



## RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH

### Land Stewardship Committee

## PICTURE WORTH 1,000 WORDS

So why even try? Simply walk outdoors in Gallatin county and enjoy the beauty of the Lord.



Photo courtesy of Mike Jackson

We read in **Isaiah 5:8**: *“Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!”* Did Isaiah come to Bozeman?

JOHN MUIR

“How glorious a greeting the sun gives the mountains!” – **John Muir**

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GREEN LEAF



## HAMBALAY

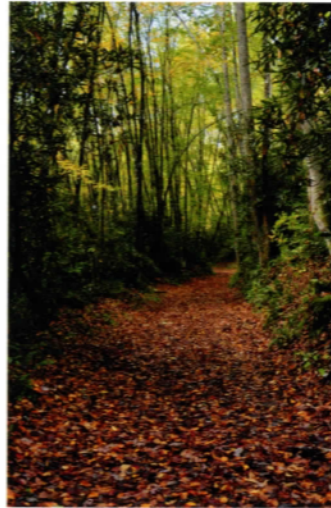


*Hambalay* is the Sioux term for withdrawing to a high place and practicing fast and abstinence. The warrior (usually) pled to the Great Spirit for a sign or symbol that would become his power source and the name by which the PEOPLE would know him. Names such as Black Elk, Yellow Hand, and Sitting Bull often resulted from the experience. Hambalay, or Vision Quest, was very much like an Ignation Retreat or what St. Francis experienced when he withdrew to the cave near San Damiano in order to avoid his father's wrath and entreat God for a sign that what he was doing was good.

### WHERE IS MY HAPPY PLACE?

Carol Zeglen

There are many places where I find happiness when I am outside in nature. During my retreats over the years traveling through the woods in various locations I have found joyful times. Often I have discovered paths which have helped me to adventure (to go forth) – to reach out, to ask, to discover what God is calling me to. It is here that I have felt the caress of God. Sitting and looking down the path in the forest I feel called to enter this path.



What is it that God is calling me to at this moment? As I go forth, I spend the time looking at the various plants and trees. I hear the whisper of the wind in the branches of the trees. I sit and listen.

Several articles that I have read recently related that spending time in nature brings about feelings of well-being and life satisfaction. It has been shown that walking in nature can boost mood and

vitality. Nature can be restorative. It can bring us back to the present moment and remembering that God is present.

The forest calls to me. I feel close to God in nature because I see the beauty, power, magnificence and creativity of the creation surrounding me, and I know who to thank. The creator of the universe and all this marvelous nature surrounding me is the same God who loves me so deeply that He gave up His Son so we could spend eternity together.

Being out in the forest, under the light of brother sun and sister moon, is where I find joy and happiness and connect with God's loving presence. Where is your happy place?

### SHORT TWIGS



Whoa, partner! Don't put down this Green Leaf until you made note of the webpage, [hoechoka.com](http://hoechoka.com), the phone number (406-587-2001) and decided how soon you can join the parishioners and advisors in this monthly publication—the only one of its kind in Montana. As author and poet Marshal McLuhan points out: "*There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew.*"

Same could be said for the Resurrection University Parish. So the question still stands. What can you, as a member of Resurrection University Parish (RUP), do to become crew. See and read the Green Leaf issues or call Paul Gore or Ellie Weber at 406-587-2001.



## ANOTHER VIEW OF A GARDEN

By Ellie Weber

A garden is usually thought of as a quiet, meditative place where we go to find peace, and for many, with the intention to draw closer to our Lord. A garden as expressed in Ralph Waldo Emerson's words is a place to also vent and to use that garden to expend the negative energy that comes from our reactions to what is happening this year.

*"But my garden is nearer, and my good hoe, as it bites the ground revenges my wrongs and I have less lust to bite my enemies. I confess I work at first with a little venom, lay to a little unnecessary strength. But by smoothing the rough hillocks, I smooth my temper, by extracting the long roots of the piper grass, I draw out my own splinters; and in a short time I can hear the Bobolink's song and see the blessed deluge of light and color that rolls around me."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Emerson's passage summarizes what is going on in the world this year: the discontent, the injustices old and new, the anger, the destruction caused both by humans and nature and the fight to defeat a new enemy— Covid -19—. It is an enemy that lurks insidiously in every handshake, embrace, smile, cough, sneeze, and grocery cart handle.

The garden should be a place where people can start digging deep into their thoughts and begin to explore the why for the problems and form solutions that one can do to start the process of healing. A garden does not need to be physical dirt, plants and weeds but can also be in our minds and the mind gardens need as much weeding as the physical garden.

For me the starting place is obvious and that is with Jesus' teachings and to take those teachings and really live them. A kind word or action to someone in need can go a long way—much like dandelions. Give a dandelion an inch and it will take a whole yard!

## GREEN LEAF STAFF

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Resurrection University Parish Land Stewardship Committee (LSC) is looking for parishioners for volunteer work on the LSC. Nothing outstanding; just simple folk that like nature, want to become involved, have some spare time and want a parish commitment that has clear goals, short term time demands (as in one year) and want to work with others of similar intent. Librarian skills, botanical skills are helpful as are writing, photography, bird watching, planting, art work and caring for flower beds. It is basically spirituality from the ground up. Old, young, men or women, singles or couples—makes no difference. Grant writers are needed especially if they *kan spelt*. MSU students are greatly welcomed as are high school students that have courses in or interest in journalism The LSC believes that we are all part of a learning and teaching church. So please, come teach as well as learn! Beat the crowd, come early!

# Behold the Beauty of the Lord



White tail deer. They frequent the field west of the parking lot, and in Fall and Winter jump the fence and feed on the branches and twigs of the landscape trees in the parking lot. The bucks rub the skin covering from their antlers (known as velvet) on the trunks of trees to the point the trees are killed or stunted. But St. Francis says, "We are all children of God."



**How beautiful are all his works!  
Even to the spark and the fleeting  
vision!**

**The universe lives and abides forever:  
to meet each need, each creature is  
preserved.**

**All of them differ, one from another,  
yet none of them has he made in vain,  
For each in turn as it comes, is good;  
Can one ever see enough of their splendor?**

Sirach 42:23-25

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