

# PARACLETE



FEBRUARY 2022

HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

130 South 6th Street East • Missoula, MT 59801 • 406.542.2167 • E-mail: [office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org) • Website: [www.holyspiritmissoula.org](http://www.holyspiritmissoula.org)

A publication of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church



## Bishop Marty will be with us in February!

Bishop Marty offered to come and preside at worship with us while Terri is recovering from surgery. We are so pleased to accept her offer and happy to have her with us on Sunday February 20<sup>th</sup>. This is not an official annual bishop visit, but rather a pastoral visit to check on all of us and extend her support to Terri and to Holy Spirit. We know the truth is, when challenges come, that the best way to face them is TOGETHER. So, we stand together as a church family, and Bishop Marty's visit reminds us that our church family extends far beyond Missoula to the whole diocese and all corners of our state from Eureka to Bozeman, Virginia City to Billings!

## Rev. Terri is taking some off time to recover from surgery

### Recovering

As I write, I am preparing for surgery on January 20<sup>th</sup>. While I was on a break after Christmas, I had a regular medical procedure done, and tests revealed that I have endometrial cancer that requires a hysterectomy. It appears that the cancer is contained and hasn't spread as far as CT and MRI scans reveal. I won't know what stage cancer it is until the surgeon and oncologists go in during surgery and check everything in detail. What they find will determine whether radiation and/or chemotherapy will be required or not. I'm just glad they discovered it, and I know I am in good hands.

I will need to focus on healing during the 4-6-week period of recovery. In my absence, the Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier will be in charge alongside Clem Work, our Senior Warden. The Staff and I discussed things that might come up, and together we set a course of action. In these times with ever-changing Covid situations, I want to be clear that I am totally out of the loop for a time so I can heal, and Gretchen and Clem will have full authority for decision making as needed. This goes for everything from Covid protocol

*Continued on page 2*



## OUR STAFF

### Clergy:

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger,  
Rector

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The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier,  
Assistant Priest

[Gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:Gretchen@holyspiritmissoula.org)

The Rev. Dorcie Dvarishkis,  
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[dorcieed@gmail.com](mailto:dorcieed@gmail.com)

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Dr. Nancy Cooper

### Youth Director:

Lewis Myers

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Lori Cordis

## NEWSLETTER

*Paraclete*, from the Greek meaning 'Holy Spirit,' is published monthly, September through May, by Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. All material is due by the fifteenth of the month preceding the month of publication.

**HOLY  
SPIRIT**  
**EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

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## Plan to participate in our Annual Meeting on February 6 at 12 noon

Please mark Sunday, February 6, 2022, on your calendar as the date we will hold our Annual Meeting! As with most of 2021, we will hold this meeting virtually via Zoom, and it will be a briefer meeting to conduct the specific voting required to elect new Vestry members and the Parish Representative to the Holy Spirit Memorial Board and review the 2022 budget. In addition to electing new members to the Vestry, delegates to next fall's Diocesan Convention will

also be elected. Rev. Gretchen and Senior Warden Clem Work will lead us in this Annual Meeting while Rev. Terri is recovering from surgery.

The meeting will take place at 12 noon via Zoom. Please sign in to the meeting with the link that will be sent to you in the Sunday worship reminder email. Those reminder emails will be sent as usual on Saturday, February 5, and on Sunday morning, February 6. Sign-in will be at 11:45 a.m., and the meeting will start at 12 noon.

HOLY SPIRIT | EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## ANNUAL MEETING

12 noon via Zoom  
February 6, 2022



## Recovering

Continued from page 1

changes to decisions that arise unexpectedly. The Staff and the Vestry will move forward as seems best, and I trust everyone to carry on the ministries of the parish as you always do – prayerfully, compassionately, and most importantly, creatively, in concert with the movement of the Spirit. I trust the leadership of this parish and you can too.

I ask your continued prayers for my recovery and for the leadership of the parish. I will continue to let Gretchen know how things are

going, and word will come to all of you as it seems right. Thank you for refraining from calling me and allowing me to work through Gretchen as I have needs. I have a few folks helping me from a care standpoint; not to worry. Good old-fashioned cards through snail mail are lovely but hold off on flowers and such. Thank you for your understanding and patience. I appreciate it!

I look forward to seeing you again. Until then, know that you are in my prayers and carry on with the guidance of the Spirit!

