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November, 2013

Pastor's Pen

“...And be Thankful”



I must admit that I often need to have an attitude adjustment. I know it might be surprising to have your pastor admit this fact, but it is true. By my own admission, I am easily frustrated by slow drivers, long lines, and an eight year old daughter that doesn't always want to follow the plan. Just the other day I got behind a slow driver on Parkhill and I could feel my blood pressure rising and my level of irritation mounting. I thought about passing or honking, but what if it was one of our members? I decided to back off and enjoy the slow journey toward the church.

Do you ever share these same feelings? Of course you do, it's called human nature. It is for this reason that the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Colossians adds an addendum, “...and be thankful” (Colossians 3:15). For some time I have been intrigued by this verse. It seems that Paul, after writing about the topic of peace, is reminded that thankfulness is an important Christian virtue as well. It's as if Paul in mid-writing stream is saying, “Oh, by the way, be thankful!”

Thankfulness does not come naturally, irritation does. Gratitude does not come inherently, frustration does. It is easy to look at the world, the government, the weather, and our own lives with a critical eye. And yet we have a reminder, “...And be thankful.”

We are in the season of giving thanks, as if there is a certain time of year to be grateful. We, as Christians, have so much for which to give thanks. Because of the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ, we are people of hope, not despair; encouragement, not discouragement; good news, not bad news. This is a good reminder as we find ourselves waiting in long lines, being held at a red light, or behind a slow driver.

I look forward to this special season of giving thanks for all that God continues to do in our church and personal lives. I look forward to worshipping together and finding encouragement in God's word that invites us to be thankful.

Blessings,
Dave

Coming Attractions:

Sunday school for all ages continues on Sundays at 9:15 AM. In addition, we continue to offer our Sunday Kidzzzone program during worship. Children ages preschool through 5th grade are given the opportunity to leave after the Children's Time to go to a special class for age appropriate leaning activities. Volunteers are needed to help staff this new program. If interested in helping, please talk with either Orrin or Heidi Duncan.

Picture Directory: Lifetouch will be taking pictures for our new directory on two additional days: Monday, November 25 and Friday, December 6. You can schedule your appointment by contacting the church office or use the link on the front page of our church's website at www.fpcbillings.org. We hope that everyone will participate.

Memory Joggers for November

The 3rd Preaching Dave Thompson Key Elder Jeff Gruizenga Greeters Ann & Ken Chase Eleanor Reinecke Ushers Jean Ross Doris Backus Diane Noddings Peg Ostlund Liturgist Judy Cuff Care Board Bob & Barb Muir Van Driver Chuck Leggate Communion Harry & Judy Cuff John & Susan Stewart Marlene Spencer	The 10th Preaching Dave Thompson Key Elder Carol Harr Greeters John & Marie Reamy Kay Doss Ushers Royal Johnson Emily Feddes Jim Hummel Paige Spalding Liturgist Edna Carlson Care Board Phyllis Brown Van Driver Don Harr Sound Booth Chuck Leggate	The 17th Preaching Dave Thompson Key Elder Bill Lorentz Greeters Robyn & David Bauer Noah & Lauren Bauer Phyllis Brown Ushers Marlene Spencer Sharon Brady Marian Shehein Betty Ann Nesmith Liturgist Linda Luse Care Board Jody Mercer Wallace Van Driver Kate Mitchell Sound Booth Jeff Gruizenga	The 24th Preaching Dave Thompson Key Elder Janet Kline Greeters Bob & Linda Fedric Don Reed Ushers Jim & Biff Hogue Deb & Greg Wiens Liturgist Shari Dayton Care Board Chuck & Cindy Leggate Van Driver Don Harr Sound Booth Bob Culbertson	Substitute Ushers: Pat Clark Kay Doss Tom & Ruth Drummond Anna Mae Dyce Ginger Green Tom & Ginny Helmer Earl & Sharon Henderson Biff Hogue Bob & Barbara Muir Jane Myhre (if no choir) Ray & Jean Noble Diane Noddings Charlie Reed Don Reed George Schuman Bill Woolston	Substitute Greeters: Ann & Ken Chase Kay Doss Tom & Ruth Drummond Anna Mae Dyce Bob & Linda Fedric Ginger Green Jeanie Hekkel Tom & Ginny Helmer Earl & Sharon Henderson Biff Hogue Midge Jarrett JoAnn Jones Walt & Priscilla Laird Bob & Barbara Muir Marge Myhra Jane Myhra (if no choir) Ralph Myhra (if no choir) Betty Ann Nesmith Ray & Jean Noble June Pierce John & Marie Reamy Charlie Reed Bob & Shirley Shirley Jerry Swanson Lucile Weisbeck Bill Woolston
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Dinners of Eight

Christmas is on its way. Let's make it one to remember new friends. I know that it is busy, but it is all about getting to know others in the congregation. Make it easy on everyone, whether it's in the home of an outing, but make it easy.

