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2020

Pastor's Pen Annual Meeting Review



Our church's annual congregational meeting was held last Sunday, January 26 as a number of reports were presented from various committees and organizations in our church. In all, 2019 was another good year for our congregation and we enter into a New Year with high hopes and expectations.

During our meeting the following members were elected to serve on our leadership team. Session members elected to a three year term are Robyn Bauer, Carla Bracken, Don Cole, and Dan Ehlang. Carla is coming back to serve a second three year term, which is permissible via our by-laws. Deacons elected to three year terms are Jeri Lamerton, Karen Morrow, Alicia Nelson, Erica Nelson, and Lorrie Rimpe. Lorrie is returning to serve a second three-year term.

Four people were elected to serve on our church's nominating committee in 2020. These individuals will be working with me this coming fall to come up with nominees for elders and deacons to present at our congregational meeting next year. Those who were elected to serve on the nominating committee are David Bauer, Melanie Dyce, Chuck Leggate, and Sharon Mathews.

Our 2020 budget was presented and will be approved at our February session meeting. A budget of \$458,575 includes \$87,020 in mission giving, a 3% cost of living raise for staff members, and a few adjustments to committee budgets. We also have funds set aside for groups and committees in our church to carry out our "Vision 2020 Initiative."

It's fun to see many in our church working on a spiritual goal through our "Vision 2020" series. Many are making significant life changes through the challenge I posed at the beginning of January. Some of you have joined a group to grow deeper in your faith; some are reading the Bible on a regular basis; some are making amends with people from the past, extending God's love and grace to those who have hurt you. It's easy to become complacent in our faith and this series is challenging us to step out and to do something great in the Kingdom of God.

During the season of Lent, beginning on Sunday, March 1, I will be preaching a five part sermon series titled "The Eyes of Christ." In this series, we will be challenged to see people as Jesus saw them...not through the lens of disease or disability, but through the lens of potential and forgiveness. This will continue our Vision 2020 theme as we look at ways that we can become more like Christ in our attitude and actions.

I look forward to working together in this New Year to bring glory to God and to spread the Good News that we have in Christ.

—Pastor Dave

Coming Attractions:

PW luncheon in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, February 5 at 12noon
New Health Support Group begins on Friday, February 21 at 10 AM
Youth Ski Retreat coming to Bozeman on the weekend of February 28-March 1
Ash Wednesday worship service on Wednesday, February 26 at 7:00 PM
Presbytery meeting hosted by our church on March 6-7

Memory Joggers for February 2020

The 2nd	The 9th	The 16th	The 23rd	The 26th Ash Wednesday	March 1 2020
Greeters Jean Grocholski Linda Broderson	Greeters Marge Myhra Edna Carlson	Greeters Juli Dufresne Peggy Wilson	Greeters Len & Bonnie Richards	Greeters Bob & Linda Fedric	Greeters Carl & Vicki Johnson
Ushers Earl & Sharon Henderson	Ushers Bud & Joanne Leuthold	Ushers Kurt & Mary Grabow	Ushers Carla & Teena Bracken	Ushers Jim & Biff Hogue Chris Eriksen	Ushers Sharon Mathews Larry George
Liturgist Doris Backus	Liturgist Cindy Leggate	Liturgist Lori Hall	Liturgist Barb Eichenberger	Liturgist Ron Stowe	Liturgist Don Cole
Sound Booth David Bauer	Sound Booth Marjorie Stewart	Sound Booth Sandi Schoenberger	Sound Booth Kristy Catlin	Sound Booth Heidi Duncan	Sound Booth Marjorie Stewart
Communion Jo Albin	Flower Delivery Jim Irwin	Flower Delivery Suzanne Braun	Flower Delivery Bob Culbertson	Communion Sharon Brady	Communion Linda Franson
Kathy Baskett	Chuck Leggate	Jeff Gruizenga	Dave & Vicki Thompson	Linda Luse	David Bauer
Melanie Dyce	Sharon Lincoln	Edna Carlson		Russ & Janet Kline	
Sherry Garretson				Carla Bracken	
Sharon Mathews					



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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
Youth Director: Russ Dornisch
Office Manager: Jeanne Raney
Accompanist: Sandi Rabas
Choir Director: Janie Sutton
Custodian: Kent Fellingham
Bus Driver: David Sanderson

SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session: Marlene Spencer

Class of 2021

Janet Brown
Jim Hummel
Bud Leuthold
Sandi Schoenberger

Class of 2022

Dick Bailey
Kristy Catlin
Heather McLean
Bruce Phillips

Class of 2023

Robyn Bauer
Carla Bracken
Don Cole
Dan Ehleng

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, February 2. Thanks to all who brought food last month!

