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2016



PASTOR'S PEN

"God's Love, Our Response"



It's that time of year when cards, roses, and candies will be exchanged on February 14. Valentine's Day is a time when we formally express our love and appreciation to family and friends. Even though love fills the air on this special day, we are often reminded how difficult relationships are to sustain for the long haul. With a divorce rate of 50% and with more and more couples forgoing a marriage covenant, we need to have opportunities that help improve our relationship with God and others.

Our church's fellowship committee will be giving out free chocolate treats on Sunday, February 14 after worship as a way of showing our appreciation to all of you. Thanks for making our church a joyful, prayerful, and growing place to worship the Lord.

A wonderful opportunity to help deepen our relationship with God will be offered during the season of Lent. Lent, the 40 day period of preparation leading up to Easter, begins with our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 PM. Join us for a time to reflect on the life of Christ, prepare for the season of Lent, and celebrate the sacrament of communion.

Our annual Lenten Lunch & Learn series will begin on Wednesday, February 17 at 12noon in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for free lunch and a class on the book of Psalms. I will be teaching a series on some of the most beloved Psalms in the Bible, including Psalm 23, Psalm 46, Psalm 53, Psalm 121, and Psalm 139. This five week series will continue through March 16.

I would like to invite you to a special class titled, "Building Better Relationships," which will begin on Sunday, February 28 at 9:15 am in the Fireside Room. Based on the New Testament book of 1 John, this four week class will be addressing topics such as "Why love?" "Dealing with conflict," and "Handling stress," and "Offering forgiveness." We will be using the Bible to help us build better relationships with family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors. This class will be relevant to everyone, whether newlywed, single, or happily married. We can never grow complacent in bettering relationships with others. Join us for this special class!

I hope that you have a desire to deepen your faith in God and your love for one another. It is our church's desire to help people expand your knowledge of God and others.

I look forward to worshipping with you on the next Lord's Day and learning more about God's great love for us in Jesus Christ. Happy Valentine's Day to you and your families.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday— Bring food for the BFB on Sunday, February 7
PW Luncheon on Wednesday, February 3 at 12noon in the Fellowship Hall
Ash Wednesday Worship: Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 PM
Lenten Lunch & Learn Series: Each Wednesday from February 17-March 16 at 12noon
Youth Ski Retreat coming February 26-28 to the First Presbyterian Church of Butte
Family Promise returns to our church February 28-March 5
Yellowstone Presbytery meeting at our church March 4-5

MEMORY JOGGERS FOR FEBRUARY 2016

<u>The 7th</u>	<u>The 10th</u>	<u>The 14th</u>	<u>The 21st</u>	<u>The 28th</u>	<u>March 6th</u>
Preaching Dave Thompson	Ash Wednesday Preaching Dave Thompson	Preaching Dave Thompson	Preaching Dave Thompson	Preaching Dave Thompson	Preaching Dave Thompson
Key Elder Sharon Mathews	Key Elder TBA	Key Elder Chris Erikson	Key Elder Sandi Schoenberger	Key Elder Jenice Fugere	Key Elder Sharon Lincoln
Greeters Jo Albin Thelma Riggs Eleanor Reinecke	Greeters TBA	Greeters Pat Clark Harry & Judy Cuff	Greeters Kay Doss Tom & Ruth Drummond	Greeters Craig & Denise Hash Thelma Riggs	Greeters Jim Hummel & Paige Spalding Margie LaFontaine
Ushers Bob & Cathy Culbertson Earl & Sharon Henderson	Ushers TBA	Ushers Janet Kline Greg & Deb Wiens	Ushers Diane Noddings Peg Ostlund Carla Bracken Teena Bracken	Ushers Marlene Spencer Sharon Brady Marian Shehein Betty Ann Nesmith	Ushers Janet Brown Bebe Spring Cindy Leggate Sharon Mathews
Liturgist Tonya Appelt	Liturgist Kerry Gruizenga	Liturgist Heidi Duncan	Liturgist Michelle Berger-Reitz	Liturgist Don Harr	Liturgist Karla Mayhan
Van Driver Chuck Leggate	Van Driver Jeff Gruizenga	Care Board Edna Carlson	Care Board Ken & Ann Chase	Care Board Eric Eriksen	Van Driver Don Harr
Sound Booth David Bauer		Van Driver Don Harr	Van Driver Don Harr	Van Driver Heather McLean	Sound Booth David Bauer
Communion Ken & Barb Eichenberger Sharon Brady Kathleen Butler Sharon Mathews		Sound Booth Jeff Gruizenga	Sound Booth Chuck Leggate	Sound Booth Bob Culbertson	Communion Diane Noddings Marlene Spencer Heather McLean Russ & Janet Kline

