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2017

PASTOR'S PEN

"What Are You Thankful For?"

What are you thankful for? Your family, your job, your health, the ability to travel, or the opportunity to live in a beautiful place like Montana. These are just a few of the top responses I have received after asking this question recently to a number of people.

The month of November provides plenty of occasions to show our gratitude. The obvious one comes at Thanksgiving, a holiday that allows us to pause and say thank you for the abundant blessings we have received from the Lord through family and faith. But there are other opportunities we have to express our gratitude throughout the month.

On Saturday, November 11 our church will be hosting a community wide Veterans' Day service at 10 AM in our sanctuary. This service will involve a number of community leaders and musicians as we honor our veterans and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Join us as we honor and support our veterans.

All senior adults are invited to join us on Wednesday, November 15 at 6:00 PM in the church's fellowship hall for our annual Senior Thanksgiving Dinner. This dinner is a way for the youth group to show their appreciation to the senior adults of our church and provide a nice Thanksgiving meal. The youth group kids will be sharing a few Bible verses and songs with those who attend. Please RSVP Craig or me if you would like to join us.

Peace Lutheran Church (13th Street West and Ave D) will be hosting our annual 13th Street community Thanksgiving worship service on Sunday, November 19 at 3:00 PM. A community choir will rehearse at 2:00 PM followed by the service. This special worship opportunity provides a time where we can join together with people from other churches and to show our gratitude to God for the many blessings we have received in Christ.

During the coming weeks I will continue to preach a sermon series titled, "Looking Up, Reaching Out." This series, based on the New Testament book of 2 Corinthians will challenge us with an attitude of gratitude. It is easy to cultivate an attitude of negativity and despair, but the Lord wishes for us to live each day with a spirit of hope and joy. Join us as we learn some important lessons of how to see the good in things, to find hope in our world, and to discover our gracious God who continues to bless us beyond measure. Pledge cards will be received on Sunday, November 19 as we return our time, talents, and treasure to the Lord. They will be mailed in the next week to you.

I look forward to this special season of Thanksgiving. May we discover throughout this coming month even more reasons to be grateful as we live into the fullness of life which God desires for us.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave



MEMORY JOGGERS FOR NOVEMBER

The 5th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Chris Eriksen
Greeters
Gary & Jean
Schneider
Ushers
Carla Bracken
Teena Bracken
Jim Hummel
Paige Spalding
Liturgist
Dick Bailey
Van Driver
Chuck Leggate
Sound Booth
Jeff Gruizenga

Communion

Vicki Thompson
Charlie Reed
Sandi Schoenberger
Phyllis Brown
Chris Eriksen

The 12th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Carla Bracken
Greeters
Craig & Denise Hash
Ushers
Cindy Leggate
Janet Brown
Bebe Spring
Edna Carlson
Liturgist
John Thompson
Van Driver
Don Harr
Sound Booth
Chuck Leggate
Flower Delivery
Dave & Vicki
Thompson

The 19th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Sharon Lincoln
Greeters
Thelma Riggs
Pat Clark
Ushers
Jerry Koch
Bob Fedric
Bill White
John Reed
Liturgist
Coryn Martinez
Van Driver
Don Harr
Sound Booth
Bob Culbertson
Flower Delivery
Chris Eriksen

The 26th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Carla Bracken
Greeters
Carl & Vicki Johnson
Ushers
Marlene Spencer
Sharon Brady
Marian Shehein
Betty Ann Nesmith
Liturgist
David Sanderson
Van Driver
Heather McLean
Sound Booth
Bob Culbertson
Flower Delivery
Jack & Karla Mahan

December 3

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Jenice Fugere
Greeters
Bob & Norma
Thiesen
Ushers
Earl & Sharon
Henderson
Bob & Cathy
Culbertson
Liturgist
Janet Kline
Van Driver
Chuck Leggate
Sound Booth
Jeff Gruizenga

Communion

Chuck & Cindy
Leggate
Gary & Judy
Lohnbakken

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

"We Believe" basketball clinics begin on Saturday, November 4 in the gym
Global Village items for sale in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 5
New members' class begins on Sundays November 5 at 9:15 AM
Veterans' Day service to be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, November 11 at 10 AM
Free senior Thanksgiving dinner coming on Wednesday, November 15 at 6:00 PM
Community Thanksgiving worship at Peace Lutheran: Sunday, November 19 at 3:00 PM
Group to attend Medora Magical Christmas at the Babcock on Sat., Nov. 25 at 7:30 PM
Christmas decorating coming on Saturday, December 2 at 4:00 PM
RMC Christmas concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, December 3 at 3 PM and 7 PM

