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# BITTERROOT EPISCOPAL MINISTRIES

St. Paul's, Hamilton  
St. Stephen's, Stevensville

January 2011

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Every Sunday Worship at 9:30 am

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## SOME THOUGHTS FOR A NEW YEAR

We all like the thought of being better about life, about Christianity; better to our family and friends and better to ourselves, We would like to see that happen just by making a list of behavior changes, deciding to follow the list and then, PRESTO...an abundance of peace and joy will descend! Aw but that only happens in fairy tales. Real change does take decision but more importantly it requires a readjustment of the heart. In an effort to stave off the pace and craziness of early 21st Century life we can fall victim to constantly protecting ourselves by turning a "critical eye" at the world around us and seeing only what is incomplete, broken or threatening and not what is gracious and compassionate and kind and hopeful and trustworthy and simply lovely. The speed of the modern world causes us to shortcut conversations, force more into a day than can be accomplished with satisfaction and joy, and begin taking for granted the wonder and mystery of those closest to us and far too often holding them responsible for our unhappiness.

A new year provides the opportunity to push in the clutch on our full speed ahead lives and shift down to a lower gear, a slower speed and see what is passing us by. A new year invites us break the pattern, listen longer, speak less maybe, and wait for answers and solutions to reveal themselves instead of always pushing the envelope. This is a gracious world, a world full of possibilities for happiness, a measure of inner peace and that lasting joy that comes from feeling the presence of God in the everydayness.

When Jesus said; "knock and door shall be opened to you" he is expecting that we have already opened our hearts anew in order to experience the necessary grace to be happy. For the new year to be a truly happy year all that is required is that same openness. May that gift precede everything we each do this coming year. Happy New Year. Steve

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**Annual Meeting at St. Paul's** January 16<sup>th</sup>, Sunday worship will include the 2011 Budget and program reports. See you there!

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**Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study** will be reading Henri J. M. Nouwen Life of the Beloved, beginning in January. For more information please call Alana Cruse 381-3534.

**POTATO SOUP RECIPE** from Carol Cash

- 1 chopped onion
- 4 med. potatoes, peeled, diced
- 1/2 tsp sale
- 8 oz pkg cream cheese, softened
- 3 cups milk
- 2 Tbs. butter
- 2 cubes chicken bouillon
- 1 1/2 c water
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/2 # bacon, crisp and crumbled
- parsley

In a large saucepan, sauté onion in butter until tender. Add potatoes, bouillon, water and salt. Cover and cook 15 minutes or until tender. Blend cream cheese and flour until smooth..(I add 1'2 c milk) into my blender to mix up cream cheese and flour. Stir into potato mixture. Add remaining milk. Heat until boiling, stirring frequently. Boil 1 minute. Season to taste. Garnish each serving with bacon and parsley. Serves 4-6.

This is the recipe that I made for the Dec.14th ECW luncheon. We had 17 people in attendance!!!

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**The Haven House collection** is now a basket found behind the last pew. Our donations of non perishable food will be received weekly. When the offering is brought forward following announcements, the basket will be brought forward at the same time.

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**PFLAG** Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays meets January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church. Call Terry at 363-7656 with questions.

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**Camp Marshall Women's Retreat & Quilting Weekend**

March 24-27 on Flathead Lake at Camp Marshall  
 Quiet, Quilting and Quotidian Quotations'  
 Retreat subject: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
 Rev. Pattiann, Retreat Leader  
 please join us for a restful & peace filled few days...  
 Ages: 16 and up

This is our 12th year at making a difference for children at Camp Marshall. . This is a wonderful ministry and we invite you to come join in our retreat this year with The Reverend Pattiann Bennett for an extended weekend of quiet, quilting and quotidian quotations! Register online at [Register Now!](#) or go to [www.mtepiscopal.org](http://www.mtepiscopal.org)

**Diocesan Ministry Skills** - Part 1 workshop at St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena on Saturday, February 26 from 10:00 to 3:00.

Options are as follows: (choose only one – they each run all day)

1. Wardens & Clerks Responsibilities – Roger Stone
2. Treasurer Training – Barb Hagen
3. All of God's People (anti-racism training)
4. Eucharistic Minister/Visitor Training
5. Safeguarding God's Children (required sexual misconduct training) – David Campbell

Vestry members and other church leaders (and anyone who works with children) should attend the Safeguarding God's Children Training. The diocese will offer it again in April during the Ministry Skills - Part 2 weekend (April 8-10).

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Bitterroot Episcopal Ministries is a monthly publication. **If you would be interested in the editor position please contact Jocelyn at 360-6152.** February's Newsletter deadline is **January 20.** For newsletter copy and address changes, email [stpaulnews@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaulnews@hotmail.com) or phone Jocelyn at 363-3025.

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**St. Paul's Vestry:**

- Terry Moran, Sr. Warden/ Worship  
363-7656 cell # 531-4545 [terrymoran1955@yahoo.com](mailto:terrymoran1955@yahoo.com)
- Dutch Brewer, Jr. Warden/ Communications  
363-1472 [dutchlinda@earthlink.net](mailto:dutchlinda@earthlink.net)
- Alana Cruse, Christian Education  
381-3534 [ashortcruse@gmail.com](mailto:ashortcruse@gmail.com)
- June Vandendries, Welcoming/ Newcomers/ Coffee Hour  
961-3890 [jvant@gmail.com](mailto:jvant@gmail.com)
- Sharon Roberts, Parish Life/ Pastoral Care  
375-0161 [roberts\\_5331@hotmail.com](mailto:roberts_5331@hotmail.com)
- Paul Nelson, Buildings and Grounds  
375-2586 [paulnelsondesign@aol.com](mailto:paulnelsondesign@aol.com)
- Carol Cash, Welcoming/ Newcomers/ Coffee Hour  
363-4646 [c1cash@msn.com](mailto:c1cash@msn.com)
- Aaron Carmody, Christian Education/ Outreach/ Evangelism/ Publicity  
363-5442 [carmoda@yahoo.com](mailto:carmoda@yahoo.com)
- Mary Lyn, Outreach/ Evangelism/ Publicity/ Pastoral Care  
360-6279 [marylynmontana@gmail.com](mailto:marylynmontana@gmail.com)
- Jocelyn Snider, Treasurer/ Newsletter  
375-0416 [emsey@bitterroot.com](mailto:emsey@bitterroot.com)
- Mary Kay Browning, Treasurer  
363-3684 [hiefers13@aol.com](mailto:hiefers13@aol.com)

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