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Church Info

Office Hours:
Mon—Thurs 8:30 am— 4 PM
406-252-3434
mainoffice@fpcbillings.org
www.fpcbillings.org
Sunday School @ 9:15 AM
Worship Celebration @ 10:30

STAFF

Pastor: Dave Thompson
Office Manager: Jeanne Thompson-Raney
Accompanist: Sandi Rabas
Choir Director: Janie Sutton
Custodian: Kent Fellingham

SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session:
Marlene Spencer

Class of 2017
David Bauer
Ken Eichenberger
Sharon Lincoln
Sharon Mathews

Class of 2018
Kathy Baskett
Marv Brown
Jeff Gruizenga
Sandi Schoenberger

Class of 2019
Chris Eriksen
Jenice Fugere
Chuck Leggate
Heather McLean

Session Notes:

At the January 12 meeting of the session, a letter was read from Beverly Wornom informing the session of her decision to retire from her job as choir accompanist. Her resignation was accepted with regret and thanked for a job well done.

The mission committee asked and received permission to donate to a fund to rebuild a home that was recently burned. This project is sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. Three thousand dollars will be taken from the general fund while the youth will donate another \$2,000. Members of the congregation may volunteer their time and talent.

Pastor Dave was given approval to serve as a volunteer chaplain for the Billings Police Department for one or two days a month.

The Christian Education Committee reported that Robyn Bauer is now coordinating the Sunday School program. Other volunteers continue to work with the youth.

Our average attendance for 2015 was 191.

Financial snapshot

2016	Income	Expense	Net
January	\$ 46,463	\$ 53,974	\$ (7,511)

Per-Capita is being received for 2016. Our church pays \$45 per member to the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly of the PC(USA) for it annual dues. If you would like to pay your share of the per-capita that would be appreciated. You can write a check to the church and indicate on the memo line "Per-Capita." We appreciate your giving to help off-set this fund. Thank you!

JAN	2016
3RD	180
10TH	207
17TH	135
24TH	196
31ST	201
2016 JAN AVERAGE	184
2015 JAN AVERAGE	165

Sermons available on-line

Did you know that you can listen to sermons on-line at our website at www.fpcbillings.org? Just click the "Listen to Sermons" tab on the upper right front of our church's homepage. Stay connected even when you are away. Sermon for the past 12 weeks are archived on our church's website.

Church Mice: The youth program is a vital part of our church life. Through this program, the young people of our church and community work together in activities that set life-long standards and goals which will aid and support them in many present and future life situations. It also helps define Christian ideals valuable in their life journeys. Two people the church mice have noticed dedicating time and energy to this program are Alicia and Erica Nelson. Erica and Alicia are sisters from Jordan, MT who joined our church several years ago. Thanks to these young ladies and all of the youth volunteers. You are appreciated!!



FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Our church was one of the first churches in Billings to designate a monthly Food Bank Sunday. We invite you to bring some non-perishable food items with you on the first Sunday of each month as we help local people in need. Our next Food Bank Sunday will be held on February 7.

