

PARACLETE

JANUARY 2025

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

2025 DIOCESAN CONVENTION EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MONTANA

Sign up to be a delegate to Diocesan Convention to be held October 3-5, hosted by Christ Church, Kalispell, Montana. Holy Spirit is entitled to 6 delegates who will be elected at the Annual Meeting on January 26. If you are interested in representing Holy Spirit at the Diocesan Convention, please call the church office, 406-542-2167, by Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

October 3-5

Kalispell, Montana

For more information:
(406) 542-2167
www.holyspiritmissoula.org

Sign up to be a delegate to Diocesan Convention

The next Diocesan Convention will be held October 3-5 in Kalispell, hosted by Christ Church. At this convention we will be caring for the business of the diocese. We will elect delegates and alternates to the convention at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26. According to Diocesan Canons, Holy Spirit is entitled to 6 delegates to Diocesan Convention. That number is based on our Average Sunday Attendance. Alternates are also needed as people's plans change during the year. Any interested parish member who is willing to serve in this capacity should notify the church office at (406) 542-2167 by Wednesday, January 22.

Please join us at the Annual Meeting Parish begins new year at Annual Meeting on January 26

Don't forget to attend the Annual Meeting to be held in the parish hall after the 10:15 service on Sunday, January 26. We hope to be able to livestream the meeting for those who are unable to attend in person. A light meal will be served at the meeting at a cost of \$5.

Reservations for the meal will be taken after services starting January 12 and continuing each Sunday until the Annual Meeting, or you may call the church office at (406) 542-2167 before Wednesday, January 22. If you would like, you

are welcome to bring your own snack.

Do plan to attend this very important Annual Meeting. New members for the Vestry will be elected as well as delegates to next fall's Diocesan Convention, and the budget for the coming year will be presented. Reports from various parish organizations will also be given. This is your church meeting, and we hope you will be here to help get the year off to a great start for our parish!

— REV. TERRI AND REV. GRETCHEN



OUR STAFF

Clergy:

The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier,
Co-Rector
Gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org
The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger
(retired), Co-Rector
revterri@holyspiritmissoula.org
The Rev. Dorcie Dvarishkis,
Deacon
dorcied@gmail.com

Organist/Choir Director:

Dr. Nancy Cooper

Parish Administrator:

Judy Parock
office@holyspiritmissoula.org

Bookkeeper/Office Assistant:

Connie Gerke
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NEWSLETTER

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HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Help provide socks and gloves for Missoula's houseless

WARM HANDS, warm feet!



Donate on January 5, 12 and 19

Bring your donations January 5, 12 and 19 Socks, gloves, and hats needed for houseless men and women

In the Holy Spirit Parish version of *Where's Waldo*, it's time to buy those warm winter socks for our houseless brothers and sisters and look for the red-and-white striped box in the parish hall to put them in!

January 2025 marks the ninth year for our collection of wooly socks, scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves, which begins this year on Sunday, January 5, and will conclude on Sunday, January 19. Items collected will go to our houseless neighbors who are receiving shelter at the Poverello Center and the Johnson Street Shelter.

The Waldo-esque red-and-white striped collection box will be located in the parish hall. A more modest plastic bin will be set on the porch outside the church office so parishioners and community members can donate items after hours.

As always, we welcome items that are hand-knit, store-bought or gently used. Please remember: socks should be made from wool or synthetic fabrics such as Thermolite. Please NO

COTTON! Cotton does not keep out the cold and fails to wick away moisture, making feet feel damp and cold. Houseless men and women who sleep at the Poverello Center and Johnson Street Shelter spend many of their daytime hours outside in our cold, snowy and windy winter weather. As a result, these facilities go through countless pairs of socks and other wooly items in a single day!

We appreciate whatever items you can donate to this critically important drive. Last January, you all donated 21 pounds of warm socks, plus another 17 pounds of gloves and mittens, hats and scarves. If parishioners would like to place a bin outside their homes and accept donations from their neighbors, please email me at lucia.solowork@gmail.com. I am happy to provide the bin and signage and collect the contents as needed. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

— LUCIA SOLORZANO WORK
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE



Bring your favorite potluck dish to share, board or card games to play, and your White Elephant gift to exchange!

Resolve now to attend the White Elephant Potluck on January 21!

