



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

HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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Dear Friends,

## How do we measure the progress we're making?

In the relationships that lift us, worship that feeds us, the welcome that reaches into our Missoula community.

**W**e are in the second year of a Vestry-led effort that asks us to increase our giving year over year—the target is 6% per year for five years—to bring us to where we can sustain our budget and build for the future. We made great strides in 2016 thanks to the generosity of so many in the Holy Spirit community, and we look forward to the next steps in our journey together.

I asked our deacon, the Rev. Myrna Chaney, to add her thoughts on our progress, and she returned my request with something of a Montana parable, in her own style:

“Rob Chaney and his friend Dave Kendall were going for a three-day pack trip in Glacier Park, two weeks ago. The goal was to go to Chaney Glacier. Two perfect days were followed by thirteen miles of snow and muddy trails; they did not reach Chaney Glacier. They ran out of time. Rob and Dave will try again to reach their goal.

What are the adventures of Rob and Dave to do with our 2017 Stewardship Drive?

Everything!!!

They were not alone. They relied on their relationship. They had some amazing days. They had some very hard days. They did not quite reach their goal.

They are going to persevere, and they are very hopeful to reach Chaney Glacier in the near future.

It was a beautiful year for Holy Spirit—building relationships, building trust and building progress for reaching our goal. More than 35 people from the congregation volunteered for Vacation Bible School. There are eight new members of the choir. Fourteen people went to Myanmar to teach English and bond with the people there. Gretchen has a new program for Church School that invites a number of mentors from the congregation to shepherd children for segments of the year. Compline is now a fully lay-led service with two members stepping up to co-chair this growing ministry. Not to mention QUEST, Butterfly Grants, and caring for our shut-ins and sick.

We are not quite at our goal. Some beautiful days, some difficult days, some days we see the trail clearly. Some days we see only roadblocks. Like Rob and Dave, we do not go alone. We have the Holy Spirit community to help us.

We, together, with God's love and grace, will reach our goal.”

**T**hrough the deepening of relationships we embody and reveal Christ's healing love and renewal of life. We do this together: in commitment to one another and with God's abiding grace. The journey has begun. Now let us persevere on the road ahead, trusting the good work already begun!

Faithfully,

*Terri+*

The Reverend Terri Ann Grotzinger

*And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

HEBREWS 12:1



**We** come to Holy Spirit seeking any number of things: refreshment, connection, purpose, gladness and more, and new ways to see God in ourselves and others.

**A**s we come, in the most elemental way, we bring ourselves and our stories. This is the true richness of our community—the multitude of experiences and varied paths of those who come together in this place.

Here Lucy Deaton, Chris and Abbie Nutt and Heidi Kendall share some of their own stories and how they experience our Holy Spirit community.

LUCY DEATON

Born in Florida, raised in Utah, and rooted in Missoula since 1969.

**I** retired from a career in the Missoula Rural Fire District, and my spark for Holy Spirit is fed by the camaraderie of service with our parish family. I am on the Altar Guild and a lector, and find the worship structure to be a comforting staple for my life and a springboard for spiritual growth and service. I feel that the love and support shown here truly reflects the love Jesus has for all of us. I am on this journey with a supportive, loving husband, two amazing children, an awesome daughter-in-law and son-in-law, and four perfect grandchildren.”

CHRIS & ABBIE NUTT

Natives of Idaho, they have come to call Montana and Holy Spirit home.

**D**espite coming from different spiritual backgrounds, we have found a connection with the Episcopal Church and its “middle way.” Getting confirmed into the church was the end of a spiritual journey the two of us had been on together for several years as we searched for where we felt we belonged. Participating in the Lenten potlucks and discussions proved to be fun and enjoyable. As newlyweds, our premarital counseling with Terri helped us better understand our relationship with each other and the church and prepare for marriage (so far at least!).”

HEIDI KENDALL

Grew up here, went east for college, and returned home with husband Dave with two little boys in tow.

**I** work in the City-County Health Department as a suicide prevention specialist and emergency preparedness coordinator. Teaching Church School gave Dave and me a “way in” that felt comfortable and led us to people who care about kids, justice and love. I love choral and organ music, and Holy Spirit takes those to the top! And this is the hardest part to explain, but as my personal and social justice challenges have increased over the years, so has the support I feel from the church: in the prayer book, the gatherings, the goodness of the people, and the presence of God. I could not find the strength to work on suicide prevention without my church.”

**Ingathering Sunday is November 6.**

**STEWARDSHIP 2017 / JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Please watch for next week's mailing, or to make your pledge today, please call the church office at (406) 542-2167.



*For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.*

PSALM 26:3

