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February



2018

PASTOR'S PEN

"Heart and Soul"



The season of Lent will soon be upon us. This six week period provides a time of emphasis for spiritual growth, discipline, and reflection. This year the calendar will provide an added flavor during Lent as several of the observances fall on special occasions. Ash Wednesday will be observed on Wednesday, February 14, which also coincides with Valentine's Day. What a great combination, as Ash Wednesday provides a time for us to reflect upon God's great love for us as he extended himself upon the cross. Join us on that evening at 7:00 PM as we gather together to worship and dwell upon God's love for us in Christ. Communion will be served and ashes will be offered. A special Valentine's treat will be provided for all who join us.

The calendar continues to shape our season as Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, April 1...that's right, April Fools Day! The very heart of the Christian faith, Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, is considered as "foolish" to many. The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Oh the fun we will have on Easter as this foolish message becomes a reality of God's saving grace for us. Two services will be offered on Easter Sunday at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. Join us on this wonder occasion as we celebrate the hope and joy we have in our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

During the season of Lent leading up to Easter, I will be preaching a sermon series on the soul, titled "Souled Out." There are many Bible references to the soul, but it is something that we spend very little time considering what it is and how we can nourish it. I am looking forward to learning more about the soul and how we can strengthen it during these days leading up to Easter.

Our annual Lenten Lunch & Learn series will begin on Tuesday, February 20 from 12-1 PM in the Fireside Room. I will be teaching a series titled, "Destination Heaven: The Last Best Place." Join us for lunch and a time to learn more about heaven. This five week series will continue each Tuesday from 12-1 through Tuesday, March 20.

I look forward to the season of Lent that is upon us and all of the opportunities for spiritual growth that await us. I hope you will pick up one of our Lenten devotionals that will be available on February 11 in the gallery for spiritual growth as well. It truly will be a season of heart and soul.

Blessings to you!

Dave

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MEMORY JOGGERS FOR FEBRUARY

<b>The 4th</b> <b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson <b>Key Elder</b> Sandi Schoenberger <b>Greeters</b> Kurt & Mary Grabow <b>Ushers</b> Bob & Cathy Culbertson Earl & Sharon Henderson <b>Liturgist</b> Robyn Bauer <b>Sound Booth</b> David Bauer  <b>Communion</b> Kathy Butler Jerry & Bobbie Koch Phyllis Brown Ron Sperry	<b>The 11th</b> <b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson <b>Key Elder</b> Ken Eichenberger <b>Greeters</b> Bob & Linda Fedric <b>Ushers</b> Jim Hummel Paige Spalding Megan Lorentz Peggy Wilson <b>Liturgist</b> Linda Luse <b>Sound Booth</b> Chuck Leggate <b>Flower Delivery</b> Sharon Lincoln	<b>The 14th</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson <b>Key Elder</b> Heather McLean <b>Greeters</b> Bob & Linda Fedric <b>Ushers</b> Ken & Barbara Eichenberger Jack & Karla Mahan <b>Liturgist</b> Kay Doss  <b>Communion</b> Marlene Spencer Pat Clark Bob & Cathy Culbertson Sharon Lincoln	<b>The 18th</b> <b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson <b>Greeters</b> Bob & Shirley Shirley <b>Ushers</b> Greg & Deb Wiens Sharon Matthews Jo Albin <b>Liturgist</b> Suzanne Braun <b>Sound Booth</b> Jeff Gruizenga <b>Flower Delivery</b> Edna Carlson	<b>The 25th</b> <b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson <b>Key Elder</b> <b>Greeters</b> Pat Clark Thelma Riggs <b>Ushers</b> Jim & Biff Hogue Linda Broderson Marjorie Stewart <b>Liturgist</b> Margie LaFontaine <b>Sound Booth</b> Bob Culbertson <b>Flower Delivery</b> Dave & Vicki Thompson	<b>March 4th</b> <b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson <b>Key Elder</b> <b>Greeters</b> Gary & Jean Schneider <b>Ushers</b> Janet Brown Edna Carlson Greg & Deb Wiens <b>Liturgist</b> Martha Davidson <b>Sound Booth</b> Chuck Leggate  <b>Communion</b> Russ & Janet Kline Jo Albin Sharon Brady
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COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Souper Bowl of Caring- Food received on Sunday, February 4: Goal 1,000 items!  
Ash Wednesday worship on Wednesday, February 14 at 7 PM  
Lenten Lunch & Learn series begins on Tuesday, February 20 from 12-1 in Fireside Room  
Youth Ski Retreat coming to our church on February 23-25- See Pastor Dave for details  
Winter Presbytery meeting coming to St. Andrew Church in Billings on March 2-3  
Easter Sunday worship on April 1 at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

