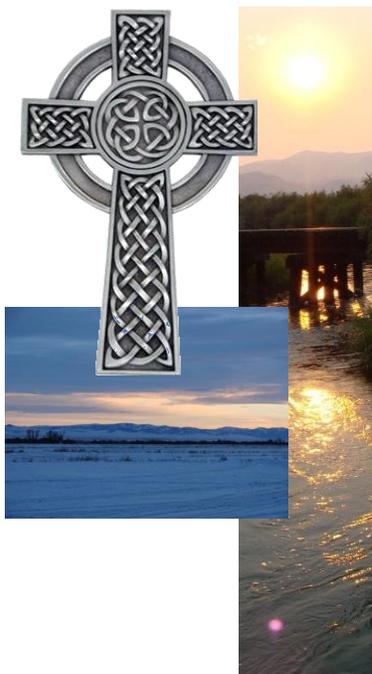


Christ Church Chronicle

Produced by the congregation of Christ Church Episcopal in Sheridan, MT

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October 1, 2012



New Look for Sanctuary

The new carpet is installed and it is beautiful! Along with the new flooring in the entry, the lowered alter and the new lighting, the sanctuary has a bright new look. The changes took place in record time, thanks to the hard-working crews. Pews, alter, and anything else that could be moved, were removed on Monday so the carpet installers could start work on Tuesday. After the carpet was installed, there was cleaning to be done, and then everything put back in place. And all of this took place in less than a week! It was not necessary to hold even one service in the Parish Hall.



The new carpet in the sanctuary.

Vestry Happenings

Everyone has been busy with giving the sanctuary some much needed updates. In addition to that minor task, work continues on other fronts.

At the last Vestry meeting, Don reported on his research of ADA requirements. The Church and the Rectory meet with basic ADA requirements. The Parish Hall will require the installation of a ramp and a remodel of the restrooms to meet ADA requirements. We plan to apply for a Faber grant to pay for the improvements.

With buildings as old as ours, it sometimes seems like an episode of "This Old House" around here. Phil has fixed the sink leak along with some other plumbing problems he discovered while fixing the sink. The shed behind the Rectory needs a new roof and Frank is doing some research to see if we can get that done.

At its next meeting, October 7th, the Vestry will have exciting business. Reverend Bruce McNab has contacted Frank Ford about the possibility of being a regular part time Supply Priest at Christ Church. Rev. McNab has served as Supply Priest twice at Christ Church this year. He is recently retired and lives in Bozeman. He and Frank have met and worked out a possible schedule and drawn up a letter of agreement for the approval of the Vestry.

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Beth tears up the old carpet



Don, Frank, and Ed "Are you sure we can lift this?"

Sermon of the Month

Excerpts from a sermon by the Rev. Bruce McNab



“He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak...”

Listen, Understand, and Act

I’m interested in how people learn, and I ran into something about education recently that’s quite simple, but very profound: *“Until you can repeat what you know, you don’t really know it.”* And “repeat” doesn’t just mean repeating words, it also includes repeating deeds. Somebody else can show you how to make a pie crust, but until you have made one yourself, you don’t really know how to do it.

There’s a connection between hearing and speaking. If we can’t hear, we can’t talk—like the deaf and mute man we read about in the gospel for today. That’s why children who are born deaf or with seriously impaired hearing have difficulty learning to speak. Because they can’t hear the sounds of the words their parents are trying to teach them, they can’t repeat them. And they also can’t hear the sounds they’re making themselves. But if they can be made to *hear*, they’ll soon be able to speak, too.

When Jesus opened the man’s ears, he also “loosened” his tongue, as the Bible puts it. He made it possible for the man to tell his story to anybody willing to listen. Jesus asked the man to keep quiet about what had happened—because he didn’t want to be known among the crowds as “just” another healer—but the man couldn’t stay silent. He’d been speechless all his life. Now he had a story to tell, and he was going to tell it, no matter what.

The story of the healing of the man who was deaf and mute is preserved in the Bible, not merely because it was another miracle performed by the Son of God, but because—for us Christians—*hearing and speaking* are essential activities related to our faith.

In his letter to the Romans (10:17) Paul wrote, *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* Or, in the Good News Bible translation, *“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through the proclamation of Christ.”* This “proclamation of Christ” doesn’t just mean sermons—though preaching clearly was something Paul had in mind. It also includes what any of us have to say about our faith. It’s essential for people who want to *grow* in faith to be in a position to *hear* other Christians talk about their faith. People who want to learn need opportunities to listen. Hearing and speaking are vitally connected—just as the gospel points out. If we haven’t *heard* the message, we’re not likely to *understand* it, and certainly not likely to pass it along. But those who hear need to be set free to speak, too... to show whether they’re “getting it” or not. People who are learning need to be able to *ask questions*. And we who put our trust in Jesus always welcome questions. Earlier I said *“Unless you can repeat what you know, you don’t really know it.”* That’s true, but it doesn’t go far enough. I want to add something more: *“Knowledge that doesn’t lead to action is useless.”*

The Letter of James says, *“Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.”* That’s one of the most often quoted verses in the Bible, and rightly so.

