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January

2018



PASTOR'S PEN

"Many Thanks for 2017"



Today is a fairly typical day in the life of our church. Chuck Leggate came by to install some new locks on cabinets, Carla Bracken wandered in to water the Christmas poinsettias, Bill White showed up with his four wheeler to help remove snow from the sidewalks, and Bill Lorentz came in to make copies of his bulletin for the West Park service he is leading on Sunday. Yes, today is a fairly typical day in the life of our church as we rely heavily upon volunteers to carry out the work of the Lord on the corner of 13th and Poly.

One of the dangers in naming names is that many people go unnamed. There are countless of you who come by on any given day to help with church maintenance, lead Bible studies, participate in activities, and make sure that the day-to-day operations of the church are functioning properly.

I am grateful for a wonderful group of volunteers who give countless hours to our work and ministry. As I reflect upon 2017 we accomplished a number of things through the help of volunteers like you. You gave of your time with mission efforts to Habitat for Humanity, Ponderosa Pines Nursing Home, and the Tumbleweed Youth Program. You came and baked pies and cookies to take to our shut-in members. You assisted with youth group, Sunday school, the basketball clinics, decorated the church for Christmas, transported people to and from church, and gave of your time helping with our morning worship service. Many of you have served on committees, sang in the choir, served communion, visited the sick, helped prepare and serve the Senior Thanksgiving Dinner, and organized and assisted at our annual Community Block Party. Others of you provided special music during worship, assisted with our two support groups, served in our Stephen Ministry program, hung pictures in the newly decorated hallway, and sent cards and notes of encouragement.

Yes, our church is made up of many people, young and old alike, who give of their time, talents, and treasures to make FPC Billings all that it is. Having said this, there is room for growth as we approach 2018. I hope that we will keep our attention focused on God who guides us, our minds centered on God's word that directs us, and our eyes focused outward to the needs of others. Opportunities will be given to help you deepen your faith and trust in God. We will continue to find ways to expand our reach to the Billings area. Our church will continue to grow and flourish under the wonderful hand of the Lord.

I look forward to a New Year and new possibilities. I look forward to seeing how and where the Lord takes us in ministry. I look forward to what lies ahead on this journey of faith. I look forward to having you come by the church to move snow, water flowers, make copies, and install locks. Paul, in his farewell remarks to the church at Ephesus says, "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35).

Happy New Year to you and your families!

—Pastor Dave

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Sunday school classes resume on Sunday, January 7
Congregational meeting coming on Sunday, January 28 after worship
Youth Ski Retreat coming to our church on February 23-25— See Pastor Dave for details

MEMORY JOGGERS FOR JANUARY

The 7th

Preaching
Garrett Mostowski,
seminarian
Key Elder
Chuck Leggate
Greeters
Bud & Joanne
Leuthold
Ushers
Ken & Barbara
Eichenberger
Greg & Deb Wiens
Liturgist
Vicki Thompson
Van Driver
Chuck Leggate
Sound Booth
David Bauer

The 14th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Chris Eriksen
Greeters
Bob & Linda Fedric
Ushers
Bud & Joanne
Leuthold
Peggy Wilson
Charlie Reed
Liturgist
Shirley Shirley
Van Driver
Don Harr
Sound Booth
Chuck Leggate
Flower Delivery
Chris Eriksen

Communion

Beth Morrow
Sharon Matthews
Bill & Collen Lorentz
Lois Maris

The 21st

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Ken Eichenberger
Greeters
Curt & Mary Grabow
Ushers
Marlene Spencer
Sharon Brady
Marian Shehein
Betty Ann Nesmith
Liturgist
Karla Mahan
Van Driver
Don Harr
Sound Booth
Jeff Gruizenga
Flower Delivery
Jack & Karla Mahan

The 28th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Greeters
Jo Albin
Shirley Harr
Ushers
Carla Bracken
Teena Bracken
Diane Noddings
Peg Ostlund
Liturgist
Michelle Berger
Van Driver
Heather McLean
Sound Booth
Bob Culbertson
Flower Delivery
Chuck & Cindy Leg-
gate

February 4th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Chuck Leggate
Greeters
Bud & Joanne
Leuthold
Ushers
Ken & Barbara
Eichenberger
Greg & Deb Wiens
Liturgist
Vicki Thompson
Van Driver
Chuck Leggate
Sound Booth
David Bauer

Communion

Beth Morrow
Sharon Matthews
Bill & Colleen
Lorentz
Lois Maris

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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 @ 10:30 AM

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 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, January 7. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

Session Notes: At the December 12th meeting of the session the design and installation of a stained glass window in honor of Scott Harr was approved.