If you find that you cannot host, give someone on your team to do the hosting. Do not let this time fall through There are times that you just cannot host an event, but someone else may be happy to do it, give them a chance. The **Host(s)** (**first name(s) in cell**) picks a couple of dates during the subject Month that is convenient for you and calls your guests. If you are short of guests (someone may not be able to come), fill in the spaces with new faces with substitutes listed below or anyone not involved in dinners of eight (don't forget new members or older members). Let your guests know when and where to come and what side dish or beverage to bring if any. (If you do not hear from your host call them, they may have forgotten.)

This is a very flexible program. Any activities to accompany or follow your dinner are up to you. Even the dinner format can be modified to a brunch or whatever creative ideas you come up with including eating out. **Enjoy your dinners!**

If there are any questions or problems, etc., please notify Pat Hastings immediately at 696-0281 or pathast@msn.com (be sure to title it Dinners of Eight). **Please note any new names on the list or changes.** Also, if you have a change in your email please let me know. I am getting some back.

November/December/January

Morrow	Beth	656-2292	Taubert	Carlene	Mark Parker	698-2205
Brady	Sharon	655-9046	Drummond	Tom	Ruth	656-5977
Lorentz	Bill	Colleen	Myhre	Ralph	Jane	652-9172
Montville	Chris	Michelle	Lafko	Jody		651-8060
Carlson	Edna		Wilson	Peggy		254-6726
Pierce	June	245-7989				

Klovstad	Howard	Sharon	254-2011	Muir	Bob	Barbara	256-6099
Spring	BeBe		252-7898	Swanson	Jerry	Colleen	656-8104
Mercer-Wallace	Jody		656-4150	Kline	Russ	Janet	652-6374
Culbertson	Bob	Cathy	655-7826	Stewart	John	Susan	652-3637
Hogue	Jim	Biff	259-9114				

Reed	Don	Michelle	252-5316	Eichenberger	Ken	Barbara	248-8563
Dayton	Bob	Shari	256-3130	Hastings	Mike	Pat	656-0072
Brown	Marvin	Janet	256-0257	Hammermeister	Lewis		252-8963
Fugere	Jenice		252-9641	Wiens	Greg	Deb	652-1889
Reineche	Eleanor		248-8293	Albin	Jo		656-5600

Lohnbakken	Gary	Judy	656-2046	Ascheman	Jason	Meghan	259-1336
Brown	Phyllis		652-3727	Basket	Kathy	Basingthwaite	544-9857
Repka	Sarah		238-0092	Ershine	Tom	, Mark	656-4969
Thiesen	Bob	Norma	252-3759	Riggs	Thelma		658-0898
Gore	Pam		694-6381	Spencer	Marlene		252-5027
Lorentz	Megan		855-5427				

Substitutes:							
Leggate	Chas	Cindy	896-0686	Thompson	Dave	Vicki	252-2562

Ecclesiastes 9:7 Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy

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

STAFF
Pastor: Dave Thompson
Office Manager: Jeanne Thompson-Raney
Music Director: Denise Finn
Student Intern for Youth Ministry: Orrin Feddes
Music Accompanist: Bev Wornom
Nursery Attendant: Catherine Kenney
Custodian: Kent Fellingham

SESSION MEMBERS
Clerk of Session:
Marlene Spencer 252-5027

Class of 2014
Carol Harr 656-3168
Janet Kline 652-6374
Gary Lohnbakken 656-2046
Bill Lorentz 656-8163

Class of 2015
Kathy Baskett 544-9857
Sharon Brady 655-9046
Marv Brown 256-0257
Jeff Gruizenga 850-3697

Class of 2016
Samantha Cormier 245-9497
Heidi Duncan 252-2373
Jenice Fugere 252-9641
Michelle Reed 252-5316

Food Bank Sunday Reminder

Our church was one of the first churches in Billings to designate a monthly Food Bank Sunday. We continue to promote it today as a way to raise awareness and food for the Billings Food Bank. 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.