## 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 2019

Chris Eriksen  
Jenice Fugere  
Chuck Leggate  
Heather McLean

### Class of 2020

David Bauer  
Carla Bracken  
Ken Eichenberger  
Sharon Lincoln

### Class of 2021

Janet Brown  
Jim Hummel  
Bud Leuthold  
Sandi Schoenberger

## 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 collection Sunday will be held on Sunday, February 4. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

## Session Notes:

The session held its first meeting of the year on January 9.

The property committee was given permission to purchase another TV to use as an announcement board. This one will be placed near the main entrance in the gallery.

The members of the Christian Education committee continue to search for someone to lead the youth program. In the absence of a youth director the committee relies on volunteers and youth interns to lead our Sunday school and Wednesday evening youth programs.

New elders and deacons will be ordained and installed on Sunday, February 4, upon election at our congregational meeting on Sunday, January 28.

## Financial snapshot

2018	Income	Expense	Net
January	\$ 29,246	\$ 42,254	\$ (13,008)

Per-capita for 2018 is \$52 per member. We invite each member to pay their own per capita as a way to contribute to the ministry and mission of our church. Per-capita goes to support the work of our presbytery, synod, and General Assembly.

## Sermons available on-line

You can listen to sermons on-line at our website at [www.fpcbillings.org](http://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.

JANU- ARY	2018
7TH	212
14TH	183
21ST	205
28TH	195
AVER- AGE	199

## Church Mice:

The first of a New Year brings promises of new beginnings and resolutions. The Church Mice would like to reflect on past accomplishments. In so doing, we thank retiring session members Jeff Gruizenga, Marvin Brown and Kathy Baskett for their dedicated service to our church. Thanks also to retiring deacons Janet Brown, Pam Gore, and Ruth Kaufman for their loving concern for members of our congregation.

These individuals have given of their time and talents to serve among our church leadership in their respective positions. We also appreciate Sandi Schoenberger (session) and Charlie Pinnick (deacon) who will return for a second term of service to their respective positions. Thanks to all who contribution to the life and ministry of our congregation.



## 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 January. They were Marjorie Stewart in honor of her family, Carol Harr in loving memory of her late husband Scott, and Dave & Vicki Thompson in appreciation to our congregation. Following worship each Sunday, the flowers are distributed to church members and friends in the hospital, nursing homes, or home bound.

## Annual meeting review

Our annual congregational meeting was held after worship on Sunday, January 28. We reviewed reports from various committee over the past year. Thanks to all of the committee chairs who submitted reports and to all who help make our church run smoothly.

We welcomed new leaders as elders and deacons. They include the following people: Elders elected for a three year term: Janet Brown, Jim Hummel, Bud Leuthold, and Sandi Schoenberger (2<sup>nd</sup> term). Deacons elected for a three year term: Jo Ausk, Sharon Brady, Charlie Pinnick (2<sup>nd</sup> term), and Jean Schneider.

Special thanks was given to the members of the Nominating Committee: David Bauer and Heather McLean (session representatives), Judy Cuff, Bobbie Koch, John Reed, and David Sanderson

The 2017 financial statements were reviewed and the 2018 proposed budget was presented. We thank everyone who has contributed to the life of our church and we look forward to another good year in 2018.

Nominations from the congregation were taken for our 2018 nominating committee. Those elected were Heidi Duncan. Jim Hogue, Colleen Lorentz, and John Reed.

## Israel trip plans continue forward

Our church’s trip to Israel from June 11-22, 2018 is now full with 44 participants planning to travel with us. We will visiting a variety of sights, including Jerusalem, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Sea of Galilee, Masada and the Dead Sea.. Pastor Dave is meeting with the trip participants the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM in the Fireside Room. Others from our congregation are invited to these meetings as well. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20 at 6 PM.