The session voted to install air conditioning in Fellowship Hall and to replace windows in the Fireside Room.

Pastor Dave was given permission to baptize Katani Cassanta Joseph, the great granddaughter of Shirley and Bob Shirley, on December 24 during the morning worship service.

It was agreed that our church would be the site of a neutral pulpit for the Pastor Nominating Committee from Miles City on Sunday, January 7. Garrett Mostowski, seminary student from Princeton, will be preaching that morning during worship.

Financial snapshot

2017	Income	Expense	Net
December	\$ 78,703	\$ 44,290	\$ 34,413
YTD	\$ 610,578	\$ 381,308	\$ 228,770

Pledge cards for 2018 are being received to the church office.
 We appreciate the financial support you provide to our church which allows us to share God's grace and love in our community and beyond Billings.

Sermons available on-line

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. The past 12 weeks are archived on our church's website.

DECEMBER	2017
3RD	216
10TH	273
17TH	218
24TH	486
31ST	84
2017 DE-CEMBER AVERAGE	255

Church Mice: John Reed is a multi-talented man who is willing to share those talents with our church and the community. Among his many contributions to First Presbyterian, John keeps our sprinklers running and works on the grounds in general. This past summer John replaced 50 outdated sprinkler heads, providing a more efficient watering system for our church yard. He also brings us music with his guitar during the Sunday service and occasionally drives the church van. He has also been assisting with the music during our Wednesday evening youth program. But perhaps his greatest talent is being a kind, compassionate, pleasant individual. We are very fortunate to have John in our midst.



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 December. They are Shirley & Bob Shirley in celebration of God's gifts and Linda Luse in honor of her daughter Jenanne Luse. Special thanks also to those who purchased Christmas poinsettias. Our recognition list is printed as an insert in this newsletter.

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.

Bus service to begin on Sunday mornings

Our church will begin offering free bus transportation on Sunday mornings to and from worship with pick ups at St. John's/Mission Ridge (9:40 AM) and West Park Village (10:00 AM) beginning on Sunday, January 7. To get on the bus schedule please contact either Don Harr or Pastor Dave and they will make the arrangements. David Sanderson has agreed to be our new bus driver. We are happy to provide this service as a mission and outreach of our congregation.

Congregational meeting coming on Sunday, January 28

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28 immediately following our worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a new class of elders and deacons, elect a nominating committee for the coming year for the selection of elders and deacons, review the 2017 financial statements, hear reports from the past year, and to review the 2018 proposed budget. Annual reports will be available on Sunday, January 21, a week prior to the meeting. We invite you to take a report and look it over prior to the meeting on Sunday, January 28.

Israel trip plans continue forward

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. The deadline to sign up is not until later this fall, but space is limited. Let Pastor Dave know if you are interested in this trip. Our next trip meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16 at 6pm.

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 second 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 condolences to Marilyn Mahan who passed away last month at West Park Village. There are no services planned for her at this time.

Marge Pimble’s memorial service will be held this next summer on Saturday, July 7 at 11:00 AM at our church. Marge died in October in St George, Utah, and was a long time member of our congregation.

Judy Cuff was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She had surgery last month and is now considering follow up treatment options.

Juanita Stovall has returned home from the hospital after suffering a small stroke on Christmas Day.

Cathy McLean will be having surgery to remove cancer on her lungs on January 10 at the Billings Clinic.

Bev Pinnick is home following outpatient surgery several weeks ago.




Fern Nelson fell and fractured her hip last month. She was hospitalized at St. V’s and is now recovering at home.

Cindy Leggate has had several heart procedures this past month at St. V’s Hospital.

Deb McClain will soon begin chemotherapy treatments for breast cancer.

