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# A HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Pastor's Pen

January, 2014

### Happy New Year!



This time of year provides a good opportunity to look back at the past and look forward to the future. This past year for our church was full of activity. The church year began with our annual Our One Great Hour of Sharing Fishing Derby which brought in a record catch of 415 pounds of coins. Last spring, we made a commitment to provide major financial sponsorship of a Habitat for Humanity home in Billings. During the summer months, the sanctuary was updated with new paint and carpet. Our church grounds received a welcomed improvement with landscaping. 29 youth and adults traveled to Indiana in July for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium conference. This fall we welcomed Orrin and Emily Feddes to our congregation and Orrin as our Student Intern in Youth Ministry. Our membership continues to grow, more children and youth are becoming involved, more emphasis is being placed on missions, and a new church directory will be arriving soon. To say the least, 2013 was a good and busy year for our congregation!

So what about 2014? Mission will remain a priority, opportunities for faith building will be offered, updates around the church will continue, and I pray that our membership will continue to grow. I sense that people really have a longing to hear the Good News of Christ. There are a lot of hurting people in our community— people hurting from broken relationships, dashed dreams, and empty promises. There are a lot of people looking for more in life— more than what a job, a product, or a relationship can offer. Our church can continue to provide a response to this hurt through the life-giving and spiritual-redeeming qualities of Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, God entered our world of sin and sadness so that we might experience life and life to the fullest (John 10:10).

I look forward to what the New Year will bring to our church. I believe that God has great plans for our ministry as we move forward. Building on our Habitat house will begin soon, improvements to our church will continue to be made, and a spirit of God's love and grace will continue to permeate all that we say and do.

Happy New Year to you and your families! Thanks for making 2013 a memorable year!!

Dave

### Coming Attractions:

**In-Depth Study on the Gospel of John:** This eight week class, taught by Pastors Jim Bell and Dave will begin on Monday, Jan 13 from 10-11:30 AM in the Fireside Room.

**Annual Meeting:** Join us after worship on Sunday, January 26 for our annual congregational meeting. At this meeting, new church officers will be elected, our 2104 church budget will be presented, and other reports from 2013 will be shared.

**Youth Ski Retreat** is coming on February 7-8 to White Sulphur Springs. The cost is \$40, skiing is extra. Registration deadline is February 1. Let Orrin know if you are interested in attending.

## Memory Joggers for January

The 5th	The 12th	The 19th	The 26th	Substitute Ushers:	Substitute Greeters:
<b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson	<b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson	<b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson	<b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson	Pat Clark	Ann & Ken Chase
<b>Key Elder</b> Carol Harr	<b>Key Elder</b> Michelle Reed	<b>Key Elder</b> Jeff Gruizenga	<b>Key Elder</b> Gary Lohnbakken	Kay Doss	Kay Doss
<b>Greeters</b> Kurt & Mary	<b>Greeters</b> Carl & Vickie	<b>Greeters</b> Bob & Barb Muir	<b>Greeters</b> Chuck & Lois Maris	Tom & Ruth	Tom & Ruth
Grabow	Johnson	Jody Mercer	Jo Albin	Drummond	Drummond
Marge Myhra	Lucile Weisbeck	Wallace	<b>Ushers</b>	Anna Mae Dyce	Ruth Ewen
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	Jim & Biff Hogue	Ginger Green	Bob & Linda Fedric
Jean Ross	Gary & Judy	Marlene Spencer	Ken & Barb	Tom & Ginny Helmer	Ginger Green
Doris Backus	Lohnbakken	Sharon Brady	Eichenberger	Earl & Sharon	Jeanie Hekkel
Diane Noddings	Howard & Sharon	Marian Shehein	<b>Liturgist</b>	Henderson	Tom & Ginny Helmer
Peg Ostlund	Klovstad	Betty Ann Nesmith	Charlie Reed	Biff Hogue	Earl & Sharon
<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Care Board</b>	Midge Jarrett	Henderson
JoAnn Jones	Meghan Ascheman	David Sanderson	Chuck & Cindy	JoAnn Jones	Biff Hogue
<b>Care Board</b>	<b>Care Board</b>	<b>Care Board</b>	Leggate	Walt & Priscilla Laird	Charlie Reed
Bob & Barb Muir	Phyllis Brown	Jody Mercer	<b>Van Driver</b>	Bob & Barbara Muir	Don Reed
<b>Van Driver</b>	<b>Van Driver</b>	<b>Van Driver</b>	<b>Sound Booth</b>	Marge Myhra	George Schuman
Chuck Leggate	Don Harr	Kate Mitchell		Jane Myhra (if no choir)	Bill Woolston
	<b>Sound Booth</b>	<b>Sound Booth</b>		Ralph Myhra (if no choir)	
	Chuck Leggate	Jeff Gruizenga		Betty Ann Nesmith	
<b>Communion</b>				Ray & Jean Noble	
Bill & Colleen				June Pierce	
Lorentz				John & Marie Reamy	
Gary & Judy				Charlie Reed	
Lohnbakken				Bob & Shirley Shirley	
Beth Morrow				Jerry Swanson	