## Our Church’s Leadership Team

Moderator of Session: Pastor Dave Thompson

Clerk of Session: Marlene Spencer

### 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)

### Class of 2021

Janet Brown  
Jim Hummel  
Bud Leuthold  
Sandi Schoenberger (2)

Deacons:

### 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)

### Class of 2021

Jo Ausk  
Sharon Brady  
Charlie Pinnick (2)  
Jean Schneider

(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



Ralph Myhre passed away at St. John’s last week. His funeral will be held at our church on Friday, February 23 at 11:00 AM with a lunch reception to follow. Please keep Jane and her family in your prayers.

We extend our condolences to Carl and Vicki Johnson on the death of Carl’s mom, Margaret. Her funeral was held at St. Bernard’s Catholic Church in Billings on January 23.

We extend our sympathies to Jack and Karla Mahan. Karla’s mom, Cheryl Weamer, passed away several weeks ago. A private family memorial service will be held at a future time.

Susan Stewart is recovering at home after having knee replacement surgery last week.

Pastor Cathy McLean is considering treatment options from recent lung cancer and surgery.

Bev Pinnick would especially like to thank the congregation for thoughts, prayers, cards & well-wishes during her last medical crisis & surgery. It means the world to her to worship with such loving, caring people, and she will never forget it.

Charlene Rich’s Funeral service was held in our church on Friday, January 19. Her family would like to thank everyone for a great service. She really enjoyed your church family and always let us know how she like your services throughout the years. We appreciate all your time you put into the service to make it a special day of remembrance. Thanks to all the kitchen volunteers who served the great meal and set up all the seating area. Bless you all.

Shirley Harr remains at home after recently being diagnosed with pancreatic and liver cancer. Here is a note from Shirley: “I am overwhelmed by the show of love and concern, and I very much appreciate your love, letters, and gifts. This has been a great church with the beautiful stained glass windows. With all of my friends here at the church I feel right at home. Thank you to our church and for all of the special music.”

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9-11 BSF 1 Mission Committee Meeting 6 New Elder & Deacon training 7 Christian Ed Mtg	2 9-1 Preschool	3 Family Promise Beach Blizzard Party at the Radisson Inn
4 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park worship	5 6 Billings Child Care Assn (BCCA)	6 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Property Committee Meeting	7 9 BSF Leader 9-1 Preschool 10 Grief Support G 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	8 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)	9 No Preschool classes	10 10 Gluten Intolerant Group (GIG)
11 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Communion 11:00 West Park Worship	12 No Preschool 10 Area pastor's meeting 12 Men's Group	13 9:30 Women's Bible Study  7 Session Mtg.	14 9 BSF Leader 9-1 Preschool 9:30 PW Board 10 RLI Group 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Ash Wed Service	15 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 12 Congregational Care Team	16 9-1 Preschool	17 10 Singles Group Meets
18 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	19 9 Preschool	20 9:30 WBS 10 Grief Support 12 Lenten Lunch & Learn Begins 6 Stephen Ministry 6 Israel Trip Mtg.	21 PW Circles Meet 9 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7Choir Rehearsal	22 9 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 11 Fellowship Mtg <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	23 9-1 Preschool 11 Ralph Myhre's memorial service I 7 Youth Retreat begins	24  Youth skiing in Red Lodge for Youth Retreat
25 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Youth singing in worship 11 West Park Worship	26 9 Preschool 12 Men's Group 4 Deacons Mtg	27 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Lenten Lunch & Learn Series	28 9 Preschool 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal			

Presbyterian Women



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, February 14 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. PW groups will meet on Wednesday, February 21 with two groups meeting in the morning, two groups meeting in the afternoon, and a group that meets in the evening. Talk to Marlene Spencer about meeting times and locations.

Sunday school classes continue

Sunday school for all ages continues each Sunday for children, youth, and adults.

Classes for Kids:

Sunday school for children grades K-5 is held on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM and also during our worship service Our student ministry interns teach these classes.

Middle school and high school youth meet in the downstairs youth coffee room with Russ and Heidi. They are studying curriculum based on the recent movie. “God’s Not Dead”

Two adult education classes are offered every Sunday morning. They are:



New Year/New You!