Session Notes:

The first meeting of the session for the year was held on Tuesday, January 14 at 7 PM in the Fireside Room. The session meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.
* Raises and bonuses for the staff were approved.
* It was agreed to allow funds for the proposal of the property committee to install a new sink in the kitchen and make repairs to the parking lot.
* Pastor Dave was given permission to baptize Tyler James Goettel, son of Don and Cathy Goettel, on Sunday, January 26 during the worship service.
* David Bauer and Sharon Lincoln were thanked for their six years of service on the session. Carla Bracken has agreed to return for a second term on the session.

Financial snapshot

2020	Income	Expense	Net
January	\$67,309	\$46,597	\$20,712

We appreciate your continued financial support of our church and its ongoing ministries. Per-capita for 2020 is \$55 per member and we ask that each member of the church pays for their per-capita if possible. Pledge cards for 2020 continue to be received.

JANUARY	2020
5th	193
12th	197
19th	214
26th	201
Jan. Ave	201

Website recently updated

Our church website at fpcbillings.org has a fresh look. Lots of information is available on our website for members and also for those looking for a church. We have information about our church's history; what it means to be a Presbyterian; and program options for children, youth, and adults; and calendar. You can listen to sermons on-line at our website as well. Just click the "Listen to Sermons" tab on the upper left corner of our church's homepage. Stay connected even when you are away.

Church Mice: With the recent loss of five of our long-time members, the Church Mice are once again reminded of the importance of those who volunteer in our church community. These five members represent, collectively, service of well over 100 years. In fond memory and with grateful hearts, we remember Mary Carey, Bebe Spring, Tom Helmer, Marilyn Ballard, and Lillian Reese.



We appreciate everyone who takes an active role in our church and bring their personality and perspective to our church community. One of the best things about our church is the rich diversity of ideas and backgrounds that we share collectively through the body of Christ in this particular place.

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 Carol Harr in memory of Scott Harr and Marlene Spencer in honor of her great granddaughter's Allie's 1st birthday from Great Grandma. 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.

Our Church's Leadership Team

Session: Moderator- Pastor Dave Thompson
Clerk of Session: Marlene Spencer

Class of 2021

Janet Brown
Jim Hummel
Bud Leuthold
Sandi Schoenberger (2)

Class of 2022

Dick Bailey
Kristy Catlin
Heather McLean (2)
Bruce Phillips

Class of 2023

Robyn Bauer
Carla Bracken (2)
Don Cole
Dan Ehleng

Deacons:

Class of 2021

Jo Ausk
Sharon Brady
Charlie Pinnick (2)
Jean Schneider

Class of 2022

Peggy Cluff (2)
Pam Harr
Len & Bonnie Richards
Janice Ward (2)

Class of 2023

Jeri Lamerton
Karen Morrow
Alicia & Erica Nelson
Lorrie Rimpe (2)

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



Stephen Ministry Update

Our church will be hosting a Stephen Ministry informational session on Saturday, April 18 beginning at 8:00 AM. Hosted by those from the national headquarters in St. Louis, this event will be open to area churches and leaders who would like more information about starting a Stephen Ministry program in their church or community. We are excited to be able to host this gathering.

Michelle Lee, Rhonda Stennerson, and Pam Harr will be attending the week-long the national Stephen Ministry Leadership Training in Anaheim, California in February Upon completion of this training they will be come certified Stephen Leaders which will enable them to assist with our next round of training a new class of Stephen Minsters this fall at our church.

Our congregation is blessed with a very active group of Stephen Ministers who support the church in providing care and concern to those in our church and community. Stephen Ministry supervision is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 PM and includes time for continuing education and support.

