

# CHRIST CHURCH CHRONICLE

Produced by the congregation of Christ Church Episcopal in Sheridan, MT

October, 2021

## Who is the Patron Saint of Ecology?

Rev. Janis Hansen

Yes, St. Francis, whose Saint's Day we about to celebrate this Sunday, October 4th with the Blessing of the Animals.

Here is a man of deep and rich (literally rich, but also in later life devoted to the poor) character, who lived a full life. in the 12th century. After many adventures, including founding what became the Order of Francis, he retired to contemplation and monasticism. He founded the order starting with just a few men, and went on to be recognized by the Pope, becoming an order which spread through Europe.

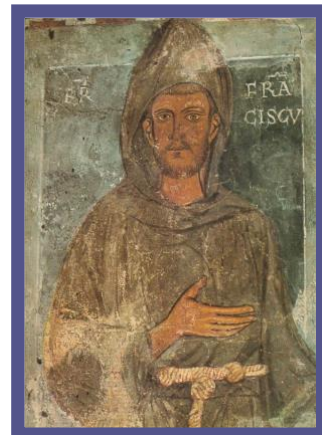
What did Francis have that was so appealing, to have become an order of such magnitude? A very complicated question, but one thing was clear: he was one who was willing to learn, change and adapt. He was open to opportunity, to travel, to tackle difficult problems — like the issues that were presented with the Muslims — and he worked to keep relationships with that religion and culture..

The first Pope to take the name Francis is the current Pope. Does that surprise you? This Pope, is also one to take on big issues, like climate change. Here is what Pope Francis wrote about this patron saint:

Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. "Through the greatness and the beauty of creatures one comes to know by analogy their maker" (Wisdom 13:5); indeed, "his eternal power and divinity have been made known through his works since the creation of the world" (Romans 1:20).

May we also come to know better God's infinite beauty and goodness.

Earliest known portrait of St. Francis :



Who is the Patron Saint of Ecology?	1
How healthy is Christ Church?	2
Humor Corner	2
Coming Events	2
Remembering Father Harry	3
Service Leader Schedule	4

## How Healthy is Christ Church?

Rev. Janis Hansen

### How Healthy is Christ Church?

Would you like to know?

Would you like to know if our worship is vibrant or dull and repetitive?

Would you like to know if we have a clear vision with shared values? or we're not clear about our values?

Would you like to know that we focus on community, or stay within our walls?

Here is a sample of the numerous questions that are on a Cultural Profile form that has been developed by the Diocese.

#### In Our Church...

Worship is vibrant and alive and touches the worshipper	1	2	3	4	5	6	Worship is dull and repetitive and does not inspire the worshipper
The congregation is open to change, seeking God's will for our future	1	2	3	4	5	6	Our congregation doesn't care much about change, prefers things as they are
Newcomers are actively invited and quickly involved in church activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	Newcomers are usually ignored and have a difficult time joining church activities
Music with worship inspires and deepens the worship experience	1	2	3	4	5	6	Music with worship is dull and slow and does not particularly inspire worship
We have a clear vision and mission, grounded in shared values	1	2	3	4	5	6	Beyond worship, there is no clarity on our vision or mission, or what values we share

This form based on whether you agree with the statements or disagree with them, based on the 1-6 scale.

Forms are available in the church, and will be for the next few weeks. The Diocesan commission on Congregational Development will analyze the results and send them to us. The Vestry and all interested can then discuss what this "picture" of our parish means, and how we can move forward. Please prayerfully take this assessment of our "culture" and return to Janis. Thanks!

## Humor Corner



## Coming Events

October 3 . . . **St. Francis Day and the Blessing of the Animals.** Bring your dogs, cats, birds, horses, or whatever critters you love!



October 29 . . . **Family Game Night** starts up again for the winter. Game Night will be the last Friday of every month. Lots of board games, dominoes, and card games; or bring your own favorites. Starts at 5:30 in the Parish Hall. Snacks provided. Bring your friends and neighbors!

## Remembering Father Harry

To all my Christ Church family,

I must take to the computer as my handwriting has gone into spidery mode and is quite unreadable even to me.

I take this opportunity to say to each of you how much it has meant to me and Harry's and my family that you poured yourselves with such love and loving service on Saturday. Everything about it was perfect, including the weather. It was sweet to have people enjoying the lawn, mingling and visiting. It was lovely to have so many clergy take part – all these folks on a holiday weekend. The cakes and cookies, juice and coffee, just the right touch. The altar was perfect, and I'm thrilled that our oldest grandson has taken that stole and chasuble as part of the heritage he cherishes; the pine branches and pine cones – just right; very caring way of distributing the elements. Memorable homily, Janis; my eyes have been opened anew to the GIFT we have in each other . . . won't forget this. The Bishop's participation was so supportive and she has pledged help with our upcoming Church Pension Fund changes to our daughter Robin, who has, blessedly, taken on the paper work engendered by Harry's death.

My beloved died a peaceful death; we were in our recliners, on our 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary evening, when he left for home. He had spent his worn-out heart and body reserves caring for me with a broken arm, then we each had a hospital admission for Delta Covid. We were blessed to be home together, and though we miss him dreadfully, we would never want him to suffer a moment more as he had been doing.

You've all been wonderful, and my family and I thank you very much.

God's continued blessings on your life together, and individually. Christ Church is a blessing in so many ways.

God's love and ours,  
Val, David, Robin, Erin and family







## Christ Church Episcopal

304 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 152  
Sheridan, MT 59749

**Telephone**  
406-842-7713  
[www.rvec.com](http://www.rvec.com)  
**Bible Study**  
Sundays 9am  
**Services**  
Sundays 10am

Janis Hansen, Rector  
[ubicari@msn.com](mailto:ubicari@msn.com)  
home: 406-842-7715  
cell: 503-780-5767

Adam Romkema, Senior  
Warden  
[adamromkema@gmail.com](mailto:adamromkema@gmail.com)  
home: 406-842-7603

---

**INVITE** people into our midst  
**INCLUDE** people in the life of the church  
**INFORM** people about past events that shape our present,  
and current events that shape our future  
**PROCLAIM** the gospel in thought, word and deed  
**REJOICE** in a new life found in Christ Jesus.

### Mission Statement

To be formed as the body of Christ, seeking to love and serve one another and those in need.

### Vision Statement

To be Christ's continued presence in the Ruby Valley by welcoming those who seek Christ, offering varied forms of services, reflecting our diversity while maintaining our Episcopal identity.

## Service Leaders for September and October

### Upcoming Service Leaders for September / October

3 Oct: Eucharist and Blessing of the Animals Rev Janis Hansen, Priest  
10 Oct: Rev Janis Hansen (Eucharist)  
17 Oct: Rev Janis Hansen (Eucharist) Deacon Steve DeHart, Homilist  
24 Oct: Rev Janis Hansen (Eucharist)  
31 Oct: Rev Janis Hansen (Eucharist) Deacon Steve DeHart, Homilist

### Upcoming Lectors for September / October

3 Oct: Alice Forwood  
10 Oct: Dorothy DeHart  
17 Oct: Adam Romkema  
24 Oct: Robert Brown  
31 Oct: Ron Tussing