Pastor Dave continues his popular New Year’s class, “New Year/New You” through February 18 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. This class is open to anyone who desires to make changes to their lives. Pastor Dave is helping participants 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 February:

February 4: Gavin J. Woltjer, Library Director for the Billings Public Library. The Billings Public Library serves 7,800 people a week in a multitude of capacities. But how does one lead a secular organization through Christian leadership? Join us to hear Gavin Woltjer tell about all the ways our library serves the community by being the hands and feet of Christ.” Trained as a geological engineer, he has a MA in literature and Political Rhetoric and recently graduated from Harvard University’s Leadership Institute.

February 11: Jane McCracken, Director of Campaign Development at Family Service, “Is Poverty the Last Acceptable Prejudice in the U.S?” Slowly, cultures in the US have modified or eliminated discriminations or prejudices from our lexicon and belief systems, and we are better for it. However, prejudice against poor people has grown as government funding for support structures has decreased. Is the War on Poverty over? Can we break the cycle of poverty and do we have the collective will to do so? Jane dedicates her life to advocating for those who are most vulnerable and living in overwhelming and exhausting circumstances.

February 18: Rafi Ullah, Global Undergraduate Cultural Exchange Student at MSUB, sponsored by US Government. Rafi is majoring in Political Science in the Honors program in a Pakistani university. He will be discussing the role of Islam in the creation of his home country Pakistan. Has Islam been capable of holding together cultural, geographical, and linguistic differences in Pakistan? Has it made the society more intolerant and allowed a military general to justify a 10 year long coup? Join Rafi in learning more about Pakistan, its religion, and its people.

February 25: Luke Yohannes Vondra, Billings Senior High Student Adopted from Ethiopia, “A Long Journey of Tears, Hardship, Danger, Futility and Hope.” Luke was just 9 months when his mother died and his father was unable to care for him. He eventually was sent to an orphanage. Fearing being turned out into the hardscrabble streets where the impoverished far outnumber the prosperous, he begged a visiting Billings woman to include him in a group to visit Montana. That visit led to him being adopted by John and Jolee Vondra. Join Luke to learn more about Ethiopia, his life here, and the strong bond he feels toward his Ethiopian family and country. Several other Ethiopian adoptees may be joining Luke to tell of their experiences.

Youth News:

Youth group for all middle and high school youth continues every Wednesday from 6-8 PM. We gather for a full dinner, games, music, and learning. We encourage kids to invite their friends as we provide a fun atmosphere to learn about God and the ways of Jesus.



Our annual Winter Ski Retreat will be held at our church on February 23-25 and will involve churches from around Yellowstone Presbytery. A great weekend of activities, learning, games, music, and skiing in Red Lodge on Saturday. Is being planned. The cost is \$25 for the retreat with lift tickets and ski rentals an additional charge. For more information about this event, please talk with Pastor Dave.

We will be doing some community service projects through the Montana Rescue Mission and HUB this winter and spring. We will also be preparing for a summer mission trip and Vacation Bible School in June.

Special thanks to those who provided meals in the month of January. They include Deb McClain, Amanda Webber, Sandi Schoenberger, and Jeff & Kerry Gruizenga. A meal sign up sheet is located near Pastor Dave's office. About seven spots are still available for the spring schedule.

We rely upon a great group of dedicated volunteers to help with our youth ministry programs. If you would like to assist, please talk with Pastor Dave and he will give you more information about ways to become involved in this important ministry and outreach to our youth.

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, February 12 at 12noon. All men are invited.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in February

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Mission Committee	Thursday, February 1 at 1:00 PM
Christian Education	Thursday, February 1 at 7:00 PM
Property Committee	Tuesday, February 6 at 12noon
Worship Committee	Monday, February 12 at 10:00 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, February 14 at 9:30 AM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, February 15 at 12noon
Fellowship Committee	Thursday, February 22 at 11:00 AM
Deacons Meeting	Monday, February 26 at 4:00 PM

Lunch & Learn Series begins on Tuesday, February 20

Our annual Lenten Lunch & Learn series will begin on Tuesday, February 20 from 12-1 PM in the Fire-side Room. Join us for lunch and a time to grow in our faith. Taught by Pastor Dave, he will be leading a series titled, "Destination Heaven: The Last Best Place." Pastor Dave will help us look at a variety of passages that will help us better understand what heaven is and the promises of heaven to all who believe. Did you know that there are almost 500 references to heaven in the Bible? This five week series will continue each Tuesday from 12-1 though Tuesday, March 20. Lunch is free and open to all.

