
BITTERROOT EPISCOPAL MINISTRIES

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
600 S. 3rd Street in Hamilton
363-3025

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
203 Main Street in Stevensville
777-0028

April 2011

Events at St. Paul's

Every Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Rev. Steve Oreskovich

April 15th Shawl Ministry, 7pm

April 18th ECW Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

April 21st Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm

April 22nd Good Friday, 6:30pm

April 23rd Holy Saturday, 7:30pm

April 4th & 11th Monday Youth Worship, 5:30 p.m.

April 30th Baby Shower for Justin & Carolyn Yetter, 11 a.m.

Events at St. Stephen's

Every Sunday, Noon Holy Eucharist with Rev. Steve Oreskovich

April 1, First Friday downtown Stevensville

SOME THOUGHTS ON EASTER FROM REV. STEVE ORESKOVICH

We humans really don't care to think about our mortality. We prefer, it seems, to live our individual lives as if our time was limitless even though, unconsciously we know far better. The natural world around us is fraught with cycles of birth and death, growth and decay, begins and endings. The purpose of the great Religions of the world is to move believers to ponder this eternal cycle and the Christian story, the story so precious to us, is at the root a story about the cycle of birth, life and death of one man.

We meet Jesus as the child of a simple couple, a carpenter and his young wife raising a first child. We follow him as he brings promise and hope to all the "outsiders" of his world. Leper, cripple, old, young, women and men all find in him a love, a strength, a courage they can find nowhere else. They begin to believe. Then, when it seems for all the world that he has found his stride as a great prophet and teacher, he is cut down in the prime of life. It seems that death has won out again. The good far too often die young. End of story? Not quite.

When he has been laid in a borrowed grave, and his friends are in hiding and the hopeful crowd has been dispersed, the impossible happens. God, the God of the universe, the God of Israel, the God generation of unnamed humans sought in countless religions and rituals, reaches through the cycle of life and death and raises this Jesus. Raises him in such a way that those who ran and hid are forever changed. They feel him alive, somehow they touch him and that small band, that company of simple men and women, are the first humans to

believe that God's love will not be overcome by death. Nothing can separate God from those God loves. History is forever changed. The cycle has been opened; birth, life, death and resurrection!

When we together celebrate Holy Week and then the glories of Easter, we are entering into not only the holiest of religious season but we join centuries of Christians who have shouted the same affirmation of life in the face of death; "ALLELUIA, Christ is Risen, The Lord Is Risen INDEED!"and so shall we all!

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SAINT PAUL'S SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK

April 17th Palm Sunday, 9:30am with Reverend Steve Oreskovich.

April 21st Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm with Reverend Bill Baumgarten & Reverend Steve Oreskovich. Commemoration of the Last Supper, includes meal and Table Eucharist, Foot washing of congregation, Commissioning of Acolytes, Stripping of the Altar in preparation for Good Friday.

April 22nd Good Friday, 6:30pm with Reverend Steve Oreskovich & Reverend Bill Baumgarten. Solemn Proclamation of the Gospel of the Passion, Solemn Collects, Veneration of the Cross and Communion from Reserved Sacrament.

April 23rd Holy Saturday, 7:30pm with Reverend Bill Baumgarten & Reverend Steve Oreskovich. The Great Vigil of Easter, Lighting of the New Fire, Blessing of the Pascal Candle; The Exultant (In Praise of Christ Risen), Readings on Salvation History in story style.

April 24th Easter Day, 9:30am with Reverend Steve Oreskovich & Reverend Bill Baumgarten. Easter Eucharist and Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

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MONDAY YOUTH WORSHIP Starting with dinner at 5:30. Following dinner everyone, young and old, will gather in the Sanctuary for a Youth Worship. The new acolytes will be serving and the worship includes special music. Invite a friend to come and share in fellowship, food and the Eucharist. Mondays in April are the 4th & 11th.

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ERD Easter Eggs This year we are launching a new campaign for Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)--- Easter Eggs! Children of St. Paul's along with some adults have decorated Easter eggs to sell. The proceeds from these sales will be sent to ERD to purchase flocks of chickens for people in developing nations. This provides a sustainable source of protein and income for those families. Please consider purchasing an egg--- a low fat addition to any Easter basket!