FLOWER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our flower sign-up sheet is located on the back table in the narthex. We invite you to sign up for a particular Sunday to sponsor the flowers either in honor or memory of someone or a special event such as an anniversary, birthday, etc. Suggested donation is \$25. Special thanks to those who donated flowers during the month of January. They are Jim Bateman, Dave & Vicki Thompson, Suzanne Braun, and the Presbyterian Women's group.

House rebuild is underway!

You might have seen the recent front page article in the Billings Gazette of the Melvin and Bonnie Willis family whose house was destroyed in a fire last November. Their home is located at 1124 23rd Street West in Billings. Our church has agreed to set aside \$5,000 in matching funds to help this family rebuild. Community members are asking to help with this effort as all funds will be used to rebuild their home. Many donated hours of time by contractors, plumbers, and electricians have been working on this project. If you would like to make a special donation to this project, you can simply write a check to our church and indicate on the memo line, "Fire Fund." Melvin and Bonnie are hoping to be back in their house this spring. Thanks!

Lenten Lunch & Learn Series to begin on Wednesday, February 17

Join Pastor Dave for a special noon series offered during the season of Lent, beginning on Wednesday, February 17. Offered every Wednesday from 12noon- 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall, join Dave for some lunch and learning opportunities as he helps to deepen our faith during the season of Lent. Dave will be teaching a series on some of the most beloved Psalms in the Bible. He will be helping us take a fresh look at Psalm 23, Psalm 46, Psalm 53, Psalm 121, and Psalm 139. Some, including St. Ambrose from the 4th century, have described the book of Psalms as the "gymnasium of the soul." Pastor Dave intends to use this series and the season of Lent to help strength our spiritual muscles. This five week series will continue through March 16.

Dinners of Eight on Hiatus

Our Dinners of Eight program is on a hiatus as we rethink the best way for people to get to know each other. The fellowship committee is brainstorming ideas to make this program more beneficial for everyone involved. The Dinners of Eight idea is a good concept, but there are months when groups have not been meeting. If you would like to share any ideas, please talk with Sandi Schoenberger.

Our Church's Leadership Team

Elders:

Moderator of Session: Pastor Dave Thompson

Clerk of Session: Marlene Spencer

Class of 2017

David Bauer
Ken Eichenberger
Sharon Lincoln
Sharon Mathews

Class of 2018

Kathy Baskett (2)
Marv Brown (2)
Jeff Gruizenga (2)
Sandi Schoenberger

Class of 2019

Chris Eriksen (2)
Jenice Fugere (2)
Chuck Leggate
Heather McLean

Deacons

Class of 2017

Diane Noddings (2)
Kathy Ramage
Paige Spalding
Marjorie Stewart

Class of 2018

Janet Brown (2)
Pam Gore (2)
Ruth Kaufman
Charlie Pinnick

Class of 2019

Peggy Cluff
Dodie Cox (2)
Bob Fedric
Janice Ward

(2) denotes a second consecutive terms that is currently being served.

Our newest class of elders and deacons will be installed and ordained on Sunday, February 7

Stephen Ministry Update

A training class for Stephen Ministers continues through March. This group meets on Thursday evenings at the church from 6:00-8:30 PM in the Fireside Room. Upon completion of this training, each of our Stephen Ministers will be assigned a care receiver to whom they will provide skills of listening, encouragement, and spiritual help. More information about this training is available through JoAnn Jones, Doris Backus, Jack Bell, Shirley Shirley, or Pastor Dave.

On a Personal Note

Shirley Voyta passed away on January 4 at the age of 104. Her funeral was celebrated in our church on January 13 with a reception to follow.

Anna Mae Dyce has been hospitalized on several occasions at the Billings Clinic over the past month with pneumonia.

A memorial service for Jim Wempner will be held on Tuesday, February 16 at 4 PM at the church. This date was picked in honor of Jim's birthday. A reception will follow in the church's fellowship hall.

Special thanks to all who gave a gift to the work of the Gideons on January 17. \$685 was received that morning for their ongoing ministry of distributing Bibles around the world.