– FAITHFULLY WITH YOU ON  
THE WAY,  
REV. TERRI

## Church School 2022

# Changes in store for Church School

We made a plan in the fall for Church School focused around COVID safety. We changed things up to fit the current needs. As we have assessed the situation over the recent months, we've learned new things and recognized other needs emerging. As a Church School leadership team, we've decided to regroup again and adapt. It seems this is a skill that everyone is developing these days.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have already begun our new approach to children's ministry. We intend to make the change on Sunday January 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will continue to ask children to wear a mask (as they are able—some of our smallest parishioners—under 3—have difficulty keeping a mask on). And we will invite them to join us in adult worship. Prior to COVID parents had indicated a desire for children to be more a part of worship, rather than create their own separate worshipping community. And we know children learn faith by emulating adults.

The truth is very few children have worshiped with us on Sunday mornings. As we have worked to understand why, we've heard that Sunday mornings just don't work for many families. Some families have clearly stated that COVID was not a factor keeping them from bringing their children to church.

We were pleasantly surprised in November when so many families participated in the Advent Festival and then again in December when many came out to the Christmas Eve service in the courtyard. So based on that feedback and our experience we are planning to pivot, creating a family worship experience that may happen outside (to begin with during COVID) and during a late afternoon time frame.

We're thinking about a Saturday or Sunday 4:30 to 5:30. This would not be a children-only experience but a *family* worship experience with music, Bible story, prayers and an activity. Our hope is to try our first family worship some time before spring break and to offer it periodically thereafter as we assess its viability.

On Sundays kids will be with us in the pews or behind the pews or sometimes under the pews. And that requires all of us to be patient and welcoming. Kids will receive hand-outs as they arrive at worship with activities related to the Scripture of the day and coloring pages. We'll spruce up our books and toys in the back, and we'll work creatively to integrate kids into roles they can play in worship as the virus allows.

We will continue to offer a Kids Corner in the parish hall, and Eryn Robinson will be there to welcome families who need to step out with an especially active little one. We'll keep the TV monitor and audio on in the parish hall so that families can continue to listen to worship while their child is enjoying a larger space to move or putting a puzzle together or playing with a puppet.

Our goal is to be welcoming of all parishioners no matter their age or ability, and we hope this new plan extends that welcome and invites families to be with us in ways that feel comfortable and comforting. Please keep Church School and our leadership team (Karen Gartner, Katie Nederhoed, Dorcie Dvarishkis and Gretchen Strohmaier) in your prayers. We are excited about moving forward in a new way to extend children's worship into a family worship experience.

— THE REV. GRETCHEN STROHMAIER

## When does Baptism take place at Holy Spirit?

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. Baptism takes place during the Easter Vigil service (Saturday evening, in April), and at a Sunday service about three times a year: the Day of Pentecost (the first Sunday in June this year), the Sunday after All Saints' Day (early November), and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (the first Sunday after Epiphany, in early January). Baptism may also take place when the bishop visits (in December this year), and on a Sunday during the summer on a date to be determined. If you are interested in Baptism for yourself or for your child, preparation needs to take place. Please contact the office at (406) 542-2167 to speak with our Assistant Priest, Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier.

The next date for Baptism will be on Saturday, April 16, at the Easter Vigil service.





## Explorations:

Opportunities to  
cultivate,  
challenge  
and live our  
faith

## Scribes, Scripts and Scrolls, Parchment and Papyrus: The Bible from Then until Now

*Join us for this special class in February*

Plan to attend Rev. Tom Lee's four-session class on Tuesday evenings in February: 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

The history of how written texts of Jewish scripture and the New Testament have come down to us over the centuries is a fascinating one. It includes the chance discovery of ancient manuscripts in monastery libraries and synagogue storerooms, the copying errors commonly made by scribes, and the judgment call translators are forced to make even today when they encounter an unfamiliar word or phrase in the biblical text. In this four-part class, then, we'll explore some of this history. We'll look at some specific examples

from both the Old and New Testaments where variations from one ancient manuscript to another may produce different readings for a given passage. How then do translators decide which is to be preferred?

**Session 1**—The languages in which the Bible was first written, writing materials, and the scribal craft.

**Session 2**—The Bible in Hebrew.

**Session 3**—The Hebrew Bible in Greek, Latin and Aramaic.

**Session 4**—The Greek New Testament.

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SCRIBES, SCRIPTS AND SCROLLS,  
PARCHMENT AND PAPYRUS:

## THE BIBLE FROM THEN UNTIL NOW



Centering Prayer meets the third Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.