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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](mailto: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

<b>Morrow</b>	<b>Beth</b>	<b>656-2292</b>	<b>Taubert</b>	<b>Carlene</b>	<b>Mark Parker</b>	<b>698-2205</b>
<b>Brady</b>	<b>Sharon</b>	<b>655-9046</b>	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				

<b>Klovstad</b>	<b>Howard</b>	<b>Sharon</b>	<b>254-2011</b>	<b>Muir</b>	<b>Bob</b>	<b>Barbara</b>	<b>256-6099</b>
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				

<b>Reed</b>	<b>Don</b>	<b>Michelle</b>	<b>252-5316</b>	<b>Eichenberger</b>	<b>Ken</b>	<b>Barbara</b>	<b>248-8563</b>
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

<b>Lohnbakken</b>	<b>Gary</b>	<b>Judy</b>	<b>656-2046</b>	<b>Ascheman</b>	<b>Jason</b>	<b>Meghan</b>	<b>259-1336</b>
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

**Session Notes:** On December 10 the session met for the last time this year. Jack Bell, who has completed the required courses to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder, was in attendance to be examined by the members. After a time of questions and discussion, the session voted to recommend Jack to the Commission on Ministry for status of Commissioned Ruling Elder in the Yellowstone Presbytery. The finance committee reported that finances are still stable and the stewardship committee reported that pledges continue to come in. Committees are working on budgets for 2014. Permission was given for the property committee to begin work on the renovation of the youth room and to begin the update to the gallery area of the church. The annual congregational meeting was set for January 26, 2014 after worship service.

Financial snapshot

2013Income	Expense	Net	
December	\$ 49,693	\$ 33,274	\$ 16,419
YTD	\$ 423,756	\$ 406,914	\$ 16,842

**Per-capita for 2014 will be \$45 per member. If possible, we encourage members to pay their own per-capita which goes toward PC(USA) support.**

DECEMBER	2013
1st	188
8th	173
15th	237
22nd	213
Christmas Eve	360
29th	167
2013 Dec Average	223
2012 Dec Average	221

Church Women United

“Ring Out the Old, Ring in the New”

When: Friday, January 2, 2014

Time: Noon

Where: Mayflower Congregational Church

2940 Poly Drive 656-5414

Please join us for Fellowship, worship and a POTLUCK!

The Church Mice

The church mice want to spot light once again our congregation. The church IS the congregation and we are truly blessed by all of our members and Pastor Dave. We are extremely pleased to see the new members becoming active participants in the life of the church - deacons, session, PW circles, liturgists, choir, dinners of 8, activities too numerous to mention. Our church has become a loving, caring, dynamic congregation doing God's work in many aspects of stewardship at all levels of the community.



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.

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 December including Sharon Lincoln, Helen Montgomery, Jan Taylor, Walt & Priscilla Laird, Linda Luse, & the Presbyterian Women's group.

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



The annual Presbyterian Women book sale will be held during the month of February. Please bring your used books and put them in the Children’s Library. It will be fun to see what is there to buy.


We will have our annual Birthday luncheon on Wednesday, February 5 at noon in the Fellowship hall. All women are welcome.

We pray that everyone has a very Blessed New Year.

*Pastor Dave and the session wishes to thank the PW for the recent purchase of new table cloths and glasses for the fellowship hall. The PW also provided pizza for the church Christmas decorating crew. Many thanks!*