It is with special thanks that we recognize the Presbyterian Women's organization for all they do behind the scenes. They provide the cookies on Sunday morning during the fellowship time and serve at receptions following funerals. If you would like to bring cookies please talk with Marlene Spencer or Betty Ann Nesmith.

Our church appreciates those whose terms have come to an end as elders and deacons. We would like to thank Eleanor Reinecke and Howard & Sharon Klovstad for serving as deacons and Samantha Cormier and Heidi Duncan for serving as elders. Thank you for the time and energy you gave to your duties.

Prayers are asked for Sandi Rabas' brother, Steve, as he is critically ill in Minneapolis. Steve is recovering from heart surgery that he had on January 28.

Kurt McLean and Barbara Muir are recovering from recent surgeries at the Billings Clinic.



Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's birthday luncheon will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 3 at 12noon in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to come and celebrate birthdays. Please talk with Marlene Spencer if you have any questions.

The PW Circles meet the third Wednesday of each month for study and fellowship. If you have an interest in joining a circle, please talk with Marlene or Better Nesmith.

The PW Board will be meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room.

Church Women United's meeting is February 12th at noon. It is a potluck All Nations Church has prepared a program on Black History Month. The annual Birthday Offering luncheon for PW will be February 3rd at noon. All women are invited, however if you are not a member of a Church Circle, please call Marlene Spencer (252-5027) of Betty Ann Nesmith (252-1836) to make a reservation.

Sunday school classes that are currently offered

Sunday school for all ages continues on Sunday morning for children, youth, and adults. Lots of great classes are provided for all ages! Hope you all with join us!



Classes for Kids:

Kindergarten through 5th grade: This class meets at 9:15 AM with Leah Wright

Middle School and High School: Youth meet in the downstairs youth coffee room with Russ and Heidi

Sunday school during our worship service is held every week after the children's sermon. A variety of teachers lead this class for children ages kindergarten through the 5th grade.

Special Class for Adults:

New Year, New You! With Pastor Dave

With the New Year comes all kinds of resolutions to start afresh, change bad habits, and begin the year on the right foot. Is change really possible? How many of us have resolved to change our ways only to find ourselves back in the same old rut? Join Pastor Dave in the Fireside Room for this six week class on this interesting topic. He will help us set realistic goals and provide a biblical blueprint to change. Join us if you have a desire to change your life. This class will continue though Sunday, February 21. Dave will begin a new class titled, "Building Better Relationships" based on 1 John beginning on Sunday, February 28.

Church and Society guests for the month of February will be:

February 7: Dr. Don Harr, Retired Psychiatrist. His topic will be, "Greed: A Nemesis for Mankind." One of the "Seven Deadly Sins," greed can be given an expanded definition beyond that given in the dictionary which describes how this desire relates to the other six. There will be discussion pertaining to the psychological motivation for the basis of this attitude and behavior. Ethical, moral and spiritual values are considered.

February 14: Dr. Jimmie Ashcraft, Country Doctor, will share "Stories of Faith, Healing, and End of Life." Dr. Ashcraft was a country doctor in Sidney for most of his career. He will reflect on experiences that exemplify the religious faith of his patients. The author of three books, *Reflections of a Country Doctor*, *The Next Prescription*, and *Side Effects*, he has dedicated all the proceeds to scholarships for kids.

February 21: Virginia Smith, Religious Writer, Teacher, and Lecturer, Finding Your Way through the Old Testament. Virginia will explain the Old Testament detailing one central theme, two central events, three central characters, and four groups of Books. She and Dr. Elizabeth McNamer are co-creators of Scripture from Scratch, an adult Bible study.

