

Red Door Chronicles

WISDOM

The beauty of the unconscious is that it knows a great deal—whether personal or collective—but it always knows that it does not know, cannot say, and dare not try to prove or assert too strongly; because what it does know is that there is *always more—and all words will fall short*. The contemplative is precisely the person who agrees to live in that unique kind of brightness (a combination of light and dark that is brighter still!). The Paradox, of course, is that it does not feel like brightness at all, but what John of the Cross calls a “luminous darkness,” or others call “learned ignorance.”

In summary, you cannot grow in the great art form, the integration of action and contemplation, without 1) a strong tolerance for ambiguity; 2) an ability to allow, forgive, and contain a certain degree of anxiety; and 3) a willingness to not know and not even need to know. This is how you allow and encounter mystery. All else is mere religion.

From [A Lever And a Place to Stand: The Contemplative Stance, the Active Prayer](#), p. x (foreword)

As we approach Ash Wednesday and Lent, may we all pray for wisdom.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you, and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare o your people, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Joan



Mark your calendars for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Feb. 21, and ASH WEDNESDAY Feb. 22.

Pledge Drive

If by any chance you have forgotten to submit your pledge for 2012, it is not too late to turn it in! And many thanks to those who have already done so.

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MISSION TRIP POSSIBILITY!!!

Mission trips are a great way to build community, have fun, deepen our relationship with God, and offer a time of intensive service to people in need. If you have never been on a mission trip, please do consider this possibility! Minot, North Dakota, is NOT glamorous, but the Episcopal church, along with other churches, is hard at work there working to rebuild the area so badly flooded last year.

Episcopal Relief and Development has designated Minot, North Dakota, as a disaster relief and recovery site. They are seeking groups of volunteers to work at cleaning up the area after the 500 year flood of last year. 11,000 people were displaced by the flood, and many have not yet returned to their homes. I spoke this week with the Rev. Mary Johnson who serves at All Saints Episcopal Church in Minot, and who is the volunteer coordinator for this project. The work began last fall, and will continue until the fall of 2013. She marvels at the wonderful community spirit in Minot; only 300 out of those displaced needed emergency housing, because the people of this city opened their doors to take others in.

Please pray and ponder whether being part of a CCE mission trip group is something that would interest you, or be possible. Under consideration is leaving on a Sunday for Minot, working there Mon-Fri, and returning on Saturday, probably during June or July when school is out, and NOT the weeks our youth would be at camp. It is 688 miles from Kalispell to Minot; MapQuest says it takes 11 hours via Hwy. 2.

For more information, go to <http://allsaintsminotrebuildaftertheflood.wordpress.com/contact-us/> or <http://www.er-d.org/PartnershipsSept2011>.

We might join with others from other Episcopal churches in the Flathead Valley to form a group. Please let Joan know if this is of interest to you.

YOUTH NEWS



Our youth are enjoying settling back into normal life after the holiday season and the play! We are taking turns picking a song to play at youth group, and then we discuss the lyrics of the song and how they might connect to God and our walk with him. So far there has been some really great discussions. Coming up on Saturday Feb 4th the youth will have a lock in at the church. On Sunday Feb 5th at the 10 am service, the youth group will be doing the Sunday service. From ushering to acolyting to the sermon itself; we're doing it all! I do hope you can come this Sunday. That Sunday (Feb. 5th) also happens to be the SuperBowl, and my house is open to any and all who'd like to come watch the game. On Thursday Feb 9th Joan will be taking our youth to the food bank to do some volunteer work! Keep your eyes peeled for the "Featured Friend" section by our youth coming to the newsletter soon! God bless, Janelle

February 2012

EXCITING NEWS FROM MISSION DISCERNMENT GROUP!!!!!! AND WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP!!!

Our Mission Discernment Group has decided to embark on a new outreach adventure! We have met with the principals of Bridge Academy and Laser Academy over at Linderman School, and we will soon begin offering students there healthy snacks and food that they can take home with them on Fridays for the weekends! Greg LeTourneau, the Laser principal, has met with a number of students for their feedback, and they are excited as well!

As we go to press, details are yet to be determined, but the general idea is that we will gather certain items to distribute to students who need them on Friday afternoons.

70% of the students at Linderman participate in the free or reduced cost federal lunch program, so we know there is need.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!!

- 1) By volunteering to help coordinate this program. Talk with Patty Basko or Joan.
- 2) By volunteering to help sort, pack and distribute food. Food distribution will be Friday afternoons, after 3:15, for maybe an hour or so.
- 3) By gathering the following items: Macaroni and cheese, Top Ramen noodles, peanut butter and jelly, easy-open cans of soup, crackers, cereal, granola bars, fruit cups and Fruiti-O's.

The plan is to use extra space in Dickey Hall to store the food items. Future hopes include a neighborhood food pantry, run collaboratively by us and the students.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Late last year, Vestry voted to establish a Finance Committee to assist the Treasurer in the process of developing the budget, to develop some additional guidelines, and to otherwise be a guide in dealing with the church's finances. The Committee is to be comprised of the Treasurer, the Rector, a Vestry member, and a member at large from the congregation.



Those currently serving are John, Joan, Ann Thurnau and David Klassy. Roger will replace John as Treasurer, and John will continue after the Annual Meeting.

Liturgical Notes:

Our liturgy can be broken down into four basic parts.

The first is often called the Gathering Rite, and includes the processional hymn, the Collect for Purity, the Gloria and the Collect of the Day. This is the time when we come together as a community, because our worship is corporate, communal; we are the Body of Christ gathered together.

The second part is the Liturgy of the Word, and includes the Old and New Testament readings, the Gospel, the Sermon, the Creed, the Confession and the Prayers of the People. When the liturgy of the word ends, the Gospel Book is removed from the altar as a symbol that we have completed the Liturgy of the Word. Liturgy, by the way, means "work of the people."

The third part is commonly called the Liturgy of the Table, or the Holy Communion. Ideally, the only things on the altar would be the chalice of wine and the paten which holds the bread, so that the focus is on them; the bread and wine are called the elements. The bread may also be called the "host," as Jesus is our host for Eucharist. Eucharist, a Greek word, means "thanksgiving." We give thanks at all times, in all places, and in all circumstances, for God's presence with us and love for us.

The fourth part is the Sending Rite, and includes the Post-Communion prayer, the Recessional hymn (some say Processional, as we are processing out into the world!), and the Dismissal.

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
215 THIRD AVENUE EAST
KALISPELL MT 59901
406-257-6182