Session Notes: At the October 8 meeting of the sessions the members examined and voted to receive into membership of our church the following individuals: Don and Peggy Cluff, Jay and Cassie Kouba, Maxine Olney, Heather Rosenfeld, and Marjorie Stewart. Public reception was held on October 14 during the worship service.

The property committee will form a committee to determine long term needs of the church. It was voted to proceed with plans to improve the appearance of the main entry. The committee was also given permission to purchase new hearing aids for the sanctuary to replace the system that no longer works. The session will support the youth in making improvements to their area downstairs. Pastor Dave reported that he has met with the stewardship committee to make plans for the upcoming stewardship campaign. This year's theme will be "Looking Up, Reaching Out."

2013	Income	Expense	Net	OCTOBER	2013
Oct	\$ 22,039	\$ 24,112	\$ -2,073	6th	209
YTD	\$ 338,039	\$ 346,042	\$ -8,003	13th	217
Pledges for the coming year will be received during worship on Sunday, November 10. We appreciate your generosity to our ministry!				20th	225
				27th	207
				2013 Oct Average	214
				2012 Oct Average	193

The Church Mice

Heidi and Jim Duncan have given much time, effort and energy to improving the education of Billings Public School Students. Their work in the community is not limited to the schools and the church mice appreciate all they do. We are also very grateful to Heidi for her work as chairman of the Christian Education Committee. Heidi works tirelessly to provide Sunday School programs for both adults and children in our church

Church Women United
"A Shower for Gateway House"

When: Friday, Nov 1
Time: 12 Noon
Where: First Congregational Church
310 N. 27th
247-6477

Please join us for fellowship, worship a POTLUCK and bring a shower gift!

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 Bob Bateman, Pamela Gore, the Cuison Family, Michelle & Don Reed, Bob & Linda Fedric, and Shirley Harr for donating flowers during the month of October.

We have started our new year of circle meetings.
We care for each other, our church, and others.
We meet, love, laugh, fellowship, pray, and study.


This year we are studying Exodus and Deuteronomy through a book called An Abiding Hope.
New members are always welcome.

Church Women United meets the first Friday of each month at area churches.
Through Church Women United, we collect items to help the women who are leaving Gateway House. This month we are collecting blankets. Please put your donations in the red and green box in the coat closet by the church office.

The Mission Committee is supporting The Weldon Valley Presbyterian Church in Colorado that had major flood damage in September. That church has a Presbyterian Women group. Our PW is in contact with them to see how we can help. It seems that their kitchen, fellowship hall and their Sunday rooms were all flooded. We are praying for them and also for the best ways for us to help them.

Special seminar to be held at Eagle Rock in November

You are invited to join the Rev. Jim Bell on Saturday, November 9 for a special seminar titled, “Advent Gospel Lectionary Passages from Matthew.” This seminar will explore four passages from Matthew that relate to Jesus birth and second coming. This seminar will be held at Eagle Rock Sanctuary, a beautiful setting for spiritual renewal near Lockwood. To register for this seminar please contact Jim Bell at 628-2524 or jgb2542@gmail.. The cost is only \$5 and includes lunch.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	2013				1	2
3 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship Communion/Food Bank Sunday 11 West Park Wor- ship	4 6:30 Men's Bible Study 3 PM Deacons	5 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12:30 Finance Com- mittee Mtg.	6 9-11 BSF Lead 9:30 Staff Mtg 11 Grief Group 6 Youth Group 6 Deborah Circle 7 Choir Practice 7 College Group	7 Presbytery mtg in Great Falls 9-11 BSF 4:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervi- sion	8 Presbytery mtg in Great Falls 6 Senior Singles Meeting at the Church	9 10 Gluten Free Group 8:30 -3 Ea- gle Rock Seminar
10 Stewardship Sun. 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship 11:30 WP worship Time and Talent Fair after worship	11 Veteran's Day 6:30 Men's Bible Study	12 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7 Session Meeting	13 9:30 PW Board 9:30 Staff Mtg 6 Deborah Circle 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Practice 7 College Group	14 17 9-11 BSF 12 PEO mtg.	15 <u>Newsletter Submission Deadline!</u>	16
17 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship 11 WP Worship Stephen Ministry mtg after worship	18 6:30 Men's Grp 11:30 Stephen Min. Leaders Mtg 7 PM Eagle Rock Board Meeting	19 9:30 Women's Bible Study	20 PW Circles 9:30 Staff Mtg 6 Deborah Circle 6 Senior Dinner 7 Choir Practice 7 College Group	21 9-11 BSF 4:30 Stephen Ministry Supervi- sion 7 PEO Mtg	22	23 10 PEO Mtg 6 Mt Celiac Fellow & Kitchen
24 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship 11 WP Worship 3 Thanksgiving service @ St. Steph	25 9 BSF Leaders 6:30 Men's Bible Study	26 9-11 BSF 9:30 Women's Bible Study	279 9:30 Staff Mtg No Deborah Circle No Youth Group 7 Choir Practice 7 College Group	28 Thanksgiving Office Closed	29 Holiday Office Closed	30