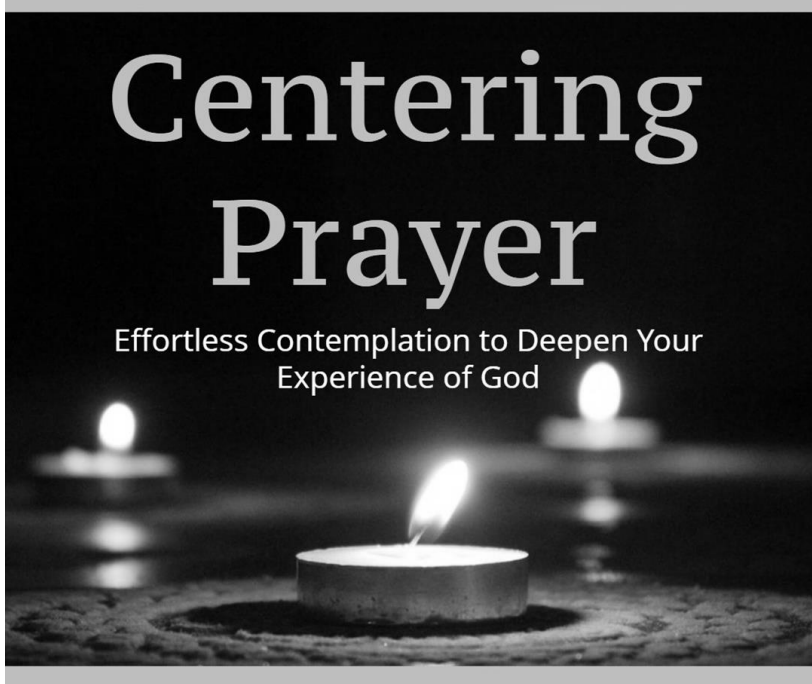
## Join us for Centering Prayer in February

Centering Prayer meets again on February 15 from 4-5 p.m. We will be returning to the comfort of the Guild Room and following the COVID guidelines of spacing, fresh air and masking. This ancient meditation style called Centering Prayer is simple and easy to learn if it is new to you. The leader will be gently leading the group into and out of a 20-minute silent time.

We will meet on the third Tuesday of every month from 4-5 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Dousset at 406-880-1680 or Willie Hoffer at 541-815-9609.

# Centering Prayer

Effortless Contemplation to Deepen Your  
Experience of God



From the Rector

## The Vestry continues to lead

Over the past two and a half years, the Vestry has thoughtfully and prayerfully helped lead us through the wilderness times of the Covid-19 pandemic. In doing so, they have reflected on the opportunities, as well as the challenges, that our time in the wilderness has afforded us. There were many things we would never have considered, let alone done. It was messy, and still is at times, but it brought new gifts and creativity to the forefront, much of which we didn't know was already in our midst, waiting to sprout and be recognized.

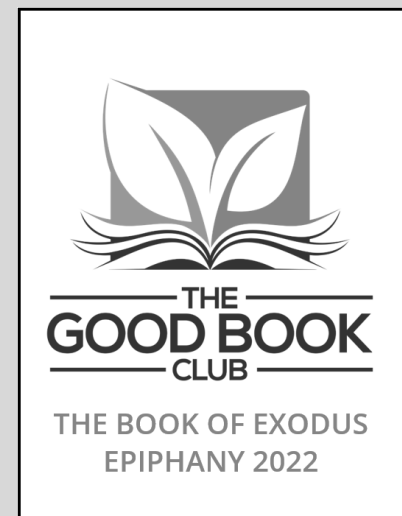
We now have solar panels thoughtfully placed on our Parish Hall, and they visually indicate our values of stewardship and care of creation. People notice just walking by and may say to themselves, "this might be a community of faith for me." To everyone's surprise the barrier of "where will the money come from?" became an opportunity to find out with grants from NorthWestern Energy and the Diocese that left us with about \$6K to cover. An opportunity became reality and a blessing!