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Church Info

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

STAFF

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

SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session: Marlene
Spencer

Class of 2018

Kathy Baskett
Marv Brown
Jeff Gruizenga
Sandi Schoenberger

Class of 2019

Chris Eriksen
Jenice Fugere
Chuck Leggate
Heather McLean

Class of 2020

David Bauer
Carla Bracken
Ken Eichenberger
Sharon Lincoln

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 Sunday, November 5. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

Session Notes:

During our meeting on October 10th, the session approved the use of the sanctuary for the Veterans’ Day program on November 11 at 10:00 AM. Our church has hosted this event in the past. After a program in the sanctuary, participants will adjourn to Veterans’ Park and then to the VFW in the Heights for lunch.

The nominating committee will begin seeking willing and able members to serve on the session and the board of deacons.

Pastor Dave will hold classes for new members on November 5th and 12th.

Chris Eriksen was elected to serve as a commissioner representing our church at the next Presbytery meeting in Bozeman on November 3rd and 4th.

Financial snapshot

	Income	Expense	Net
2017			
October	\$ 36,599	\$ 26,252	\$ 10,347
YTD	\$486,621	\$309,409	\$177,212

Watch for pledge cards which will be sent out in the next few weeks. Pledges for 2018 will be received during worship on Sunday, November 19. You can also return them to the church office. We appreciate your generosity in giving!

OCTO- BER	2017
1ST	167
8TH	174
15TH	227
22ND	189
29TH	212
2017 OCT. AVERAGE	194

Sermons available on-line

Did you know that you can listen to sermons on-line at our website at www.fpcbillins.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 twelve weeks are archived on our church’s website.

Church Mice:

GENTLE GIANT is a metaphor which can be used for numerous situations and individuals. The church mice think of Sharon Mathews as one example. She is GENTLE, kind, caring, and compassionate and a GIANT in her service to the church and community. Sharon works quietly and efficiently living her Christian Faith by serving others in many capacities. She is involved on our church’s worship committee where she helps organize communion, straightens up the sanctuary each week, and helps Carla Bracken with other administrative duties pertaining to the committee. She is also involved in the Tuesday morning women’s Bible study group. Thank you Sharon for all you do.



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 \$30. Special thanks to those who donated flowers during the month of October. They are the family of Jerry & Bobbie Koch in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary; June Pierce in honor of her family; Dottie Hilger in appreciation of many blessings; and Margie LaFontaine in memory of her parents, Paul and Florella “Skip” Halverson.

Following worship each Sunday, the flowers are distributed to church members and friends in the hospital, nursing homes, or among those who are unable to attend church.

Senior Thanksgiving dinner coming on Wednesday, November 15

Our church’s annual Senior Thanksgiving dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 15 at 6:00 PM in the church’s Fellowship Hall. All senior adults (60+ years of age) are invited to join us for this annual free dinner provided by the youth group from our church. This is a way for the youth to give back to the congregation and to express their appreciation for the support of so many from the church. Please RSVP to Craig (698-7174) or the church office (252-3434). Transportation is available by contacting Pastor Dave.

New Members’ Class begins Sunday, November 5

A new members’ class will begin on Sunday, November 5 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. Led by Pastor Dave this two week class is offered for those who wish to become a member of our church and/or those wishing to learn more about our church and all that we have to offer. This class will run for two consecutive weeks with new members being introduced during worship on Sunday, November 19.

Israel 2018 trip is almost full!

Our church is planning an incredible trip to the Holy Land from June 11-22, 2018. The cost will be \$4,109 per person. Sights will include Jerusalem, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee, Masada, the Dead Sea, and Jericho. The price is for double occupancy and includes airfare, lodging, transportation, and many of the meals. We only have just several remaining spots so please let Pastor Dave know if you are interested in this trip. Our next team meeting will be on Tuesday, November 21 at 6 PM.