Bring your favorite board or building game. A cribbage, checkers, or backgammon board. A deck or two of cards. Your lucky set of dice! A fun game that can be completed in a reasonably short time. The prizes? Well, we're asking you to bring those, too, to our White Elephant Potluck. Something that passes as "new" and in working condition that just does not fit into your lifestyle. A Christmas gift you wonder why you received. A book you'll never read, or certainly not again. A toy you're too young or old for. A tool or hobby kit you still

haven't figured out. A fun clothing or jewelry item that's just not you. Something you already have plenty of. Something someone else will love.

Oh, yes, and a generous dish of your favorite making to share at dinner! We'll begin eating at 5:30 and then play games until you and your guests are ready to head home – with your new White Elephant, a full tummy, and great memories of your evening with our Holy Spirit family. Mark your calendars for a fun potluck event on January 21.

Welcoming Newcomers

If you look around, you might notice you don't know absolutely everyone who is coming forward to take Communion on Sunday. New people are visiting Holy Spirit, and the welcome mat is out.

Many of us hear from visitors that Holy Spirit is a very welcoming congregation. That's great! This means we're balancing friendly hellos and ready smiles with the knowledge that new people are just getting to know us. We are ready to make connections and spend time, without creating too many expectations about joining in for this or that. There's lots of time for that when it feels right.

So keep saying hello and sharing your experiences with people who are new to Holy Spirit. As we know, feeling at home takes a while, and our open, easy invitation to get to know our worship, people and programs can make all the difference.

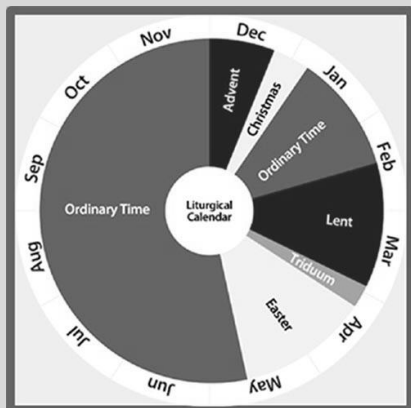
– MOLLY BOWLER
SENIOR WARDEN



Join us for Centering Prayer on January 28

All are welcome to a circle of silent prayer. You will be gently led into and out of a 20-minute time of silence with prayer or readings. We gather in the Guild Room at Holy

Spirit. This month we'll meet on Tuesday, January 28, from 4-5 p.m. **Please note the change in meeting date!**



Ordinary Time

There has been some hullabaloo around the church lately about this idea of ordinary time. Ordinary time is the time outside of the big stuff. And while on the face of it I would agree all of life is *extraordinary* and none of it should be sidelined to the mundane, there is a relief in experiencing the ordinary. Sometimes I am ready to take the tree down and sweep up the needles. Sometimes I am ready to put away all of the decorations and dust the mantle. It can be a relief to make a fresh start in a new year and return to some simplicity. Ordinary time is set aside just for that. We need some down time to make sense of those big moments – like the birth of God's son. Ordinary time allows us to learn, grow, and mature. Ordinary time allows us space to practice, *turn a corner* and try on new habits. After all the glitz of Christmas, ordinary time in January invites us to ask – so what? What difference does Jesus's birth, in a manger, really make? We are invited to take a closer look, and then perhaps we'll see the extraordinary beauty that lives within each ordinary day.

GRACE AND PEACE,
– REV. GRETCHEN

Book study meets Thursday mornings starting January 9, from 10:30 am-12 noon

Join us for a new book study *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory*

Last spring, the Social Concerns Committee hosted a presentation on Christian Nationalism, and afterwards, many parishioners said they wanted to go further. So, our next HSP book-study will continue on this topic with Tim Alberta's *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory*. Some of what the book jacket says to describe the book reads like this:

"In...*The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory*, journalist Tim Alberta, himself a practicing Christian and the son of an evangelical pastor, paints a...troubling portrait of the American evangelical movement. Through the eyes of televangelists and small-town preachers, celebrity revivalists and everyday churchgoers, Alberta... retraces the arc of the modern evangelical movement...and investigates the ways in which conservative Christians have pursued, exercised, and often abused power in the name of securing [an] earthly kingdom...[For them], America is their kingdom—a land set apart, a nation uniquely blessed, a people in special covenant with God. This love of country...has given way to right-wing

nationalist fervor, a reckless blood-and-soil idolatry that trivializes the kingdom of Jesus Christ... Reporting from half-empty sanctuaries and standing-room-only convention halls across the country, the author documents a growing fracture inside [this part of] American Christianity and journeys with listeners through this strange new environment in which loving your enemies is 'woke' and owning the libs is the answer to WWJD [What would Jesus do?]."