February 28: Darcie Howard, President, Zonta Club of Billings, and Elizabeth Varela, Crowley Fleck Law Firm and Zonta Member. Recognizing that sex and human trafficking has been increasing, Zonta recently sponsored an Anti-Trafficking Forum. Darcie will speak about that forum and the efforts of Zonta to raise the status of women and combat the violence that trafficking generates. Elizabeth will read from a victim's letter and both will discuss ways that faith communities can help combat this problem. She also is providing pro bono services to the victim

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2016	1 12noon BLT 6 Billings Child Care Association Meeting (BCCA)	2 9:30 Staff Mtg 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1 Property Committee	3 9-11 BSF Lead 10 Grief Support Group 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adults	4 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 1 Mission Committee 6 Stephen Ministry 7 CE Committee	5 Church Office Closed	6 10 Gluten Intolerant Group (GIG)
7 Food Bank Sunday 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Communion 11:00 West Park worship	8 10 Worship Committee 12noon BLT 12 Noon Men's Group	9 9:30 Staff Mtg 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7 Session Meeting	10 9-11 BSF Lead 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adults	11 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 6 Stephen Ministry	12 Church Office Closed	13
14 9:15 Sun Sch 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	15 12noon BLT Presidents' Day	16 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Stephen Ministry Leaders Mtg 4 Jim Wempner Memorial Service	17 9-11 BSF Lead 9:30 PW Board 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adults	18 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship 6 Stephen Ministry Training 6 Stephen Ministry supervision	19 Church Office Closed Newsletter Deadline	20 10 Senior Singles at McCormick Café 10 PEO Group
21 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park worship	22 12noon BLT 12noon Men's Group 4 Deacons Meeting	23 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study	24 9-11 BSF Lead PW Circles Meet 6 Youth Group 7Choir Rehears 7:30 Young Adults	25 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 6 Stephen Ministry	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 8:15 Family Promise set-up 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park	29 Family Promise here for the week 12noon BLT					

Youth News:

Youth group continues on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 PM for all middle and high school students. Join us for a full dinner, games, music, and learning. We have a great time every Wednesday evening and would love to add more youth to our group.



Youth Ski Retreat will be held February 26-28 at the First Presbyterian Church in Butte. All 6-12 grade youth are welcome to join us for this fun weekend of growing in our faith. Skiing is optional. The cost is \$20 for the retreat and lift tickets and ski rentals are an additional charge. Please talk with either Heather McLean or Pastor Dave if you are interested in going. The church bus will be leaving the church round 4 PM on Feb. 28 and will return around 4 PM on the 28th.

Triennium Youth Conference is coming July 18-25. If you are ages 15-19, you won't want to miss this excellent experience to Purdue University in Indiana. We will be driving to the conference where we will be meeting up with about 6,000 other youth from around the world for an action packed week of activities. If you have an interest, please talk with Pastor Dave as soon as possible. We would like to get our group registered early for the best chance of having an air conditioned dorm—a real plus when you are staying in Indiana in July. Don't miss this awesome experience!

Staff Changes

At the beginning of the new year we received word about two staff changes. Bev Wornom announced her retirement from her work as choir accompanist. In this role for the past four years Bev has worked with the choir providing piano accompanist during those Sundays when the choir sings and also on Wednesday nights for rehearsals. We wish Bev the best as she enjoys her retirement and spending more time traveling and with her family.

We also received the resignation from Orrin Feddes from his work as our Director of Youth and Christian Education. Orrin worked in this position the past two and a half years. Orrin did a nice job building relationships with the youth and developing our Wednesday night youth program and our Sunday school program for children and youth. Orrin cited personal reasons for his resignation and we wish him the best as he pursues other avenues.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Whether you are pulling for the Broncos or for the Panthers (or even the commercials!) we invite you to bring some canned goods with you to church on Sunday, February 7 for Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Bring your items into church where we will have a Bronco bin and a Panther bin to see which is the more favored team. All food items will go to the Billings Food Bank. We look forward to having you participate in this cause.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee	Tuesday, February 2 at 12noon
Mission Committee	Thursday, February 4 at 1 PM
Christian Education	Thursday, February 4 at 7 PM
Worship Committee	Monday, February 8 at 10 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, February 9 at 7 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, February 10 at 9:30 AM
Fellowship Committee	Thursday, February 11 at 11 AM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, February 18 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Thursday, February 22 at 4 PM