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Shawl Ministry Thanks to Bromley and Minica Casbara for reviving Shawl Ministry at St. Paul's. Beginners are welcome, some supplies are available for making prayer shawls. We will meet at 7 pm on Friday, April 15th in the church basement.

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Baby Shower for Justin & Carolyn Yetter Saturday, April 30th at 11 a.m. we are celebrating Baby Yetter with a salad luncheon Baby Shower. Everyone is invited, please RSVP to Abigail Turner or Jocelyn Snider at the church office.

The Haven House collection is now a basket found behind the last pew. Our donations of non-perishable food will be received weekly. The basket will be brought forward at the Doxology, when the offering is presented.

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Diocesan News

Camp Marshall: How can you help Camp Marshall? How can you become involved in this very important ministry in our diocese? First and foremost, sign up for camp! Early registration is recommended and requested as this helps the staff in planning for the camp season. The camps do fill up fast and you don't want to be turned away. Register by picking up a "tear off sheet" on the Camp Marshall photo board in the parish hall or online at www.mtepisopal.org and follow the links tab to Camp. If you can't attend camp, there are many other ways to help. Our goal is to have 5,500 hours of volunteer labor. Your first opportunity is coming right up with the Labor of Love weekend, April 29-May 1. You don't have to commit to the whole weekend, many families go for just one day) and you can lend your help with general labor, plumbing, electrical, construction, etc. The food is amazing. Carpooling is an option with people from Holy Spirit.

During the camp season, you can volunteer your time in nursing, counseling or food service. This can be in one week increments, just let Dave Campbell know of your availability. You might also consider sponsoring a child for Grace Camp. This ministry is for children of incarcerated parents and is funded entirely by sponsorships.

Other Special Projects: acquiring a 14 passenger van, acquiring a pontoon boat to replace an old and very tired tri-hull, purchasing portable recording equipment, raising funds to support the Grace Camp program, seeking financial support to provide scholarships and support to camp staff, continue to grow the Camp endowment, revamping the chapel area trails and seating, and a major remodel of the Canterbury "Staff House."

Please pray for this ministry and if you feel you can help financially, you can do so either through your local church or online at www.mtepisopal.org and clicking on the 'Donations' button on the main page.

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Ministry Skills Worship 2 will be April 8 in Helena

- The Rev. Bob Honeychurch, the Episcopal Church's Officer for Congregational Vitality, will give the keynote address on Friday evening: "New Life, New Hope, New Vision"
- Saturday workshop on planning for the future, the Rev. Bob Honeychurch
- Saturday workshop on Acolyte Training, Canon Clark Sherman and Marcia Lauzon
- Saturday workshop on Audit Training, Canon Barb Hagen
- Saturday workshop on Godly Play, Dr. Jamie Sherman
- Saturday work project, Helena Food Share

All are welcome to this free event. Register on the website www.mtepisopal.org

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Community News

2011 Lenten Luncheons 12:00 Noon

April 6 Faith Lutheran Church
April 13 First Christian Church

Everyone is invited to attend this ecumenical Lenten journey. Donations after expenses - to benevolence of the Ravalli County Ministerial Association.

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Take Back the Night March S.A.F.E. Event on April 14 for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. S.A.F.E. (Supporters of Abuse Free Environments, Inc.)

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Save the date....Joy Retreat May 13th and 14th. *The Banquet of the Beloved*

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PFLAG For information about PFLAG (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) contact 363-7656 or visit www.pflag.org PFLAG meets on Thurs, April 21, 7 p.m.

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Community Preventative Health Screening Friday, April 15, 2011 at Ravalli County Fairgrounds. For more information call 1-888-653-6441 or www.lifelinescreening.com

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St. Paul's Vestry:

Dutch Brewer, Sr. Warden
363-1472 dutchlinda@earthlink.net
Alana Cruse, Jr. Warden/ Communications
381-3534 ashortcruse@gmail.com
Carol Cash
363-4646 c1cash@msn.com
Aaron Carmody
363-5442 carmoda@yahoo.com
Mary Lyn
360-6279 marylynmontana@gmail.com
Shirley Dean, Clerk/ Newsletter
363-5457 sand2squirl@yahoo.com
Jocelyn Snider, Church Coordinator/ Treasurer/ Newsletter
375-0416 emsey@bitterroot.com

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