Our Church’s Leadership Team

Moderator of Session: Pastor Dave Thompson

Clerk of Session: Marlene Spencer

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

Class of 2020

David Bauer (2)
Carla Bracken
Ken Eichenberger (2)
Sharon Lincoln (2)

Deacons:

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

Class of 2020

Kathy Ramage (2)
Lorrie Rimpe
Paige Spalding (2)
Marjorie Stewart (2)

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

Support groups continue to meet monthly

Two support groups meet at our church on a monthly basis. They are:

1. Our Grief Support Group meets the first Wednesday and the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM and provides help, hope, and healing to those dealing with grief and loss.

2. Our RLI Group deals with “Real Life Issues” and meets the third Wednesday of every month at 10:00 AM This group meets to discuss issues pertaining to end of life, death and dying, and spiritual questions.

Both groups are open to anyone in the church and community and maintain a high level of confidentiality. Both of these groups meet in our new conference room.

For questions about any of these support groups, please talk with Dr. Don Harr or Pastor Dave. Dr. Harr is a retired psychiatrist with a lot of years of experience in helping people cope and grow through their loss. We are especially grateful for Dr. Harr and giving of his time and expertise to these groups and helping people cope with many issues.



On a Personal Note



We extend our sympathies to the family of June Holmes who passed away last month. A memorial service was held at Sweetwater Retirement Community on October 9. A memorial service for Ginger Green was held in our church on October 10. Ginger passed away at Valley Nursing Home in September. We extend our condolences to the family of the Rev. Jim Kidd who passed away on October 18. Pastor Jim served the Presbyterian church in White Sulphur Springs and was hospitalized in Denver before his death. Sonja Bennett was recently hospitalized at St. V’s with spinal cord issues. Cheryl Nagel continues to seek medical treatment in Denver for a spot that was recently found near her eye. Edna Carlson is recovering from a broken elbow she sustained several weeks ago from a fall. Charlene (Rich) Switzer’s health continues to decline as a result of ALS disease. Bebe Spring and Marilyn Mahan have both returned home after being hospitalized at St. V’s last month. The Rev. Leon Rathbun, retired pastor from Terry, was recently diagnosed with esophageal cancer.

Young Adult Group begins new series

Our church’s Young Adult Group has begun a new weekly series entitled "Meeting the Spirit." Young adults are invited to join this group which meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM at the home of Trina White to gain knowledge and find a deeper relationship with the Spirit. Weekly studies will include study of passages regarding how the Spirit speaks, renews, energizes, liberates, influences and guides. Contact Trina at 698-8899 with questions.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9 BSF Leaders 10 Grief Support 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 Young Adults	2 9 Bible Study Fellowship 1 Mission Committee meets 7 CE Committee	3 Presbytery in Bozeman	4 We Believe Basketball Clinic Presbytery in Bozeman
5 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship Communion 11:00 West Park worship 11:45 College Grp	6 9-1 Preschool 6 BCCA	7 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12noon Property Committee Meeting	8 9-1 Preschool 9 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 Young Adults	9 9 Bible Study Fellowship	10 9-1 Preschool	11 We Believe Basketball Clinic 10 Veterans' Day service here
12 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship 11:45 College Grp	13 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Committee 12 Men's Group	14 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7 Session meeting	15 9 BSF Leaders PW Circles Meet 10 RLI Group 12noon BLT 6 Senior Dinner 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 Young Adults	16 9 Bible Study Fellowship	17 9-1 Preschool	18 We Believe Basketball Clinic
19 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship 11:45 College Grp	20 No preschool 9-11 BSF Leaders 12-1 Lessons & Carols rehearsal 4 Deacons meet	21 9-11 BSF 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Grief Support 6 Israel trip meeting in Fireside Rm	22 No preschool 12noon BLT No Youth Group No Choir Rehearsal	23 Happy Thanksgiving! Church office closed	24 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	25 No Basketball Clinic 7:30 Magical Medora Christmas at the Babcock
26 No Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park Worship 11:45 College Grp	27 9-1 Preschool 12 Men's Group	28 9:30 WBS 12 Lessons & Carols 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision meets in Fireside Room	29 9-1 Preschool 9-BSF Leaders 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7Choir Rehearsal 7 Young Adults	30 9 Bible Study Fellowship	2017	

Presbyterian Women



The Presbyterian Women’s organization in our church has five different groups which meet monthly for study, fellowship, and often food. We offer groups that meet in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings. The PW board will meet on Wednesday, November 8 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room and PW groups will meet on Wednesday, November 15. United Church Women will also be meeting at our church on Friday, November 10 at 12noon for a potluck lunch and fellowship.