Noisy Offering will be received on Sunday, January 12

Our Noisy Offering will be received during worship on Sunday, January 12 for the Gideon Ministry. The Gideon’s place a number of Bibles in prisons and hotel rooms. We encourage you to bring your spare change and to “make some noise” with this special offering. Our Noisy Offering are received four times a year.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 	2 6:30 PEO 1:00 Mission Committee IHN Here	3  IHN Here	4  IHN Here
5 8:15 IHN cleanup 9:15 Sun Sunday 10:30 Worship Communion/Food Bank Sunday	6 6:30 Men’s Bible Study  1 Deacons Mtg	7 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12:30 Finance Committee Mtg.	8 9-11 BSF Leaders 9:30 Staff Mtg 11 Grief Group 6 Youth Group 6 Deborah Circle	9 9-11 BSF 11 Fellowship Committee 7 Stephen Ministry training begins	10  9-4 Art Group	11  9-12 Gluten Free Group
12 9:15 Sun School Change class begins at 9:15 10:30 Worship Noisy Offering 11:30 WP worship	13 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10 Bible study with Jim Bell and Pastor Dave	14 9:30 Women's Bible Study  7 Session Meeting	15 9-11 BSF L. 9:30 PW Board 9:30 Staff Mtg 6 Deborah Circle 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Practice 7 College Group	16 9-11 BSF  7 Stephen Ministry training	17 <u>Newsletter Submission Deadline!</u>	18
19 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11 WP Worship	20 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10 Bible study with Pastor Jim Bell and Pastor Dave	21 9:30 Women's Bible Study	22 9-11 BSF L 9:30 Staff Mtg 6 Deborah Circle 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Practice 7 College Group	23  9-11 BSF  7 Stephen Ministry training	24	25
26 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship Cong Meeting After 11 WP Worship PW Book Sale Begins	27 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10 Bible study with Pastor Jim Bell and Pastor Dave	28 9:30 Women's Bible Study	29 9-11 BSF L 9:30 Staff Mtg 6 Deborah Circle 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Practice 7 College Group	30  9-11 BSF  7 Stephen Ministry training	31	

Youth News

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2014 be a stellar year. A huge thank you goes out to Bob and Shari Dayton for opening up their home again for the youth group Christmas party. We ate some great pizza and everyone enjoyed opening up some interesting gifts for our gift exchange.

The lock-in with the Hope Church youth group went very well. There was around 65 youth who were able to come. A big thank you to Bill Dimich for donating water and pop for everyone to enjoy.

We had our children's Christmas program on Sunday December 22. I am so proud of all the kids and the youth who were able to be apart of it. We look forward to next year for another successful Christmas program.

As always please continue to pray for the youth group and its leaders. Thank you very much for your support.

In Christ,  
Orrin Feddes, Student Intern in Youth Ministry



Church and Society Schedule for January

Church and Society guests for the month of January will include:

JANUARY 5: Sue Runkle, Liaison for School District 2 and Homeless High School Students. Sue will discuss how the district is working with the increasing number of homeless high school students, including the challenges and successes.

JANUARY 12: Dr. Ala'a Muslimani, Medical Director, Inpatient Cancer Care Unit of Hematology and Oncology, Billings Clinic, "Cancer Myths: When Fear Hides the Facts.” Dr. Muslimani will discuss a variety of myths, including those about cell phones causing brain tumors, charcoal grilled meat, and smoking versus air pollution.

JANUARY 19: Jim Gransbery, retired Billings Gazette Agricultural and Political Reporter, "State Religion or Free Exercise Thereof ?" In the upcoming term, The United States Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case of the requirement in the Affordable Health Care Act to provide funding for birth control. Jim will explain the first and second clauses of the First Amendment of the Constitution that mandate that Congress make no law establishing a state religion or the exercise thereof, and how that may affect the decision of the Court.

JANUARY 26: Marvin Granger, retired KEMC General Manager. Marvin will discuss the life of Charles Darwin, including his wrestling with religious beliefs of his wife's and his own.

New Sunday School class with Pastor Dave: *Change: Is It Possible?*

With the New Year comes all kinds of resolutions to change bad habits and start the year off on the right foot. Is change really possible? How many of us have resolved to change our ways only to find ourselves back in the same old rut? Join Pastor Dave beginning on Sunday, January 12 at 9:15 AM in the Fire-side Room for a five week session on this interesting topic. Join us if you have a desire to change your life.

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. This 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.

Special thanks to all who donated items to the Angel Tree. Items were delivered to the residents of the Ponderosa Pines Nursing Home in Lockwood. The staff and residents were very grateful for the wonderful donations of clothing and other items for these residents of this low income facility.

Did you know that our church distributed \$28,000 to missions during this past year? We supported a variety of local, national and international mission projects. Thanks for your support of our congregation which in turn supports many others. Work on the Habitat for Humanity home that our church is sponsoring will begin soon. Look for ways that you can get involved either at the construction site or providing meals to the workers.

Senior Singles events planned for January and February

For January the Senior Singles are having a brunch at the Cracker Barrel (5620 S. Frontage Rd) [West of the Holiday Inn] on Saturday January 18 @ 10:30 AM. No need to make reservations with anyone, just bring a friend and come. All single seniors are invited and welcome.