Youth News



I know that the Lord is working in the hearts and minds of not only our group of kids, but the kids that join us each week!

This coming Wednesday we are having our reverse trick or treating where we go house to house giving them yummy candy and in return they give us canned food. It's a great and fun way to help out the Billings Food Bank and our community!

Thanks to all who supported our 3rd annual youth pie auction on Sunday, October 27. \$3,000 was raised from this special event with the proceeds being split between our youth scholarship fund and the house that our church is sponsoring to build for Habitat for Humanity.

Please keep your eyes and ears open for the seniors Thanksgiving dinner coming up on Wednesday, November 20 at 6 PM at the church! Thanks for all your prayers and support! The leaders and youth greatly appreciate everything!

—Orrin Feddes, Student Intern in Youth Ministry

Senior Thanksgiving Dinner Coming Wednesday, November20

All senior adults from our congregation are invited to our special Thanksgiving dinner on Wednes- day, November 20 at 6 PM in the fellowship hall. Served by the youth group, this special dinner is a way that the youth can honor and recognize the senior adults of our congregation. Please RSVP the church office or sign-up on the RSVP Dinner form in the gallery. We hope that you will join us for this special evening of good food, entertainment, and fun.

Senior Singles group has been formed

Senior Singles, a newly formed group, meets on a monthly basis for a variety of fun, social gather- ings. All senior singles are invited to come. Questions can be directed to Tom Erskine at 656-0496.

Church and Society Schedule for November

NOVEMBER 3: Jason Barker, CEO, St. Vincent Healthcare, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System. With the mission of fostering God's healing love by improving the health of the people and communities served, especially the poor and the vulnerable, Mr. Barker will discuss some of the programs that fulfill this mission. He will also dis- cuss how the Affordable Health Care Act might affect these programs.

NOVEMBER 10: Connie Grammens, Executive Director, The Ronald McDonald House of Billings. The Ronald McDonald House of Billings is the only organization for 31 years that has provided a home-away-from home for fam- ilies, at little or no cost, so they can stay close to their hospitalized child for faster healing. Connie will discuss their 31 year history in Billings, including the outreach of their Care Mobile.

NOVEMBER 17: Scott Mullen and Lanis Roberts, members of Al Bedoo Shrine Hospital Corps and Board of Gover- nors of Shriners Hospitals for Children in Spokane WA. Shriners Hospitals are renowned for their pediatric specialty care, innovative research and teaching programs, serving children from birth to 18 years of age, regardless of ability to pay. With 22 hospitals in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, Scott and Lanis will discuss the Billings Shriners involve- ment, including their screening clinics held throughout the state and their approximately 500 clients in our area.

NOVEMBER 24: Kimberly Frank, Captive Wildlife Coordinator at The Science and Conservation Center. Located at ZooMontana since 1998, the Center is the world's only dedicated facility for the development of wildlife contracep- tives. The Center produces the vaccine and distributes it worldwide, including to wild horse populations in the west. Kimberly will discuss the research done at the Center and locations where the vaccine is used.

Remember we have our annual Time and Talent Fair on Sunday, November 10. The Mission Committee hopes to have your homemade treasures the week before the sale except baked goods. Please leave them in the Children’s Library. Please put your name on your projects and suggested cost. It is important for you to give us an idea of what price to put on it. We don’t know how much time and money you have put into it. Also we may have a silent auction. Would it be ok if we put your item into a silent auction instead of the regular sale?