Climate change constructive conversation coming February 24

A Constructive Conversation on "Can we realistically do anything about climate change?" will be held Saturday, February 24 from 1-3:30 p.m. at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church located at 180 24th Street West in Billings. In these conversations, people are assigned to groups of 6 people, 3 who are responding with a YES and 3 who are responding with a NO. With the guidance of a facilitator, each person has the opportunity to talk about personal beliefs and feelings on climate change. The goal is to learn to listen to others who do not have your viewpoint, and then to share your own experiences in a safe place. In Constructive Conversations, there is no debate and no consensus is reached; instead, we learn to listen and to talk in a civil way about a controversial topic.

Constructive Conversations are free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. To register, please call 406-656-9256 before February 21, stating your name, contact information, and your response of "Yes" or "No" to the question, "Can we realistically do anything about climate change?"

February Birthdays

1 Leslene Cassel	12 Paul Crellin	21 Nichole Ferestad
2 Kerry Gruizenga	Lauren Wright	Curtis Pattee
Craig Hash	13 Bill Letson	Lorrie Rimpe
Annabelle Buffington	Alexander Repka	22 Robert Thiesen
3 Ryan Johnson	Danielle Repka	Helen Montgomery
4 Nicholas Wiens	John Quandt	23 Bill Lorentz
5 Monica Parker	14 Jody Mercer Wallace	24 Jean Marshall
7 Marv Brown	Halle Lynn Spring	25 Susan Stewart
David Bauer	15 Michael Repka	27 Jason Pattee
8 Carol Harr	Kathy Ramage	Delores Reinhart
9 Shirley Harr	16 John Reamy	28 Lewis Schoenberger
Caitlin McRae	Tyler Carey	29 Ruth Kaufman
10 Earl Henderson	Linda Broderson	Karen Morrow
Chuck Leggate	17 Carl Johnson	
10 Erica Nelson	Jack Quandt	
	19 Skip Hayes	

February Anniversaries

10 Gary & Jean Schneider

Stephen Ministry Update

We have an active group of Stephen Ministers who are working to help others in our church and communi-ty. 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.

Singles group to meet on Saturday, February 17

Our church's singles group will be meeting on Saturday, February 17 at 10 AM at a location to be deter-mined. Watch the Sunday bulletin and the weekly e-news for meeting location. Our singles group meets monthly for various activities. For more information about this group, please contact either Tom Erskine or Phyllis Brown.

Mission News

We received so many presents or gifts for Christmas, but are we present for family, friends, and strangers in need?

The mission committee spent time with Keith Dow, a regional director for Young Life in Billings. We learned about various programs. Young Life has 60 volunteers and only 4 paid staff to work with over 600 youth who meet several times each month. They are funded by individual do-nors, businesses, and fund raisers. They send youth for a week in summer camp.

Young Life's goals are to make sure all kids know that they have friends and to introduce each of them to Christ. The volunteers "walk with the kids" through their daily challenges. They plan several nights in June to have fellowship with the residents at the Boys and Girls Ranch in Billings. We are considering helping with food and games. This is a way that we can be present for those in need.

The congregation donated three barrels of socks to be distributed by Salvation Army drivers to the needy. Thank you so much.

We purchased a table of eight for \$1,500 on February 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Family Promise annual Beach Blizzard par-ty. Our church is one of 13 area churches who provide a host site for Family Promise. This organization helps homeless families in the Billings area. Our next Family Promise rotation will be from June 10-17. We encourage new families to come and help with set-up, meals, overnight hosting, and clean-up.

Special thanks to all who gave toward our Noisy Offering on January 28. \$592.80 was collected for Global Village, a local organization that provides fair trade practices for businesses and individuals who live in third world countries.

We are currently collecting food items for Family Service, Inc. Our goal is to collect 1,000 food items by Super Bowl Sunday, February 4. As of the printing of this newsletter we have collected 464 items. Help us to reach our goal to help the less fortunate in Billings.

This year let's try to be present for family, friends, and strangers.