New health support group to begin on Friday, February 21

A new group which is geared to promote healthy lifestyles will begin on Friday, February 21 at 10 AM in the Conference Room. Co-lead by Dr. Heidi Duncan and Dr. Don Harr, this group will help people look at their health from a physical and mental perspective and offer support for people in a number of areas. Not intended to diagnose or treat issues, this group is intended to offer support and encouragement to those desiring good health and to promote healthy living. Heidi is a family practice doctor with the Billings Clinic and Don is a retire psychiatrist with extensive experience in the area of mental health. This group will meet the third Friday of each month at 10 AM in the Conference Room.

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 a wide range of issues
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.



On a Personal Note

We pray for the following families in our church who recently died. They include:
 Lillian Reese's funeral will be held at Smith Funeral Chapel (west end) this Friday, January 31 at 3 PM.
 Marilyn Ballard's funeral was held at our church on January 23.
 Tom Helmer's funeral was held at our church on January 18.
 Bebe Spring's funeral was held at our church on January 17.
 Mary Carey's funeral was held at our church on January 13.
 Judy Lohnbakken and Norma Thiesen have both returned home after recent hospital stays at St. V's.
 Louise Larsen is recovering from hip surgery she had on January 27 at the Billings Clinic.



Zambia, Africa trip update

Seven young adults from our congregation will be traveling to Zambia, Africa this June and will be working through the Arise Africa organization. While in Zambia, the group will be working at an orphanage, school, and community program to help bring the hope of Christ to kids and families.
 As of date the group has raised over \$16,000 toward their trip. If you would like to make a donation to this trip, please write a check to "Arise Africa" and send it to the church office or drop it off in the offering plate. Your donation tax deductible and is greatly appreciated. Sara Thompson is the contact person for this trip and she can be reached at 696-5380.



Presbyterian Women's Ministry



The PW organization in our church has five different groups which meet monthly for study, fellowship. Groups 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 Birthday Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 5 at 12noon in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome to join us for this special lunch and each is asked to donate one penny for each year of her age to be used for a mission project.
 The PW board will meet on Wednesday, February 12 at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room. PW groups will meet on Wednesday, February 19 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.
 On Wednesday, April 8, we will be hostesses for ladies from numerous other churches in Billings for our annual Praise Luncheon.

Sunday school opportunities

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



Classes for Kids:

Sunday school is offered during worship after the children's time each Sunday. I would like to introduce the college interns for this school year. Hunter Skov is back as an intern and is currently a Senior at MSUB. Jackie Harada is currently a Sophomore at MSUB as well. And lastly, Sam Dobson is a Freshman at Rocky Mountain College. If you see these three around the church feel free to say hello. The kids will be going through the book of Corinthians for the next several weeks. —Russ

Special Class for Adults: "Rediscovering Jesus: Seeing Jesus with Fresh Eyes" with Pastor Dave

For many of us, Jesus has been a part of our lives and vocabulary for our entire lives. Jesus, the central figure of our Christian faith, only lived for 33 years and only ministered for three of those years. This remarkable person however can become so commonplace in our lives that we can easily forget about his influence, power, and redemptive nature. Join Pastor Dave for this seven week class which is helping us "Rediscover Jesus." He is helping us look at his early life, formal ministry, death and resurrection in seeing Jesus in a new way. This is part of our Vision 2020 series that will be offered throughout this year. This class meets at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room and will continue through February 23.

Church and Society Class meets in the C & S Room at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings. Here is the schedule of speakers for February:

February 2: Jim Graff, Advertising Career, Retired. "In the Beginning God Created the Heaven and Earth." Join Jim as he describes how he began his advertising career that included producing documentaries about some of the most stunning places of God's creation. With several narrated by Chet Huntley, former NBC Anchor and an original investor in Big Sky Resort, we will see clips of several of these documentaries and hear interesting stories about their production. These documentaries are archived at the Montana Historical Society. Jim and Louise are long-time members of our church.