Please fill this out and return with your donation.
Name _____
Your project is _____
Suggested price _____
May the Mission Committee put it in a silent auction if they think it is a good idea? Yes or No

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. —Isaiah 61:1

Thank you from Colorado church that received \$5,000 from our congregation

Last month our church sent \$5,000 to the Weldon Valley Presbyterian Church in Goodrich, Colorado, to help in rebuilding their church following the devastating flood. Pastor Mark Kenning sent us the following thank-you letter:
“The check from your church arrived - thank you so much! I believe a formal thank-you card, signed by those attending worship that first Sunday [after the flood], is in the mail to you. Not only is the money important for us, but knowing that a group of Christians, fellow Presbyterians, care enough to come alongside us (and others that are strangers to you) in our time of need, well that is just so heartening and humbling to me/us. It really shows that the Kingdom of God is coming closer and closer right here and now. Blessings to your mission committee, your church, and Presbytery. And if any of you are ever in our neck of the woods, please give a holler so we can meet!”
Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mark Kenning



Stephen Ministry Update

We will be having an informational meeting for anyone interested regarding our upcoming Stephen Ministry training. On Nov. 17 in the Fireside room (immediately after worship), we will gather to determine if any other members are wanting to join our next class of trained Stephen Ministers. Weekly classes begin on January 9, 2014. If you have already completed the application for the training and are set to begin, you are welcome to join us for the meeting as well!



Grief support group continues every month

A grief support group within our church continues to meet the first Wednesday of each month from 11-12 noon in the fireside room. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5 at 11 AM. This new group is open to anyone in the church or community who is experiencing grief. Facilitated by Dr. Don Harr, this group will provide support and help to those facing grief.

November Birthdays

- 1 Josephine Bartels
- 2 Marian Shehein
- 5 Cherrie McRae
- Marge Pemble
- Janet Brown
- 7 Marjorie Stewart
- 9 Beth Morrow
- Margaret Hofacker
- 10 Chris Eriksen
- 12 Deborah Oliver
- 15 Barbara Muir
- 16 Julie Michalsky

- Lis TenHarmsel
- 17 Ginger Green
- 19 Emma McLean
- Bob Culbertson
- 20 Helen Zottnick
- 22 Shirley Voyta (102 years old)
- 24 Jim Hummel
- 27 Colleen Lorentz
- Gail Janiak
- Colleen Lorentz
- 28 Heather McLean
- Kathy Dubs

Anniversaries

- 10 George & Ginger Green
- 23 Bill & Trina White
- 28 Ken & Ann Chase



IHN needs your help!

IHN/Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley is in desperate need of weekend volunteers. The time is Saturday’s from 10:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday’s from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. These are 2 hour time slots. If anyone is interested in staying at the day center on these days for 2 hours could you please contact Lee Winnan at 699-0276. We have very few volunteers for the month of October. Thank you so very much.

Community Thanksgiving Service planned for St. Stephens

Join us on Sunday, November 24 at 3 PM for our annual community Thanksgiving service. This year, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church will be hosting this special service. A community choir will rehearse at 2 PM. This annual service brings the three churches along our street (Peace Lutheran, St. Stephen’s Episcopal, and our congregation) together. Pastors from all three churches will be participating as well. A time for fellowship with refreshments and treats will be offered after the service. Let us draw together to give thanks for all that God has done in our lives.

On a Personal Note

Congratulations to Chris and Michelle Montville on the birth of their daughter, Noelle. She was born at the Billings Clinic on Friday, October 18 weighing 7 pounds 6 oz.
Kay Jones has been moved to Advance Care Hospital in Billings where he is recovering from a respiratory illness. Prayers for Kay and JoAnn are greatly appreciated.
Helen Pluhar is recovering from a broken hip at the Billings Clinic.

Global Village will be on display on Sunday, November 3

Global Village items will be on display and for sale in the church’s gallery on Sunday, November 3. Global Village is a nonprofit Fair Trade organization dedicated to the support of the world’s low income artisans and farmers through the operation of a Fair Trade retail store and educational activities that promote the values of Fair Trade, tolerance, and cultural appreciation.