Magical Medora Christmas is coming to the Babcock Theatre on November 25

The Magical Medora Christmas is coming to the Babcock Theatre on Saturday, November 25 at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$25 we plan to take a group through the church. A sign up sheet will be available in the gallery and bus transportation will be provided. The Billings venue will be one of 22 communities that will host this special Christmas event. Information about this event or tickets can be directed to Sandi Schoenberger. This is sure to be a wonderful show featuring Christmas music from the Medora singers.

Sunday school classes continue



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

Classes for Kids:

Middle School and High School: Youth meet in the downstairs youth coffee room with Russ and Heidi. Sunday school for children grades K-5 is held during our worship service continues for children ages kindergarten through the 5th grade.

Adult Education:

A new members’ class will begin on Sunday, November 5 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. Led by Pastor Dave this two week class is offered for those who wish to become a member of our church and/or those wishing to learn more about our church and all that we have to offer.

“Donuts With Dave” will be held on Sunday, November 19 in the Fireside Room at 9:15. Join Pastor Dave for an informal time to talk about matters of spirituality, Christianity, and religion. Our topic will center around being thankful. Come and join us for donuts and discussion.

Church and Society Class:

This class meets every Sunday morning at 9:15 AM in our Church & Society Room. A different guest speaker is invited each week. Here is the schuel for November:

November 5: Charlotta Eaton, MD will present, “The Basics—Memory loss, dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.” If you or someone you know is affected by Alzheimer’s disease or dementia, it’s time to learn the facts. This program will provide information on detection, causes and risk factors, stages of the disease, treatment, and much more.

November 12: Candace Forrette, Executive Director of Global Village, will present, “Celebrating 30 years of Fair Trade.” Since its beginnings in Billings, Global Village has expanded its retail space several times, offering products made by artisans in 40 different countries. Candace will explain fair trade and how this concept has provided a unique way of helping support these artisans.

November 19: First Presbyterian Church Foundation will be our guest presenters. Board members will present an annual update. Topics include types of gifts suitable for the endowment, the Montana Tax Credit, how the Foundation supplements our church budget, and a history of the distributions made to the church.

November 26: There will be no Church and Society on this day due to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Youth News:

The “Pie Auction” on Sunday, October 8 was a great success. Thank you to the pie bakers and suppliers of soups. Our appreciation to those attending the event and your generous support.



The Middle and High School youth meet on Wednesday evenings and are furnished a wonderful meal by our church family sponsors. October meals were prepared by Janet and Marv Brown, Peggy and Don Cluff, and Michelle Lee. The young people have an activity period, worship and discussion times. The “We Believe Band” and FPC Youth Singers are being formed and plan to perform on December 10th at our “White Out” service. Pastor Dave, Heather McLean, Erica and Alicia Nelson continue to give of their time to be the teachers and mentors of the youth.

The “We Believe” basketball clinics will run from November 4 thru December 16. These are for K-2nd and 3rd-5th. The participants will perform “Jesus Loves Me” and “White Christmas” for our December 10th “White Out”. We invite them to attend K-5th Sunday School while their families enjoy worship with Pastor Dave and our FPC family. Thanks to Grace, Burke, Samantha, Steenamarie, John and Isaiah for handing out clinic flyers at Amend Park on Saturday, October 14.

The college group, under the leadership of Russ Kline, Jody Ferestad and Lee Webber, meet after worship on Sundays. If anyone would like to sponsor a meal, it would be welcome. They are planning their role in our church and long term organization.

Some of our college group instruct our K-5th Sunday School classes. These are interns Dani Repka, Tamara Lucht, Hunter Skov and Lexi Freitag. Russ Kline and Heidi Duncan are our leaders of middle and high school classes. FPC is so thankful for their many years of service. Pastor Dave leads our adult class.

The youth groups are selling “We Believe @ FPC” shirts for our “White Out” service on Sunday, December 10. You may purchase one for \$10 anytime in the lobby. Just pick a size and put your \$ in the box. Youth will be at the table after Sunday services. Thank you to Emma and John for their time manning the 1st sales. Proceeds from the pie auction and shirt sales go directly to the youth groups. “WE BELIEVE!”