The Vestry also explored how we could take what we've been learning about the benefits of technology in our pre-recorded services and bring it into the full worship life of the parish. We discovered strengths and beauty, and also limitations to what we could do with our existing footprint. Expertise was brought in to help

identify what might be possible to offer live streaming of worship and to bring the beauty of creation into some of our worship. After much prayer and due diligence, the Vestry decided to move forward with this new endeavor. In the next weeks and months, we will gradually develop our technology capabilities in the church to allow visuals, continued excellence in videography, and the support needed to use it well.

The Vestry and I are clear that using this technology within our liturgies will be held to the same standard of care that we use in all aspects of worship planning whether choosing music that links with the scriptures, writing the common prayers, setting the worship space and doing all of it in a way that reflects beauty and care. We will be calling on our crafters to help create seasonal covers for the screens when not in use, for example. We will use this opportunity to teach about what liturgy is and how to craft it with members of any age who want to learn from our videographer, James Gartner, and the Staff. We are excited about how we will take lessons learned during our time in the wilderness and intentionally bring them into our worship life. We ask your prayers for the Spirit's wisdom and guidance and your patience as we gradually begin this new aspect of ministry.

— REV. TERRI+



### It's not too late to join in reading the Book of Exodus!

This year the focus for study is the Book of Exodus. The second book of the Bible, Exodus recounts the journey of the Israelites from slavery to freedom. We hear the great stories of Moses, from his discovery by Pharaoh's daughter on the bank of the river to the burning bush to his presentation of the Ten Commandments. Along the way, we encounter God's covenant and explore the grand theme of redemption.

This year the Good Book Club is diving into the first twenty chapters of Exodus from Epiphany, January 6, to Shrove Tuesday, March 1. For those who want to keep reading, we'll offer a daily reading guide and an overview of the second half of Exodus. That reading period will conclude on Easter.

We're excited for this journey through Exodus. Make plans now to join Forward Movement and partner organizations from across the Episcopal Church to study the Book of Exodus during Epiphany. This link

<https://www.goodbookclub.org/get-involved/> enables you to receive updates on Exodus. And you can view and download readings here <https://www.goodbookclub.org/readings/>.

## The Bible from Then until Now

Continued from page 4


The class will meet in the parish hall with room for lots of spacing, and of course, please plan to wear your mask.

It's not too late to sign up! Please let the church office know if you plan to attend by calling (406) 542-2167 or by emailing us at [office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org).

— THE REV. GRETCHEN STROHMAIER



**HOLY SPIRIT  
BLOOD DRIVE**



**IT TAKES ALL TYPES.**  
But it only takes less than an hour to donate blood and make a difference.

**02  
03  
22**  
1PM - 6 PM

**Holy Spirit Episcopal Church**  
130 South 6th Street East  
In the Parish Hall

[www.holyspiritmissoula.org](http://www.holyspiritmissoula.org)

### Worst blood shortage in over a decade

The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis – its worst blood shortage in over a decade, posing a risk to patient care. Amid all the other strains on healthcare providers, doctors have been forced to make difficult decisions about who receives transfusions and who will need to wait until more blood products become available. You can help! Please sign up to give by visiting [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) or by contacting Elizabeth Drummond (406-240-8873; [eadrummond56@comcast.net](mailto:eadrummond56@comcast.net)).

What is causing the blood shortage crisis?

- 10% overall blood donation decline since March 2020
- 62% drop in college and high school blood drives due to the pandemic.
- Ongoing blood drive cancellations due to illness, weather-related closures and staffing limitations.
- Additional factors like a surge of COVID-19 cases and an active flu season may compound the already bad situation.

## Holy Spirit's Winter Blood Drive set for February 3 Urgent need for blood donors – sign up to donate today!

Holy Spirit Parish will host its annual winter blood drive on **Thursday, February 3, from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall.

Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

But the Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. A dangerously low blood supply means it has to reduce the amount of blood products hospitals receive. At the same time, it is dealing with relentless issues due to the Covid-19 pandemic, including blood drive cancellations and staffing limitations. Winter weather conditions may make things worse.

Our support is more important than ever.

You can sign up for an appointment to donate blood using the Red Cross online scheduling system at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or by

contacting Elizabeth Drummond (406-240-8873; [eadrummond56@comcast.net](mailto:eadrummond56@comcast.net)).

The basic requirements to donate are:

- You must be in good health and feeling well.
- You must weigh at least 110 pounds.
- If you are not yet 18 years old, you must have a consent form signed by your parent or guardian. Additional height and weight restrictions apply to those 18 years or younger.