Senior Singles will meet on Saturday, February 20 at McCormick Café

The Senior Singles will meet at McCormick Café at 2419 Montana Ave on Saturday, February 20 at 10:00 AM. All singles are welcome to join in on the fellowship. For more information about this group please talk with Phyllis Brown or Tom Erskine. Our Senior Singles group meets monthly for a variety of activities. They often gather for brunch and will occasionally take day trips to various locations.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP CONTINUES EVERY MONTH

A grief support group within our church continues to meet the first Wednesday of each month from 10-11. This group is open to anyone in the church or community who is experiencing grief. Facilitated by Dr. Don Harr, this group provide support, encouragement, and help to those facing grief, loss, or transitions in life. All are invited to join this special group. The next group meets on Wednesday, February 3 at 10:00 AM at the church in the conference room.



February Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Leslene Cassel | Danielle Repka |
| 2 Kerry Gruizenga | John Quandt |
| Craig Hash | 14 Jody Mercer Wallace |
| 3 Nicholas Wiens | Halle Lynn Spring |
| John Wornom | 15 Michael Repka |
| 5 Monica Parker | 16 John Reamy |
| 6 Marvin Brown | Tyler Carey |
| David Bauer | Kathy Ramage |
| 8 Carol Harr | 17 Carl Johnson |
| 9 Shirley Harr | Jack Quandt |
| Caitlin McRae | 19 Skip Hayes |
| 10 Earl Henderson | 21 Nichole Ferestad |
| Chuck Leggate | Curtis Pattee |
| Erica Nelson | Lorrie Rimpe |
| 12 Paul Crellin | 22 Robert Thiesen |
| Lauren Wright | Helen Montgomery |
| 13 Bill Letson | 23 Bill Lorentz |
| Alex Repka | 24 Jean Marshall |
| | 27 Jason Pattee |

- 27 Delores Reinhart
Lewis Schoenberger
29 Ruth Kaufman

Anniversaries

- 9 John & Ruth Urbaska
10 Gary & Jean Schneider



Mission News

The Mission Committee has already started their work for the New Year. We visited the "Friendship House" during our January meeting. Their mission statement states "Reflecting the love of Jesus Christ by fostering renewal, stability, and transformation in the lives of children and families in South Billings." They are a faith based program that helps families. The Friendship House has a full day preschool program. Also they bus kids to their facility after school for a hot meal and help with school work. They teach children to face their challenges with integrity, responsibility, and spiritual growth. They provide parents with opportunities for growth and empowerment so they can be encouraged and equipped to overcome obstacles and develop healthy relationships. We are looking for ways our church can help Friendship House financially and with our time and talents. Friendship House is directed by the Rev. Matt Lundgren and a very capable staff of employees and volunteers.



Tumbleweed Update: The youth from Tumbleweed were thrilled with their Christmas gifts. This was put on Tumbleweed's Facebook page: "On behalf of the Tumbleweed Program and those we serve, we would like to thank the Billings Community for your generous donations during the holiday season. Most of the youth we serve would not have experienced Christmas without your support. Tumbleweed youth were very lucky this year. The community helped provide gifts, food, Christmas stockings, and gift cards to hundreds of youth. Your support of the Tumbleweed Program is making a big difference in the lives of many homeless and at-risk youth in our community!

One of their youth said it best in a thank you letter: "Thank you for the presents for my siblings and I. We wouldn't have gotten Christmas without you. We truly are thankful!"

The Mission Committee is grateful for prayers and help. Last year we had the awesome responsibility of taking \$35,000 that you gave to the church and spending it wisely to help God's children.

We look forward to the New Year and possibilities for mission opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally. If you would like to be a part of our mission committee we meet the first Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM in the Fireside Room. Meetings are open to all and we welcome input on mission projects.

Family Promise returns to our church February 28-March 6. Your help with this week would be greatly appreciated. A sign up list of duties is on the bulletin board near the Fireside Room.