

The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger,
Rector of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church

Terri returned to Montana in 2011 and is the Rector of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Missoula where she served with the Forest Service before discerning her call to the priesthood in the early 1990s.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1994, Terri brings not only affection for Montana's places and people from her early work as a wildlife biologist, but also a strong set of skills as pastor, preacher, teacher and worship leader.

Terri served 10-plus years as vicar at Holy Family Episcopal Church in Half Moon Bay, Calif., and a more recent "doubling up" of roles, as vicar of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in nearby Belmont, Calif., for two years. Previously, she helped guide the programs of a larger parish as associate pastor and Christian education director at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley, Calif., for six years. Terri holds a masters of divinity degree from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley and a bachelor of science degree from Colorado State University.



Terri is described by those who know her well as a strong listener who has a collaborative leadership style -- patient, self-confident and able to listen to other points of view. About herself, she wrote to our Search Committee: "I am a bridge builder and I am able to bring people together who don't understand what they have in common or why they should care about one another, particularly in matters of faith."

Terri is a generalist at heart, liking a variety of things from hiking in the woods to enjoying a theatrical performance or going to a football or basketball game. She has a love for animals, wild or domestic. Terri has studied voice, and plays cello, guitar and mandolin.

Terri wrote about her work as a priest: "I find great joy and delight in helping others see God at work in their lives, linking their experiences to those in scripture and seeing their eyes light up in an 'Aha!' moment. I delight in talking with people of all ages, hearing their stories and seeing what we share in common. I especially enjoy collaborating with others to bring forth our collective creativity and to achieve outcomes we couldn't have imagined alone.

"I am motivated as a priest because I have seen what God can do to bring healing and reconciliation where it was thought to be impossible. I embrace the challenge of bringing people with differing views into conversation and helping them to see what values they share in common beneath their differences because the potential for transformation is always a possibility and when it happens, it is amazing and worth the effort. Lastly, I am motivated by the interaction of people of all ages over time and the privilege of walking alongside them through all the ups and downs of their lives in faith."