The hardcover book can be ordered online from used booksellers for \$12 or new from Walmart for \$15.40, and the paperback, which came out December 10th, can be ordered from Walmart or Amazon for \$19.79.

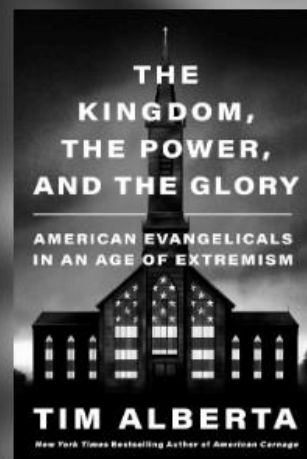
We will meet four Thursday mornings in January, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Guild Room. The dates are January 9, 16, 23 and 30. Carla Mettling and Lucia Work will lead the discussions.

Please join us. There will definitely be refreshments and good cheer, along with mental stimulation, even in the dead of winter!

– CARLA METTLING

Join us for a book study **THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, AND THE GLORY**

Thursday mornings, Jan. 9, 16,
23, and 30, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon
at Holy Spirit Parish



Compline meets on January 5 at 8 pm

Use Compline to mark the close of the Christmas season



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Why not use compline on January 5 at 8 p.m. to mark Twelfth Night and the close of the Christmas season? The Holy Spirit Compline Choir will begin the service with the opening lines of the Gospel of John, set

against a chanted refrain. The meditations for the evening will be short poems on divine love by Rainer Maria Rilke.

— KEITH KUHN
COMPLINE COORDINATOR



Checking in with a Mutual Ministry Review

In December the Vestry and the Co-Rectors focused on what's called a Mutual Ministry Review – a method of review and reflection in the Episcopal Church that is all about “how are we doing?”

Topics ranged from assessing progress on our four Vestry objectives to whether we've dealt effectively with an unexpected or emergency situation – this is where responding to the demise of our Spirit tree last summer came to mind. We also reviewed current practices in worship services, pastoral care, welcoming newcomers, community outreach, church administration, and building and grounds upkeep.

Finally, the Vestry and our clergy discussed the workings of the co-rectorship, its pluses and minuses, and ways to fine-tune this model as we move ahead. The Mutual Ministry Review provided a chance to assess the year's successes and forward movement, while also offering the opportunity to look at making small adjustments. For instance, Rev. Terri has suggested being on campus Tuesdays and Wednesdays to better dovetail with some key ministries; Rev. Gretchen will continue to be at Holy Spirit Wednesdays and Thursdays.

— MOLLY BOWLER
SENIOR WARDEN

Compline

The ancient service of plainchant and contemplative prayer

Sunday, January 5
8 p.m. - All are welcome!



Jesse is considering a call to the diaconate

A discernment process begins for Jesse Jaeger

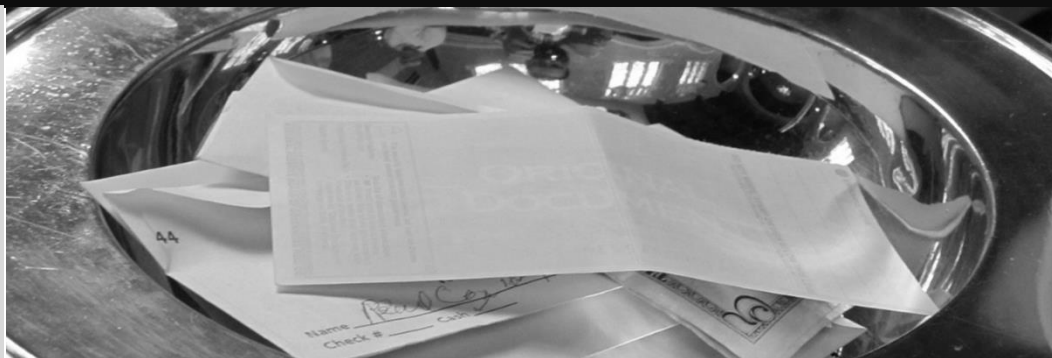
Please keep Jesse Jaeger in your prayers as he is entering the discernment process, considering a call to the diaconate. A parish discernment group has been formed, and they will be trained in February to begin meeting with Jesse soon

after. They will study and pray and listen as together they work to discern God's call in Jesse's life. Please keep them in your prayers as well: Sue Talbot, Glenn Hladek, Diane Rasmuson, Bob Beckley, and Lucia Work.