February 9: Jim Gransbery, Retired Agricultural and Political Reporter, Billings Gazette. "Doctrine of a Just War." Is this Doctrine applicable in 2020? Jim will explore how the Catholic church's view of war has modified through the centuries. He will include views from Thomas Aquinas to Drew Christiansen, former editor of America, a Jesuit magazine, to Pope Francis. Learn how a 'just war' has changed into abolishment of war and a 'just peace' alternative. Is that possible in today's world?

February 16: Tom Singer, Attorney at Axilon Law Group, PLLC; Former Chair and Member of State Bar of Montana's Professionalism Committee. "Honesty is Such a Lovely Word: Is it Too Much to Ask?" Let's be honest. People aren't. They lie. They cheat. They steal. Why is that? More importantly, what can or should we do about it? As Christians should we take a stand?

February 23: Dr. Tim Lehman, Professor of History, RMC. "Religion and Education in Early Montana." Join Dr. Lehman in learning about the connection of religious faith and community building in frontier areas. He will also explain the importance of religious groups, including the Presbyterians, in the founding of Rocky Mountain College.

Shari Dayton continues to seek speakers for our Church and Society class and she is always open to receiving recommendations for upcoming speakers and topics.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
FEBRUARY 2020						1
2 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Communion 11:00 Westpark 6 ReFUEL	3 9-1 Preschool	4 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Property Committee meeting	5 9 BSF Leaders 10 Grief Support 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 College group	6 9 Bible Study Fellowship	7 Church closed 9-1 Preschool	8 10 Calligraphy group in the Fireside Room
9 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:00 Westpark 6 ReFUEL	10 9-1 Preschool 10 Worship Committee 12 Men's Group meets in the Fireside Room	11 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Finance meets 7 Session meeting in the Fireside Room	12 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 9:30 PW Board 10 RLI Group 12noon BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	13 9 Bible Study Fellowship 7 Christian Education Committee	14 Church closed 9-1 Preschool <i>Love</i>	15
16 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11 Westpark 6 ReFUEL group	17 9-1 Preschool	18 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Grief Support Group	19 9 BSF Leaders PW Circles Meet 9-1 Preschool 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	20 9 Bible Study Fellowship 12 Congregational Care Team	21 Church closed 9-1 Preschool 10 Health Support Group Newsletter Deadline	22
23 9:15 Sunday School 10 ;30 Worship 11 Westpark 6 ReFUEL group	24 9-1 Preschool 12 Men's Group 4 Deacon's meeting	25 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6 Stephen Ministry Supervision	26 9 BSF Leaders 9-1 Preschool 6 Youth Group 7 Ash Wednesday Service	27 9 Bible Study Fellowship 7 PM Mission Committee	28 Church Closed 9-1 Preschool Youth Retreat in Bozeman	29 Youth Retreat in Bozeman

Youth News:

January has already been a great month for our youth program. We welcomed back all the students from break with a fun game night here at the church. Since then the youth group has been going through a study on Luke and Acts and will continue that for the next several weeks.



We have also started a Sunday Bible study for the youth down in the coffee room at 9:15 am. So far attendance has been good with roughly 10 kids there the past few Sundays.

We are also preparing for our youth ski retreat in February during the weekend of the 28th in Bozeman. The kids are really excited for this fun weekend.

We have also locked down our mission trip for the summer as we head to Denver to work with Open Door Ministries doing homeless outreach. Part of the requirement of going on the trip is attending our Bible study on Sunday mornings. If you have a middle school or high school teen interested please reach out to Russ to find out more details.

A huge thank you to Jennifer Cole; Jean Schneider; Debbie Stokke; Jeff, Tonya, and Morgan Appelt; and Biff Hogue for providing our Wednesday night youth meals in January!

