we are, we forget that we really are not perfect, and that is okay! However, we also neglect the fact that we are made in the image of God as stated in Genesis 1:27, 'So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.'

Psalms 139:14 says 'I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.' If God created you in His own image why then would you speak negatively about yourself instead of praising God and seeking God's strength in your weaknesses? Now is the time to receive that, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

Here is how this works:

1st & 2nd Base Beginner's Challenge

3rd & 4th Base Intermediate Challenge

HOME RUN!!

1st Base: Accept that you make mistakes sometimes. Accept that you are not perfect.

2nd Base: Confess your sins and imperfections

3rd Base: Ask for forgiveness, first from God, second, from whomever you may have trespassed against.

4th Base: Receive God's forgiveness and forgive yourself. Learn from your mistakes, seek God in all you do, and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and then ...

See yourself as God sees you!

HOME RUN!!



A Touch of Spring!

Spring Blessings

The sky has never looked so blue
 Never a breeze so sweet
 Flowers burst forth in brilliant array
 As April comes to greet.

The trees stand tall in their glory
 Tender leaves cover limbs once bare
 Yards filled with laughing children
 Can you match the splendor there?

There is nothing quite as pleasant
 As a walk in springtime hours
 The bees even harmonize with life
 As they drift among the flowers.

A golden rainbow after a storm
 Beauty beyond compare
 A taste of heaven here on earth
 With green grass everywhere.

God softly whispers to us
 As gentle rains caress
 The countryside with drops of life
 In such pure tenderness.

And if you listen close enough
 I'm sure that He'll impart
 The freshness of spring upon your soul
 And a flower in your heart!

(Marilyn Ferguson)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

To everything there is a season,
 A time for every purpose under heaven:

A time to be born, And a time to die;
 A time to plant, And a time to pluck what has been
 planted;
 A time to kill, And a time to heal;
 A time to break down, And a time to build up;
 A time to weep, And a time to laugh;
 A time to mourn, And a time to dance;
 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones;
 A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;
 A time to gain, And a time to lose;
 A time to keep, And a time to throw away;
 A time to tear, And a time to sew;
 A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;
 A time to love, And a time to hate;
 A time of war, And a time of peace.

Happy Birthday to...

Ruth Mc Calman..... April 6
Molly Stavlo.....April 6
Celia Lyon.....April 8
Teauna Martenson.....April 9
Sue Abbot.....April 10
Linda Graham.....April 14
Bradley Cain.....April 16
Leo Graham.....April 21
Eleanor Hollister.....April 21
Mark Messer.....April 23



"KIND HEARTS ARE THE GARDENS;
 KIND THOUGHTS ARE THE ROOTS;
 KIND WORDS ARE THE FLOWERS;
 KIND DEEDS ARE THE FRUITS."

Letter from Bishop Franklin

AN EASTER MESSAGE TO THE DIOCESE

The mystery of the resurrection of our Lord---that is what we celebrate during the fifty days of Easter. We lift up the stunning news that God has raised Jesus from the dead so that Christ is now alive, now beyond the power of death, now is the Victor over all the forces of evil. Easter says that Jesus is the last word on life, not death and decay.

This is a mystery. In the language of the church this means that the resurrection is a truth that we can know and explore, but can never fully grasp or understand. It is a fact that grasps us more than a set of propositions that we grasp by the exercise of our minds.

The resurrection calls us to live beyond the usual categories of the mind or the normal set of emotions we feel. In Baptism, God has transferred us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light, and God has joined us to the resurrection of Christ. We share fully in the new life of our Lord. While we cannot understand or feel our way into this, we can choose by an act of the will to step into the new reality of resurrection. We choose to act as if it is true, and in so doing we experience that it is, in fact, true. We begin to know that Christ is the Victor, and that nothing can separate us from the life and love of the Lord.

My prayer for this diocese is that we choose to live in the new reality of the resurrection, that we step out in trust and learn that the Lord lives. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Bishop Franklin

Camp Marshall 2008 Summer Program Schedule

Youth Programs

Grace Camp: June 22 -27

Students entering 3rd - 8th grades.
Priest: The Rev. John Toles

Jr. Middler 1: July 6 – 12

Students entering 3rd – 8th grades
Priest: The Rev. Bill Baumgarten
Priest: The Rev. Susan Merrin

Jr. Middler 2: July 13 – 19

Students entering 3rd -8th grades
Priest: The Rev. Jane Schmoetzer

Sr. High: July 27 – August 2

Students entering 9th -12th grades
Priest: The Rev. Canon Clark Sherman
Priest: The Rev. Gail Wheatley

Young Adult Camp: August 3 – 6

Ages 18 – 30

Priest: The Rev. Canon Gary Waddingham
The Rev. Douglas Fenton

Family Programs

Labor of Love Work Weekend: April 11 -13

Directed by Julie Sissler

Family Camp 1: June 29 – July 5

Priest: The Rev. Todd Young
Priest: The Rev. Joseph Scheeler
Canon for Native American Ministries

Family Camp 2: July 20 – 26

Priest: The Rev. Tim Ljunggren

Unity Bulletin

Diocese of Montana
Pintler Cluster of the Episcopal Church

Mission Statement and Vision

Our mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Vision: The Diocese of Montana is a transformational community, powered by the Risen Lord.

Coffee Hour

St. James
Sundays, following service...
SEE SIGN UP SHEET!

St. Mark's
Sundays, following service...
@ Parish hall

April 6: Linda
April 13: Hollister/Bartlett
April 20: Midge
April 27: Marianne

St. Andrews
Thursdays, 10:00 am
@ The Gallery Café

Sunday Services

St. James
Deer Lodge: 8:30 am

St. Mark's
Anaconda: 11:15 am

St. Andrews
Philipsburg: 6:00 pm

Episcopal Emergency Relief Development (ERD)

Matthew 25: 37-40 (NRSV)

Lord, when was it that

*We saw you hungry and gave you food?
We saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink?
We saw you a stranger and welcomed you?
We saw you sick and took care of you?
We saw you in prison and visited you?*

'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Who We Are:

Episcopal Relief and Development responds to human suffering around the world. We provide emergency assistance after disasters, rebuild communities, and help children and families climb out of poverty.

What We Do:

We save lives after an emergency

Disasters - whether man-made or natural - happen all the time. When they strike, we help people by supplying food, water, and medicine immediately. We prevent vulnerable people from further suffering, especially women, children, and the elderly.

We help communities rebuild when the crisis is over

Hurricanes, earthquakes, and other catastrophes leave people with nothing. We work hand-in hand with local communities to build new homes, plant crops, create clean water systems, construct clinics and schools, and offer critical post trauma counseling.

We create opportunities for people living in poverty

In many places in the world, people can't feed their families or give them basic health care. Through our food security and primary health care program, we provide farming and business training, health care services, and HIV/AIDS programs in communities where families are struggling to survive. We give people the tools to earn an income and create opportunities for their children.

For more information on how you can help go to www.er-d.org



National Church: http://www.episcopalchurch.org/index_new.htm
Diocese of Montana: <http://www.mtepiscopeal.org>
Cluster: <http://www.pintlercluster.com>

