

St Mark's Episcopal Church Big Timber

Easter Newsletter 2021

Issue 1 / Volume 2



Two Tombs?

Fr. Bryan Beveridge

Having travelled through Palm Sunday in our church year journey, in the coming days we will pass through the Week of our Lord's Passion, to the horrific events of Good Friday, and then on to Easter Day and the empty tomb. If we listen attentively to the readings that guide us through the week, we will be moved.

Some years ago, I was privileged to visit the 'Holy Land' not once but twice, and whilst there was fortunate to see the places and locate the stories that I had heard since my earliest childhood. One day, our trusted tour guide Avi processed us along the Via Dolorosa (theviadolorosa.org) pausing at each Station, as pilgrims over the centuries have done, to observe the events on the journey of Jesus from the place of his sentencing to Golgotha, the 'place of the skull' – the place of crucifixion of Jesus and the two thieves.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is a darkish place and dimly lit, it takes some moments for your eyes to adjust, but when they do you see throngs of people. Some are just staring; some are waiting in line to enter the 'empty tomb', with smoke from incense rising into the dome above the sacred therein; and others are lighting prayer candles for purposes known only to them.

The church is 'shared' by about 6 Christian denominations, each of which ...

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... has its times of worship and veneration of our Lord's final earthly resting place. As an aside, the task of opening and closing the church is assigned to an Arab family as the 6 sharing denominations could not agree on who should hold the keys, but that is a story for another day! On leaving the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the final stop on the Via Dolorosa, Avi asked us to join him at "another tomb".

After a short walk we arrived at the 'Garden Tomb', a place in my memory that was an oasis in the midst of the noise and exhaust of a busy city. It sits outside the walls of the Old City, and from its vantage point the limestone cliff faces with the openings that look like the image of a skull can be seen. In the time of General Gordon, a group of followers of Jesus purchased the property, having seen there a garden, a first Century CE tomb and the image of a skull in the limestone cliffs nearby.

At this empty garden tomb, you have a quite different experience from the first empty tomb. Here you find a peaceful and contemplative garden, where you can hear the story of Mary approaching the tomb early on the first day of the week. Although those who tell the story do not claim that this is 'the' site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus, this was the site that spoke most powerfully to me.

Which of these places would appeal to you? I cannot tell, but both celebrate an empty tomb, and are tangible reminders of the resurrection of Jesus. I invite you to listen to the telling of our story on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Day of Resurrection, and to pause and think of the implications of the empty tomb.

Whilst writing this, I was told by a ministry colleague of a third site, one located Metres under the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Images within this recently excavated site suggest that it may be the 'true location' of the burial place of Jesus. Perhaps I will share more of this in a future issue of St. Mark's Newsletter.

With prayer that the journey through Holy Week will lead you to re-discover the importance for you of the empty tomb,

I am, Yours in Christ,
Bryan+



Parish News & Events

Compiled by Sarah Gregie

Holy Week Worship

We have worshiped on Palm/Passion Sunday, and are now into Holy Week. The Worship Services that will be offered are as follows:

Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday)

Zoom Worship at 7:00pm.

Good Friday

Zoom Worship at 10:30am.

The Sunday of the Resurrection/Easter Day

We will gather in St Mark's at 10:30am for our Easter Day Service, but with social distancing, masking and hand sanitizer. Holy Communion will be received as 'bread only'. The service will also be shared on Zoom for those who are unable to be present with us in the church.

A time of refreshment and fellowship will follow the service - tea, coffee, juice and 'Hot Cross Buns' will be shared. It is our hope to hold this gathering outside Dallman Hall, so please dress accordingly.

Fr. Bryan

Need Somewhere to Gather?

If you are looking for a place to gather for your meeting, yoga, book group or other event, Dallman Hall is now available for use. For the time being, Vestry asks that masks be worn, surfaces be wiped down with disinfectant wipes (provided) and all used chairs be sprayed with disinfectant (provided). This will help ensure we provide a safe and comfortable meeting place.

If interested, please contact the office 932-5712 or at officeofstmarks@gmail.com.

The Office

The church office is open, stop by and see the remodel. Fr. Bryan Beveridge will be in the office Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am 'til noon. Sarah will be in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am 'til 11:00am.

Please drop by!

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### Communion - A Message from Fr. Bryan

Should you be at home and unable to join us at St Mark's but would like to receive communion, Fr. Bryan will gladly bring you the consecrated host following fellowship.

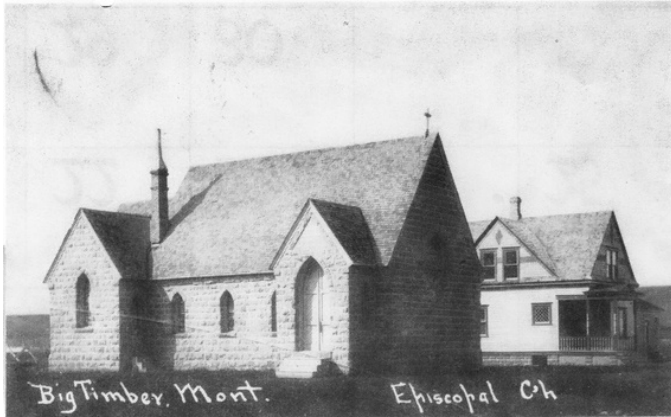
Just call him on 406-931-0349

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A Sad Site ...