Christmas decorating to be held Saturday, December 2

We invite you to join us to decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 2 at 4:00 PM. We will be decorating trees, hanging wreaths, arranging the nativities, and placing our Christmas banners around the church. A free meal will be served. Please join us!

Men’s group

Our men’s group is meeting the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 12noon in the Fireside Room. Join other men for a time of encouragement, fellowship, prayer, and study. This group is currently studying the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes which addresses our purpose in life. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 13 at 12noon. All men are invited.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Mission Committee	Thursday, November 2 at 1:00 PM
Christian Education	Thursday, November 2 at 7:00 PM
Property Committee	Tuesday, November 7 at 12noon
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, November 8 at 9:30 AM
Worship Committee	Monday, November 13 at 10:00 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 PM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, November 16 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Monday, November 27 at 4:00 PM
Fellowship Committee	Thursday, January 4 at 11:00 AM

Stephen Ministry Update

We have an active group of Stephen Ministers who are working to help others in our church and community. Each of our church’s Stephen Ministers are assigned a care receiver with whom they provide one-on-one skills of listening, encouragement, and spiritual help. Stephen Ministry supervision is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM and includes time for continuing education and support. More information about Stephen Ministry is available through one of our church Stephen Ministry leaders who are JoAnn Jones, Doris Backus, Shirley Shirley, or Pastor Dave.

Birthdays

- 1 Josephine Bartels
- 2 Marian Shehein
- 5 Cherrie McRae
- Marge Pemble
- Janet Brown
- 7 Cook Murch
- Janice Ward
- 9 Beth Morrow
- 10 Chris Eriksen
- Bernice Phillips
- 12 Deborah Oliver
- 15 Barbara Muir
- 16 Julie Michalsky

- Lis TenHarmsel
- 17 Steve Bentley
- 19 Emma McLean
- Roger Hutchison
- 20 Helen Zottnick
- 24 James J. Hummel
- 27 Colleen Lorentz
- Gail Janiak
- 28 Heather McLean
- Kathy Dubs
- Cheryl Nagel

Anniversaries

- 23 Bill & Trina White
- 27 Jim & Jo Ausk
- 28 Ken & Ann Chase
- Bruce & Bernice Phillips



Mission News

We are so very thankful for everyone who stopped by the Mission table at the Ministry Fair. Hopefully you learned something about what we are all doing for God’s children. Lewis and Clark Middle School is near to our church. They have a food pantry program so that the needy students can take some food home for dinner. We are continuing to support this important cause to help the children come to school with full stomachs and ready to learn. We donated \$1,250 to them.



During worship on Sunday, October 8, we gave away money in our “Pay it Forward” program. We are excited to hear what you have done with your \$10.00. Let Pastor Dave know how you used your funds to help others.

Special thanks to Chris Eriksen, Carla Bracken, and Carlene Taubert who assisted at the Habitat for Humanity breakfast on Saturday, October 14. About 65 people attended this community breakfast provided by IHOP and then joined Habitat for the wall raising of Jim Brown’s home in the Heights. Our church is one of the sponsors of this home through funds provided by the mission committee.

Our Noisy Offering was received on Sunday, October 29 during worship. A total of \$2,000 (the \$1,000 that was collected by the Noisy Offering was matched with another \$1,000 from the Mission Committee) was received for the ministry of Charles and Melissa Johnson, Presbyterian missionaries in Africa. They are working to help improve farming, educational, and health practices in that area. Thanks to all who contributed to this special offering.

Global Village will be setting up a display of things from their store to sell in the fellowship hall on Sunday November 5. It will be a great time to start your Christmas shopping. Come and see what they have to offer.

We are making plans for the Angel Tree once again to help local families and individuals this Christmas. We will have the tree up in the gallery by the end of November. Get ready to give a Christmas gift to someone special whose needs and wants will be hanging on the tree.

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” —Hebrews 13:2

Veterans’ Day service returns to our church on Saturday, November 11

Our church is pleased to once again host the annual Veterans’ Day community service on Saturday, November 11 at 10:00 AM. This service will involve many from the community who will provide music and appreciation toward our veterans. Pastor Dave has been working with Bill Kennedy to provide a nice service to our veterans and to remember those who gave of their lives and time to our country. Please join us as we pay tribute to our great veterans and thank them for their service which have preserved the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

Following the service there will be a 21 Gun Salute in Veterans’ Park and then all will be invited to a free lunch provided by the VFW in the Heights.