Singles group to meet on Saturday, January 20

Our church’s singles group will be meeting on Saturday, January 20 at 10 AM at the Western Emporium Restaurant, located at 3141 King Ave West. Our singles group meets monthly for various activities. For more information about this group, please contact either Tom Erskine or Phyllis Brown.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 	2 12 Property Mtg.	3 9-1 Preschool 12 Grief Support 12 BLT No Youth Group	4 11 Fellowship Mtg 1 Mission Committee Meeting 7 Christian Ed Mtg	5 9-1 Preschool	6
7 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park worship	8 12 Men’s Group 6 Billings Child Care Assn (BCCA)	9 9:30 Women’s Bible Study 7 Session Mtg.	10 9 BSF Leader 9-1 Preschool 9:30 PW Board 10 Real Life Issue 12noon BLT 6 Youth Resumes 7 Choir Rehearsal	11 9 BSF Resumes 8-5 Dave at presbytery committee meeting in Bozeman	12 9-1Preschool	13 10 Gluten Intolerant Group (GIG)
14 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Communion 11:00 West Park Worship	15 Church Closed In Honor of 	16 9:30 Women’s Bible Study 10 Grief Support 12 West Park Ministry team 6 Israel Trip Mtg.	17 9 BSF Leader 9-1 Preschool PW Circles Meet 10 RLI Group 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	18 9 BSF 12 Congregational Care Team Newsletter Deadline	19 9-1 Preschool	20 10 Singles group @ Western Emporium
21 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	22 9 Preschool 11:30 Stephen’s Min Leaders Mtg 12 Men’s Group 4 Deacons Mtg	23 9:30 Women’s Bible Study 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision	24 9 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7Choir Rehearsal	25 9 BSF	26 9-1 Preschool	27
28 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Annual Meeting after worship 11 West Park	29 9 Preschool	30 9:30 Women’s Bible Study	31 9 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal			

Presbyterian Women



The Presbyterian Women’s group enjoyed a wonderful Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 6 at 12noon in the Fellowship Hall. Janie Sutton and Judy Frank provided special Christmas music.

The PW 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. Consider joining one of our groups to grow in your faith in God and one another. For more information about the PW organization in our church, please talk with either Sandi Schoenberger or Marlene Spencer.

The PW board will meet on Wednesday, January 10 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room and the monthly PW groups will meet on Wednesday, January 17.

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.

New Year/New You begins January 7

Pastor Dave will offer an updated version of his popular New Year’s class, “New Year/New You” beginning on Sunday, January 7 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. This class is open to anyone who desires to make changes to their lives. Perhaps you want to change your attitude, lose weight, quit a bad habit, or better a relationship with a family member or friend. Pastor Dave will help us look at a biblical blueprint to change and give practical ways and examples to make change happen. Join us for this exciting and practical class

Church and Society Class Schedule for January:

JANUARY 7: Dr. Charlotta Eaton will present “Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior.” Join us to learn to decode behavioral messages, identify common behavior triggers, and learn strategies to help intervene with some of the most common behavioral challenges of Alzheimer’s disease. This is the third in our series about the many facets of dementia that includes Alzheimer’s.

JANUARY 14: Dr. Alan Muskett, Plastic Surgeon, book author, and Billings Gazette contributor. His topic will be “Behave Yourself—Sexuality and the Christian.”

JANUARY 21: The Honorable Susan Watters, Federal District Judge. Judge Watters will discuss the differences between state district court and the federal district court. Are these cases relevant to church and societal issues? Does religion have a role in abating the number of people in the federal system? Judge Watters made history as the first woman in Montana to become a US district judge in the state of Montana. She was recently confirmed by the US Senate.

JANUARY 28: Stan Parker and Peter Tolton, documentary film producers of “Makoshika—A Documentary Film.” The diverse communities who have lived in the badlands of Montana and North Dakota have seen dramatic changes over centuries—boom towns have withered into ghost towns when the weather turned or jobs disappeared, only to thrive again; today, an influx of people, wealth and development is once again transforming the area. Makoshika is an artful, informative portrait of a fascinating American region undergoing yet another huge transformation. Directed by Billings Photographer Jessica Jane Hart. This is Stan’s second documentary and this spring he and Peter will begin their next project of retracing the war experiences of a Billings Vietnam veteran. Stan grew up in our church and is the son of Carlene Taubert and Mark Parker.

Youth News:

Craig Carse, who had been our Ministry Intern for the past four months is no longer in this position. We want to thank Craig for his good work in a number of areas of ministry to our children, youth, college, and young adult programs. Craig plans to remain with the church as a volunteer and pursue other vocational possibilities at this time.



The middle/high school and college youth concluded the Fall term with a Christmas event at Bob and Shari Dayton’s home on December 20. The middle/high school groups will resume on January 10th at 6:00 pm. The college will resume on January 14th after our Sunday worship service. Sunday School for K-5th and middle/high school will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

The Fall term concluded with a wonderful “White Out” service on December 10th with approximately 300 people in attendance. On December 6th a quality and fun birthday party for Jesus was held with good attendance. The “We Believe” clinics ended on December 16th. It was a most successful event.

The Spring term promises to be fun and educational. A “Winter Retreat” will be held at our FPC and encompass the Yellowstone Presbytery on February 23rd-25th. Skiing at Red Lodge on February 24th. For more information about this event, please talk with Pastor Dave.

Plans for our youth’s Easter programs, community service projects, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, summer missions and camps with general events for the spring and summer will be exciting. Much to come!