... The Old Rectory (1906 - 2021)

In October 1906, The Big Timber Pioneer reported that ground had been broken for a *handsome* new rectory for St Mark's Episcopal Church; it was to be *'one and one half storey, frame, and will be completed ready for occupancy this fall.'* The rectory can be seen in this 1908 image beyond St Mark's, and again in 1915 when more building was evident.



The couple sitting on the step are Mrs & Mr Selmer Solberg. Over the years, the rectory was used not only as a home for St Mark's rectors, but it also served as the High School Home Economics and Domestic Science Department from 1912 to 1916, until a permanent home was built for the department.

In 1972, the Pioneer August 17th Edition reported: *'House Moving', The old two storey rectory of St. Mark's Episcopal Church is now up on dollies and ready to be moved up the street, to just out-side the city limits to property owned by Mrs. Bob Clark. The house is being moved to make ready for the erection of a new home for St. Mark's vicar, Michael Jenkins and family.* In the August 24th Edition it was reported that: *The old rectory pictured in last week's Pioneer is now settled in at its new location and looks for all the world just like it had always been there.*

That site was at the far end of 4th Avenue, where it still stood rather forlornly when it was photographed in early 2020, but not as forlornly as now.



Acknowledgement:

Black & white images courtesy of the Crazy Mountain Museum.



An Easter Reflection

Fr. Bryan Beveridge

"You can be Jesus ... "

"With those words began my first and only experience of drama of the thespian kind in church. I was in my mid-teens. I sometimes assisted at Sunday worship, and the Rector decided that we should offer a 'dramatic' presentation of the scene of Mary in the Garden and her encounter with the Gardener.

My task was to stand stage left, garbed in white, lit by a klieg light from above me. At the proper time, I was to step out, raise my arms outspread and stay immobile while Hal, the narrator with the English accent, uttered the words "Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" Mary responds with a question about what this gardener has done with the body of Jesus? The congregation then heard, in Hal's sonorous voice, "Mary!" and Mary responds in Hebrew "Rabbouni", which means teacher. You will hear this story on Easter Day. It is a wonderful story of Mary, the first to recognize that Jesus has risen from the dead.



Fra Angelico - Convent of San Marco, Florence.

As I looked back on this small bit of 'theatre' in the midst of Worship in the cafetorium where we worshipped, I realized that this small action to which I had agreed was in turn a small piece of my journey of faith and of my journey toward ordination to the diaconate and the priesthood. Please don't think that I somehow thought I was the 'second coming', I simply knew that this story, told this way, was to be a part of my personal and vocational journey going forward.

In another sense though I realized, and still realize, that in some small way all of us are responsible for making Jesus visible in a troubled and hurting world.

You can be Jesus ...



Early Personalities

Mrs Mary Jane Puett (1834 - 1917)

In the 1920 December 16th Edition of the Big Timber Pioneer, an article appeared entitled 'Big Timber Churches Enjoy Great Growth'. In that article was the following sentence:

At the time of the organization of this church the membership was very small and Mrs. Ellen Hatch and Mrs. Mary Jane Puett, both now deceased, were responsible for the church being established in Big Timber and were active throughout their entire lives in church work.



The church in question was St Mark's and, although there is much written over the years about Mrs Ellen Hatch's association with St. Mark's, no other reference to Mrs Mary Jane Puett's association can be found. That does not mean that there is no information about this amazing pioneer, far from it!

Although variously recorded with the forenames Mary Pullman and Mary Coleman, Mary Jane was her actual name; married to her cousin, Col. Coleman Puett a Civil War Union Veteran, they came from Indiana with his brother William, and passed through this area as part of the 'Emigrant Train' in July 1866 en route Diamond City. In an article about Mrs Puett in the Big Timber Pioneer in April 1903, it was reported that:

She crossed the plains in an early day bound for Montana. A few miles below the present site of this place they crossed Boulder river and followed the Yellowstone up to near where Hunter's Hot Springs are now located. Mrs. Puett says nothing of any particular importance developed during the long journey. The party was accompanied by sixty hardy regular soldiers, which undoubtedly had a quietous effect on the usually troublesome Indians. One night was spent on the site where the city of Bozeman now stands. One empty log cabin stood there then. They crossed the range and finally located at Confederate gulch, where they resided through all the palmy mining days, a period of ten years. Mr. Puett was all this time engaged in stock raising, taking no part in mining ventures, which were occupying the populace's mind at that time.