**Just a reminder:
Deacon Dorcie's remaining
Time of Renewal December
28 through January 24**

This summer, I took the first eight weeks of the 12-week time of renewal (sabbatical) expected of deacons after each five years of ordination. That time brought such "let's get real" and memory-making family time, a study of the book of Acts, different prayer and worship rhythms, and some good soul peace and clarity. I am now looking forward to the final four weeks of my time of renewal, which will take me away from service at Holy Spirit and community ministries from December 28 through January 24. I appreciate your prayers and look forward to rejoining you in Epiphany.

– Gratefully,
THE VEN. DORCIE KAFKA
DVARISHKIS
dorcie@gmail.com
406-542-2167 church office



Community Ministries Our growing circle of Alms Sunday stories and partners

For a third year running, our Vestry again supported the welcoming of ten organizations/ministries to Holy Spirit for our Alms Sundays in 2024. Each organization was shepherded by our Social Concerns Committee members and other parishioners to speak at our services and connect at coffee hour. Here are a few of the results and partners:

- Organizations/ministries featured included the Poverello Center's Homeless Outreach Team, Emmaus Campus Ministry, the Housing Advocate Network of Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, Parenting Place, Missoula Aging Services, Missoula International Rescue Committee, Missoula Interfaith Power & Light, Partners Hope Foundation, Hellgate High School Family Resource Center, and Soft Landing Missoula. In addition, a socks/gloves/hats drive was conducted for the Poverello Center.
- Alms Sundays' organizers who joined with me included Zeke Campfield, Karen and Warren Gartner, Glenn Hladek, Carla Mettling, A'Lisa Scott, Jim Wiley,

Clem Work, and Lucia Solorzano Work.

- The overall funds collected at Holy Spirit, in addition to those made directly to the organizations, totaled \$6,796. This is 20 percent more than what was collected for the ten organizations welcomed in 2023!
- Judy Parock continues to be such a valuable promotions partner with her posters, social media postings, and special collection support – thank you, Judy!

These Alms Sunday opportunities not only help us to live into our canonical responsibility of monthly giving to community needs, but they also make the stories of our neighbors come to life in ways that grow our awareness and stir our consideration of further involvement. As we look toward the Alms Sunday program in 2025, please know that your prayers and suggestions for possible new organizations to invite are welcome. We are grateful for your care and support.

- Loving a growing circle of neighbors alongside you,
THE VEN. DORCIE KAFKA
DVARISHKIS
dorcie@gmail.com
406-542-2167 church office



A picture of a Holy Spirit Ministry Our ministry of Holy Spirit hospitality

[EDITOR'S NOTE: To hear Anne Cohen tell it, coming together to create memorial receptions at Holy Spirit is something very special. The silver is out. There are white linens and flowers. Platters are filled with homemade cookies and treats. And when it's all arranged and ready, it can become – for a grieving family – a nearly holy space. After the service, it becomes a place for embraces and remembering, for sighs, stories and connection. For a beautiful chocolate cookie and a cup of tea.

It's a ministry with many layers that delivers a wonderful gift. Here's more from Anne:]

A committee at Holy Spirit provides hospitality for Memorial services, the Annual Meeting, and other gatherings. This group serves the church's most joyous and solemn occasions. We share ourselves through preparing the hall, baking cookies, making coffee, punch, and light refreshments.

Gatherings include the Easter Vigil, the Bishop's visit, Confirmation, the Annual Meeting, and Priests' and Deacons' ordinations. These are opportunities for the parish to take part in celebrating special events.

Memorial receptions provide the family and friends an opportunity to get together, visit, and share memories of their loved one. Many of the families have not been together for a long time, and friends are seeing friends again. People from the community see our church as a welcoming place.

Members of the committee are moved by the appreciation shown, especially from Memorial Reception families. We feel that we are contributing a small amount of comfort during a difficult time.

—ANNE COHEN
RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Save the date! Holy Spirit's Winter Blood Drive coming up on February 20

Did you know that one pint of blood can save up to three lives? You can help by joining with others from our Holy Spirit family on Thursday, February 20, in the parish hall for our next blood drive with the American Red Cross. The drive runs from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive> to schedule an appointment. Most donations take about an hour, so book your appointment, roll up your sleeve and become part of the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross and Holy Spirit Parish.

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



**American
Red Cross**

Holy Spirit Winter Blood Drive

130 South 6th Street East
Parish Hall

**Thursday, February 20
1 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

Sign up online at
www.redcrossblood.org or at
eadrummond56@comcast.net.
Please plan to donate!



I give blood. Will you?

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

Meeting begins after the 10:15 a.m.
service in the parish hall

January 26, 2025