—Russ Dornisch, Children’s and Youth Ministry; russ@fpcbillings.org; 719-431-3846

Birthdays

- 2 Kerry Gruizenga
- 3 Nicholas Wiens
- 5 Monica Parker
- 6 Tiffany Dyce
- 7 Marvin Brown
- 8 Carol Harr
- 9 Caitlin McRae
- 10 Earl Henderson
- 10 Karla Hoffman

- 12 Lauren Wright
- 13 Bill Letson
- 14 Jody Mercer Wallace
- 15 Michael Repka
- 16 John Reamy
- 17 Carl Johnson
- 19 Skip Hayes
- 21 Nichole Ferestad
- 21 Curtis Pattee

- 22 Lorrie Rimpe
- 23 Bill Lorentz
- 24 Jean Marshall
- 25 Susan Stewart
- 27 Jason Pattee
- 28 Lewis Schoenberger
- 29 Ruth Kaufman
- Karen Morrow

Anniversaries

- 10 Gary & Jean Schneider



Better Together Preschool continues



Our church continues to be the home of the Better Together Preschool and they provide classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9-1 This school is open for children ages 2 through pre-K and meet in the downstairs classrooms. The preschool staff is comprised of five ladies, plus additional help is asked of the parents. For more information, please contact Karen Norsworthy at 690-8481 or Karen Morrow at 281-0280.

Mission News



The Mission Committee is excited to start a new year of helping God’s children in His name. We have some exciting ideas for the future, so look for them in the coming months. Our total mission budget for 2020 will be \$87,020 and of this \$53,000 is designated for charitable giving to those in our community and beyond. In addition our church supports the weekly worship service provided through our West Park Ministry Team, our bus ministry that goes out each Sunday to West Park and St. John’s, mission support to our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, a Pastor’s Discretionary Fund which is used to help people in crisis, fellowship outreach and advertising, and the Stephen Ministry program.

We are excited to be sending three of our Stephen Ministers to the national Stephen Ministry Leadership Training in February. Michelle Lee, Rhonda Stennerson, and Pam Harr will be attending the week-long training in Anaheim, California. Upon completion of this training they will be come certified Stephen Leaders which will enable them to assist with our next round of training a new class of Stephen Ministers this fall at our church.

We provided a meal to the Habitat for Humanity work crew last month. Habitat is a Christian organization whose primary purpose is to build affordable housing for low income families. They have completed nearly 80 homes in the Billings area. Some from our church will be attending Habitat’s annual fundraiser on Saturday, April 4.

Our youth group engages in a mission project every month as a way to teach young people the value of giving. We look forward to partnering with organizations in town to build relationships between our youth group and their clientele.

We appreciate everyone who gave to the Angel Tree gifts for the residents at Eagle Cliffs Manor Nursing Home, less fortunate students of Castle Rock Middle School, and those served through Presbyterian missions.

Our Noisy Offering was received on Sunday, January 26 during worship for the Tumbleweed Youth Program. \$1,373.33 was collected from the congregation and an additional \$1,000 was donated by our church’s mission committee, bring the total donated to \$2,373.33. Thanks to all who gave to this special offering. About three times a year we receive the Noisy Offering to help mission organizations locally, nationally, and internationally.

The mission committee is always open to new ideas and ministries that we can support. We are now meeting the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the Fireside Room. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27. We look for ways that we can impact people in our communion, throughout our region, and around the world. We support three missionary families who work through the Presbyterian church, coming along side of them to support them with our prayers and finances.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, until the end of the age.” —Matthew 28:19-20

Men’s group

Our men’s group meets 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 book of Matthew from the New Testament. For more information about this group, please talk with Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 10th at 12noon. All men are invited.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in September

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee	Tuesday, February 4 at 12noon
Worship Committee	Monday, February 10 at 10:00 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, February 11 7:00 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, February 12 at 9:30am
Christian Education	Thursday, February 13 at 7:00 PM
Fellowship Committee	Tuesday, February 18 at 11:00 AM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, February 20 at 12noon
Deacons Meeting	Monday, February 24 at 4:00 PM
Mission Committee	Thursday, February 27 at 7:00 PM

Come and reFUEL on Sunday evenings



Do you have a desire to get to know people in the church in a more personal way? Do you wish to study the Bible and see how God’s word applies to your life? Join us for reFUEL beginning Sunday evenings from 6-7 PM in the Fireside Room. We have begun a new seven week series titled, *After Christmas*.

In this series we are looking at who Jesus is, how his coming was foretold centuries in advance, the problem he came to solve, and how he solved it on the cross and by his resurrection. Co-led by Bruce Hoffman and Pastor Dave, this series includes time for sharing, study, and prayer and will continue through March 1. We will not be meeting on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2. For more questions, please talk with Dave or Bruce.