However, after ten years, in July 1876 they returned driving two or three hundred sheep to the Sweet Grass and settled near Melville in 1877, the first permanent white settlers in Sweet Grass, and Mary Jane said to be the first white woman of the Sweet Grass valley. Mr. Puett re-engaged more extensively in raising stock. The Indians were very troublesome, Mrs. Puett says, and it was necessary to guard the stock at night to prevent them from being run off. Mr. Puett passed away in 1882 and Mrs. Puett immediately disposed of her possessions at Ft. Ellis and came to Big Timber. In her younger days Mrs. Puett was an expert horsewoman and a dead shot with the rifle, frequently contesting in marksmanship with the neighboring Indian boys.

Mrs Puett lived in Big Timber until her death in 1917 at the age of 86, and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery.

Acknowledgements:

'Big Timber Churches Enjoy Great Growth'; Big Timber Pioneer; December 16, 1920, p.1.

'Mrs Mary Pullman Puett'; Big Timber Pioneer; April 17, 1903, p.5.

Undated image courtesy of the Crazy Mountain Museum.

A Vestry Voice

Sandi Blake

Hope Is In The Air!

After a full year of Covid-19 related challenges with lockdowns, deprivation and for many, despair, hope is in the air as we approach the uplifting season of Easter. Pandemic panic is subsiding, tufts of grass are greening, spring bulbs are emerging, birds are on the wing, and the scent of earth's renewal gives us energy and puts a smile on our face. Whether walking about town or in the countryside, our ears and eyes are primed and there's a spring in our step. With the lifting (though not removal) of isolation mandates comes longed for face-to-face socialization with friends and family.

This is also a time for gratitude, and we who are fortunate enough to live in Sweet Grass County, Montana have much to be grateful for. Just lately we have seen strong community support exhibited in a number of cases that include grieving families and friends due to loss of life, the shared joy of the girls basketball championship, acknowledgement of Chamber of Commerce community award recipients for their outstanding services, highly efficient rollout of Covid vaccines by Jenn Chappell and the County Public Health Department, and endless large and small outpourings of love for friends and even strangers. Also highly prized is the customer service at our local businesses, that they know our names and we theirs and we take time to slow down and speak to one another, and far more often than not they bend over backwards to accommodate our wishes.

An additional bonus this season at St. Mark's Church has been Fr Bryan's excellent Lenten study program 'Living Well Through Lent', which continues to provide us with growth and understanding through the art of listening to ourselves and to one another. When we slow down and allow it into our lives, the Holy Spirit will guide us to be more caring, thoughtful listeners.



For certain there have been and continue to be endless silver-linings during this extended period of Covid, and this Easter might just be a significant turning point for renewal and hope. At St. Mark's we rejoice that Fr Bryan has returned to Big Timber, and we look forward to joining him and others in our community in person at church and other venues.

Sandi Blake

For certain, hope and joy are in the air this Easter season!



ST MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BIG TIMBER

PO Box 626, 207 W. 4th Avenue,
Big Timber, MT 59011.

officeofstmarks@gmail.com



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We, the family of St Mark's, are a diverse group of Christians seeking a deeper, loving relationship with God and each other through prayer, worship, study, fellowship and ministry to our community.

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Services

From Easter Day onwards, we will gather in St Mark's at 10:30am for worship, but with social distancing, masking and hand sanitizer until the pandemic is under control. For the time being, the service will also be available on Zoom for those who are unable to attend. If you would like to join Zoom, please contact Sarah Gregie or John Thornton.

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| * Ser. | Position                     | Name                           | Address            | e-mail                    | Phone/Cell   | Notes               |
|--------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1.     | Rector                       | Bryan Beveridge                | PO Box 478         | bryanbeveridge1@gmail.com | 406-931-0349 | Cell                |
| 2.     | Senior Warden                | Daryl Todd                     | PO Box 1657        | daryltodd1940@gmail.com   | 406-579-7618 | Cell                |
| 3.     | Junior Warden                | Vacant                         |                    |                           |              |                     |
| 4.     | Treasurer<br>Asst. Treasurer | Mary E. Cremer<br>Sarah Gregie | 189 Boulder Rd     | mcremer@itstriangle.com   | 406-932-4392 | Home                |
| 5.     | Clerk                        | John Thornton                  | PO Box 1150        | jt@ejt1.co.uk             | 406-930-0165 | Cell                |
| 6.     | Member                       | Sandi Blake                    | 316 Otter Creek Rd | sandidblake@gmail.com     | 406-932-4180 | Home                |
| 7.     | Member                       | Suzanne Wilson                 | 562 Otter Creek Rd | suzannewilson50@gmail.com | 406-932-4185 | Home                |
| 8.     | Member                       | Vacant                         |                    |                           |              |                     |
| 9.     | Administrator                | Sarah Gregie                   | PO Box 626         | officeofstmarks@gmail.com | 406-932-5712 | 8 – 11am<br>M, W, F |

Please consider joining us, we would love to see you.