The February planned event for the Senior singles is the Alliance’s annual Winter Yellowstone Park Trip Feb. 12-14. This trip includes charter bus transportation both ways, 2 nights lodging in West Yellowstone, 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners, snow coach trip into Yellowstone Park and tour of the Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center. The total cost is \$489 per person with double occupancy and \$689 for single occupancy. Call either Phyllis Brown at 652-3727 or Tom Erskine at 656-0496 for more information. Payment is required prior to January 15.

Foundation makes annual gift to the church

The Foundation of our congregation recently gave the church \$20,584 for operating expenses. The Foundation now gives every year a gift of 3% of the fund balance to the work and ministry of our congregation. Pastor Dave and the session greatly appreciate the relationship between the Foundation and the congregation as a way to provide ongoing financial support to our church for years to come. If interested in making a contribution to the foundation, please talk with either Bob Dayton or Bill Dimich. Special thanks to all who have given to the Foundation in the past year!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, MID-YELLOWSTONE VALLEY:  
PROVIDING SHELTER FROM THE WINTER SNOWS

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to the many things we are thankful for. But we may not even think of counting our warm, comfortable home among the blessings in our lives! Shelter from winter weather may seem like a given but, unfortunately, for many families it is just a “best case scenario.”

In this season of joyful celebrations and giving, many of us feel that we already have enough “stuff” and ask our family and friends to gift us with time spent together, rather than one more “widget” wrapped up in shiny paper and a bow.

Habitat, too, asks for the gift of your time! If you would enjoy sharing the spirit of Habitat providing homes for needy families, please contact Ryan Thompson at 652-0960 to find out about volunteer and skill-building opportunities in home construction, or mentoring hopeful homebuyers, or reaching out to involve members of our faith community.

Thank you for considering a “gift of time” to help others attain the comfort of decent shelter in 2014!



Stephen Ministry Update

The leadership team is very excited to begin the next Stephen Minister training class on January 9, 2014. We currently have 5-7 people enrolled and ready to start! Most of the classes will be held on Thursday evenings at the church. If interested in this special opportunity, please contact Doris Backus, Michelle Reed, or Pastor Dave. Prayers for all of us and the program itself are needed. Thank you for all of your continued support.

<b>January Birthdays</b>	18 Colleen Swanson	<b>Anniversaries</b>
3 Willard Johnson	20 Scott Harr	5 Ryan & Tiffany Johnson
4 Mary Rottrup	Thelma Riggs	6 Kurt & Cathy McLean
5 Greta Murray	22 Willeen Dailey	8 John & Peggy Munis
George Schuman	24 Robert Keenum	
10 Zackery Bennett	29 Mark Parker	
Roxanne Fogerty		
15 Robert Sterup		
16 Louis Dubs		

Bible study with Jim Bell and Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave and Pastor Jim Bell will be co-leading an in-depth Bible study on the Gospel of John. This eight week class will begin on Monday, January 13 from 10-11:30 AM in the Fireside Room. This study will explore the background, themes, and theological insights from this unique Gospel.

Jim and Dave will bring their perspectives to this class, from an academic and personal point of view. For those of you looking for something more in-depth in a study, this will be a great class to deepen and grow your faith.

We hope you will join us. This class will continue every Monday through March 3. A sign-up sheet for this class is located on the table in the gallery.

On a Personal Note

We extend our condolences to the family of Charlene Surwill upon her death. Charlene died on December 4 and her funeral service was held at our church on Monday, December 9.

Helen Pluhar has moved to Tender Nest Care Center, located off Shiloh Road.

Thanks to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 7. We appreciate our volunteers who came out on a cold day to help with decorating the church and reading it for Christmas.

Thanks to all who purchased items from the angel tree that was given to the residents at Ponderosa Pines Nursing Home, a very low income nursing home in Lockwood. A group of people from our church delivered the items to the residents and shared Christmas carols as well.

Special thanks to Earl Henderson, Chuck Leggate, Sam Thomas, and Jason Murphine who donated their time and expertise to help with our computer and software issues over the past year.

Pledge Update

Pledge cards for the coming year continue to be received. Your financial pledge helps us with the budgeting process. As of date we have received 135 pledges for a total of \$319,065.

Nominating Committee Update

The nominating committee has been busy putting together a new slate of elders and deacons for the coming year. The following people will be presented at our annual congregational meeting on January 26 for elders and deacons. They include:

Elders: David Bauer, Ken Eichenberger, Sharon Lincoln, and Sharon Mathews

Deacons: Diane Noddings (2nd term), Kathy Ramage, Paige Spalding, and Marjorie Stewart

Nominations from the congregation will also be received as well. If elected, these people will begin their terms in February.