Hearing the word of God is essential for learning
Speaking the word of God is essential to demonstrate our understanding.

But Doing the word of God is the most important of all.

If we imagine that we’re good Christians because we go to church and listen to the Bible being read and sermons being preached, we’re fooling ourselves. Unless we *do* the word, unless we implement what we hear, we’re just playing games. True religion is marked by consistency between theory and practice. Without the practice, the theory is useless. Hearing that doesn’t lead to *doing* is worthless. Being a follower of Jesus is not just about having information, it’s about having a way of life. Jesus wants us to be people of action. Jesus wants to open our ears, loosen our tongues, and get us moving, get us busy, *living* the Gospel—not just listening to it and talking about it. Knowledge that doesn’t lead to action is useless. **What we profess is nowhere near as important as what we perform.**

I found this little poem online the other day. It’s pretty corny, I guess, but it’s sure the truth: *The Gospel is written a chapter a day
By deeds that you do and by words that you say.
Folks read what you say, whether faithless or true.
Say, what is the Gospel according to you?*

Vestry Happenings, continued

With Vestry approval, Fr. McNab will start in January 2013, coming to Sheridan approximately every other week to preside at Eucharist and to provide pastoral care in the afternoon.

Frank reminded us that we need to build the 2013 budget in November. If you have any ideas for the new budget, please submit all desired changes and recommendations to Deb.

It was decided to change the regular date of the Vestry meeting to the second Sunday of the month starting in November. Remember that any member of Christ Church is welcome to attend the meetings, which are held on Sunday after coffee hour.



JD, Deb and JJ - "I'm not sure it will fit."

Diocesan Convention

The Diocesan Convention will be October 12 -14. Janice and Sandra will be the representatives from Christ Church. The agenda is on the Diocese of Montana website.

http://www.mtepiscopal.org/DiocesanConvention/Diocese_Convention.html If there are issues that interest or concern you, please share your thoughts with Sandra or Janice. We will do our best to represent you and will have a full report on the Convention when we return.



Phil and Ed - hard at work?

Touched by the Words

The prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Coffee Hour Recipe

By Alice Forwood

Apple Crisp

4 medium cooking apples, sliced (4 cups)
3/4 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup quick-cooking or old-fashioned oats
1/3 cup butter or margarine, softened
3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
3/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
(cream or ice cream, if desired)

Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Grease bottom and sides of 8" square pan with shortening.

Spread apples in pan. In medium bowl, stir remaining ingredients except cream until well mixed; sprinkle over apples.

Bake about 30 minutes or until topping is golden brown and apples are tender when pierced with a fork.

Serve warm with cream.(ice cream or even cool whip).



Christ Church Episcopal

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Bible Study
 Sundays 9am
Services
 Sundays 10am

INVITE people into our midst
INCLUDE people in the life of the church
INFORM people about past events that shape our present, and current events that shape our future
PROCLAIM the gospel in thought, word and deed
REJOICE in a new life found in Christ Jesus.

Mission Statement

To be formed as the body of Christ, seeking to love and serve one another and those in need.

Vision Statement

To be Christ's continued presence in the Ruby Valley by welcoming those who seek Christ, offering varied forms of services, reflecting our diversity while maintaining our Episcopal identity.

Service Leaders for October and November

Upcoming Service Leaders for October/November

- 7 Oct: Eucharist – V. Rev. Arch Hewitt
- 14 Oct: Morning Prayer – Deacon Janice Hanson
- 21 Oct: Joint service with Methodists at Christ Church
- 28 Oct: Morning Prayer – Deacon Janice Hanson
- 4 Nov: Eucharist – Bishop Brookhart
- 11 Nov: Morning Prayer – Deacon Janice Hanson
- 18 Nov: TBD
- 25 Nov: Morning Prayer – Deacon Janice Hanson

Upcoming Lectors for September/October

- 7 Oct: Sandra Baril
- 14 Oct:
- 21 Oct: Jerry Aaker
- 28 Oct: Bob Hansen
- 4 Nov: George Rich
- 11 Nov:
- 18 Nov:
- 25 Nov:
- 28 Oct:



Saint Francis, whose feast day is October 4.