If you have eligibility questions, you can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).

We also need volunteers to register donors and to provide and serve refreshments. To volunteer, please contact Elizabeth.

We look forward to seeing you at the Holy Spirit Parish Blood Drive!

– ELIZABETH DRUMMOND  
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

## BLOOD EMERGENCY

Donors needed now!



## Rio Grande Borderlands Ministry

# Our call to welcome the stranger

I hope you have had an opportunity to watch the recording of RGBM's first Borderland Learning Session, "The Flight to Egypt: The Holy Family and Biblical Witness to Migration." Links to the recording are in recent issues of *Spirited Times*. In it, Canon Lee Curtis interprets a revered biblical story as a desperate search for asylum. So, what is asylum? Where does it fit in the theology of the Episcopal Church? Here's what Episcopal Migration Ministries says:

"Asylum is a human right. The concept of asylum is an ancient one, arising within many world faith traditions and later becoming part of countries' legal codes. The Hebrew Bible names six cities of refuge; the New Testament quotes Jesus commending his followers to welcome the stranger, for in so doing, they welcome him. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights guarantees the right to seek asylum from persecution.

Asylum seekers flee persecution and travel to another country to seek safety and request asylum. To receive asylum in the U.S., they must prove their persecution occurred, and that it occurred due to the membership in a protected group, as defined by U.S. and international law. Seeking asylum in the U.S. is an incredibly long, complex, and fraught process, often taking years. Many asylum seekers are detained in jail-like

settings during this process. When a person receives asylum in the U.S., they become an asylee and are eligible for a number of federal assistance programs, including those offered by EMM's resettlement affiliates.

In the United States, asylum protections and the right to ask for asylum have been restricted to nearly impossible standards through a variety of regulatory and policy changes. With our colleagues in the field and with a number of organizational partners, The Episcopal Church speaks out against these changes which send people back into danger, encourages Episcopalians to take action, and organizes and supports education, advocacy, and ministry efforts to protect asylum and support asylum seekers and asylees."

(<https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/asylum/>)

For me, the invitation to welcome the stranger is particularly powerful. Recently I've been thinking about why we are reluctant to welcome into our country people who seek safety and refuge. This is one of the things I plan to reflect on as I join other parishioners on a listening pilgrimage to the borderlands this spring. I invite you to join me in this reflection.

Why are we sometimes reluctant to fully embrace the Episcopal Church's theology of welcoming the stranger?

— AUDREY MURRAY

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE



### Community Ministries – Celebrating Your Care of our Hellgate High School Neighbors

*"Oh my goodness, A'Lisa. Your parishioners saved us! We never would have been able to provide (holiday gift) cards to all the students nominated without your help!"*

From Tracy Ledyard, Hellgate High School Social Worker

Look what you were moved to help make possible for our Hellgate neighbors! And just as your care, generosity, and action were so vivid during the holidays, so too were they throughout the year.

The Family Resource Center and Tracy have been able to remain responsive to students in need, from toiletries and clothes at the Center, to aid participation in school events with a gas card, or pursuit of a driver's license with an application-based scholarship fund, or laundry access at Sparkle, or a fresh hair cut at Shear Prophecy or Compass Barber Shop. In all, nearly \$2,900 in support helped to make life a little less unpredictable for Hellgate students next door, and to make the life of our parish and the manifestation of God's love a little more real for them. Praise be!

Our Hellgate Ministry coordinator, A'Lisa Scott, is a wonderful avenue to help you learn and engage more. Please reach out to her at [adfams@montana.com](mailto:adfams@montana.com) or through the church office at 406-542-2167.

— IN GRATITUDE FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS THAT CONTINUE TO BUILD, THE VEN. DORCIE KAFKA DVARISHKIS  
[dorcied@gmail.com](mailto:dorcied@gmail.com)  
406-542-2167 church office



RIO GRANDE  
BORDERLAND

# HOLY SPIRIT

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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SCRIBES, SCRIPTS AND SCROLLS,  
PARCHMENT AND PAPYRUS:

# THE BIBLE FROM THEN UNTIL NOW

- Led by The Rev. Tom Lee
- Four sessions in February: February 1, 8, 15 and 22
- Meet 6:30-8 p.m. in the parish hall. Please wear a mask.
- Please sign up at [office@holyspiritmissoula.org](mailto:office@holyspiritmissoula.org) or call (406) 542-2167