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 Deuteronomy which addresses the history of Moses and the people of God. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 8 at 12noon. All men are invited.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in January

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee	Tuesday, January 2 at 12noon
Fellowship Committee	Thursday, January 4 at 11:00 AM
Mission Committee	Thursday, January 4 at 1:00 PM
Christian Education	Thursday, January 4 at 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	Monday, January 8 at 10:00 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, January 10 at 9:30am
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, January 18 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Monday, January 22 at 4:00 PM

An update from Charles and Melissa Johnson, missionaries in Zambia, Africa

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church,
Melissa and I want to thank you for your recent donation in support of our work in Zambia. Financial and prayer support are vital to us. We had a great time meeting with members of the mission team when we were there in August and appreciated the opportunity to share our work with you.
Melissa and I arrived back in Zambia, in mid-November to pretty severe power problems. We were going up to three days without electricity, which also affected our having water. When the grocery store is two hours away, it complicates things. The situation has now improved and while it doesn’t stay on all the time, we have power for about 12 hours each day, and that’s enough to keep things in the freezer and refrigerator cold. Fortunately Presbyterian World Mission approved reimbursement for a generator to provide power if we need it. We have a group coming from First Presbyterian Church of Burlington, NC, next month, and the generator will come in handy.
We are both settling back into our work routine, as well as life in Zambia. We’ve been busy at Chasefu, working to get crops planted. The rains began in November, and have been a little spotty, but I believe it’s finally safe to say rainy season has arrived. The Model Farm is planting maize, and the Agricultural Income Generating Activity is planting pigeon peas, groundnuts and soybeans. During a recent trip to Malawi, I got some coffee bean seed and we’re going to plant a test plot to see how it performs.
Melissa is getting her ducks in a row to begin a sewing and education project which provides washable, reusable feminine hygiene products for girls, to keep them in school. She’s been involved with a program called Days for Girls beginning with our short term work in DR Congo.
We want to thank you again for your recent gift to our support and your prayers. Both are greatly appreciated. Please express our gratitude to our friends there. Here’s wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Birthdays

- 1 Fern Nelson

3 Willard Johnson

4 Mary Rottrup

5 Greta Murray

7 Bob Shirley

10 Zackery Bennett

12 Craig Carse

14 Nick Goettel
- 15 Robert Sterup

16 Louis Dubs

17 Martha Davidson

20 Scott Harr

24 Robert Keenum

25 Dick Davidson

26 Tyler Goettel

- 27 Katelyn Morrow
- 29 Mark Parker
- 30 Jean Schneider
- Kay Hein

Anniversaries

- 6 Kurt & Cathy McLean
- 15 Kyle & JoLayne Buffington

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.

Foundation News and Gift

The First Presbyterian Foundation met on Monday, December 11 for its year end meeting. The Foundation would like to thank everyone who made a donation to the foundation in the past year. The Foundation Board shared about planned giving options during the Church & Society class on Sunday, November 19. For more information about the Foundation or how to make a planned gift to the church, please talk with Jenice Fugere, Tonya Appelt, or Bob Dayton.
The Foundation gave a check to the church in the amount of \$27,566. These funds will go toward the General Fund of the church which supports the church’s mission and ministry. We thank all who give toward the church’s Foundation during this past year. The purpose of the Foundation is to provided a sustainable income to the church through the generosity of its donors. Each year the Foundation gives 3% of its fund balance to the ministry of our congregation, while the fund principle continues to grow for years to come.
New email address: foundation@fpcbills.org

Mission News

We would like to thank everyone who purchased gifts for the Angel Tree this Christmas. The gifts were delivered to Tumbleweed Youth Program and Ponderosa Pines Nursing Home. Thanks to all who helped brighten this Christmas for many in our community. Both organizations were very grateful for the many presents that were given!! We gave 22 gifts to Ponderosa Pines and 36 to Tumbleweed. Also some people gave extra gifts to Tumbleweed for youth that they serve but may not have filled out a gift form for a variety of reasons.
We have donated \$1,200 to the Rescue Mission.
We will have a Noisy offering in January. The money will go to Family Promise, formally known as IHM.
We had a Habitat for Humanity day on Thursday, November 30. 14 people from our church went over to work on the house. That you everyone for your help and prayers. This is an “Apostles Build” house, meaning that it is being financially supported by 12 churches. We are considering supporting another house in early 2019. Habitat for Humanity builds about four houses a year.
We are thankful that we were able to help so many this year. May we continue to be a blessing to God’s children in 2018.
We are looking at some long range mission projects to support at a local level. If you have any suggestions please contact Ken Eichenberger who serves as chair of the mission committee form our church
Happy New Year to you and your families!

