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2014

PASTOR'S PEN

"Making a Difference" campaign kicks off on October 12

Have you ever stopped and wondered, "What is my purpose in life? Why am I here? What is the reason for my existence?" I have asked this question to a number of people over the years and here are a few of the most common responses I have received: "My purpose is to support my family." "My purpose is to make a living." "My goal in life is to make a name for myself." "My primary existence is to leave a legacy for the next generation."



All of these are good and noble responses, but perhaps there is something more to life that God is calling us to embrace. The creation story in Genesis 2 reminds us that upon creating the first human being, God told Adam that his purpose was to take care of God's creation. God gave Adam a clear purpose, to take care of that which God had entrusted him.

Just like Adam, we are put on earth to make a difference and to leave the world a better place than when we first entered. This purpose should be lived out within our families, relationships with our neighbors, citizens of our communities, and the work that we accomplish. Instead of life being self-centered, our lives should be other-centered.

Beginning on Sunday, October 12 we will engage in a five week "Make a Difference" campaign by which we will be challenged to break free from the self-centered thinking that is so prevalent in our society. On that Sunday we will be giving away \$10 to each person in worship to use the money as seed money to make a difference in someone else's life. Following worship I hope you will join us for our 4th annual Youth Pie Auction and Luncheon as we raise funds for next summer's mission trip.

On Sunday, October 26 our church's Foundation will be hosting the Legacy Luncheon that will help people better understand the purpose of the Foundation and ways to contribute to the ongoing mission and ministry of our congregation. This very nice RSVP dinner will be free to all who respond. Remember seating is limited so make sure you get your reservation in soon.

You are invited to bring some canned goods with you on Sunday, November 2 for the Lewis & Clark Middle School's food pantry. During communion, prior to receiving the Lord's Supper, you will be invited to bring your food forward to share with the less fortunate in Billings. Global Village will also be here on that Sunday selling fair trade items to support third world cooperatives and individuals.

Stewardship Sunday will be celebrated on November 9. Pledge cards will be received that Sunday for the coming year.

As you can see we have a busy month ahead. I hope you will be challenged to reach out and make a difference in the lives of others. In doing so, we will fulfill God's purpose in our lives.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Tony Campolo dinner and presentation at the Billings Hotel 5:30 PM
Cardboard Box City at Rocky Mountain College: Saturday, October 11
Youth Pie Action and Luncheon: Sunday, October 12 following worship
Legacy Luncheon will be held after worship on Sunday, October 26 (rsvp needed)
Global Village items for sale here on Sunday, November 2
Lewis & Clark Food Panty collection on Sunday, November 2
Stewardship Sunday will be celebrated on November 9—pledge cards will be received

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MEMORY JOGGERS OCTOBER

The 5th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Sharon Mathews
Greeters
Bob & Linda Fedric
Jody Lafko
Ushers
Bob & Cathy
Culbertson
Earl & Sharon
Henderson
Liturgist
Shari Dayton
Care Board
Tom & Ginny
Helmer
Van Driver
Chuck Leggate
Sound Booth
David Bauer

Communion

Sharon Mathews
Russ & Janet Kline
Jerry & Bobbie Koch
Ken & Barb
Eichenberger
Heidi Duncan

The 12th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Sharon Mathews
Greeters
Peggy Wilson
Edna Carlson
Eleanor Reinecke
Ushers
Pat Clark
Cindy Leggate
Bud & Joanne
Leuthold
Liturgist
Deb Wiens
Care Board
Ken & Ann Chase
Sound Booth
Jeff Gruizenga

The 19th

Preaching
Orrin Feddes
Key Elder
Megan Ascheman
Greeters
Phyllis Brown
Marge Myhra
Ushers
Diane Noddings
Peg Ostland
Jo Albin
Jan Blackburn
Liturgist
Suzanne Braun
Care Board
Sharon Lincoln
Van Driver
Kate Mitchell
Sound Booth
Chuck Leggate

The 26th

Preaching
Dave Thompson
Key Elder
Ed & Alta Dakolios
Greeters
June Pierce
Ushers
Robyn Bauer
Thelma Riggs
Janet Brown
Bebe Spring
Liturgist
Vicki Thompson
Care Board
Chris Ericksen
Van Driver
Don Harr
Sound Booth
Bob Culbertson

Substitute

Ushers:
Pat Clark
Kay Doss
Ginger Green
Tom & Ginny Helmer
Earl & Sharon
Henderson
Biff Hogue
Jane Myhre (if no choir)
Diane Noddings
Charlie Reed
Don Reed
George Schuman
Bill Woolston

Substitute

Greeters:
Kay Doss
Tom & Ruth
Drummond
Ruth Ewen
Bob & Linda Fedric
Tom & Ginny Helmer
Earl & Sharon
Henderson
Biff Hogue
JoAnn Jones
Walt & Priscilla Laird
Bob & Barbara Muir
Marge Myhra
Jane Myhre (if no choir)
Ralph Myhre (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

Office Hours:
Mon—Thurs 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 Accompanist: Sandra Rabas
Youth Ministry: Orrin Feddes
Choir Director: Janie Sutton
Choir Accompanist: Bev Wornom
Custodian: Kent Fellingham

SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session:
Marlene Spencer 252-5027

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

Class of 2017
David Bauer 371-5075
Ken Eichenberger 248-8563
Sharon Lincoln 656-9014
Sharon Mathews 696-5559



Madagascar Pastor Coming to Billings on October 3

The Rev. Lala Rasendrasina from Madagascar is coming to Billings as an International Peacemaker with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. Pastor Lala has served as moderator of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar since 2004. Madagascar has faced political turmoil since 1972, resulting in poverty, violence, crime and skyrocketing unemployment. Religious leaders, including the Rev. Lala, have been called upon to mediate between the major politicians in their country to resolve the crisis. The process of reconciliation is dangerous; the Rev. Lala had to relocate to Michigan for a few years before he was able to return to Madagascar.

Pastor Lala will give a presentation on Friday, October 3 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church 180 24th St. West, Billing. The potluck dinner, hosted by the Mission Committee, will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by Pastor Lala’s presentation. Please bring a side dish to share at dinner. Call 656-9256 for more information.

Financial snapshot

2014	Income	Expense	Net
September	\$ 37,041	\$ 37,390	\$ (349)
YTD	\$ 388,827	\$301,101	\$ 87,726

SEPT.	2014
7TH	203
14TH	174
21ST	176
28TH	198
2014 SEPT. AVERAGE	187
2013 SEPT. AVERAGE	185

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED GATHERING

OCTOBER 3 AT 1PM
“WORLD COMMUNITY DAY”
LAUREL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
307 WEST 4TH STREET, LAUREL MT 628-6362

Sermons On-Line

Did you know that you can listen to sermons on-line at our website at www.fpcbillins.org? Just click the “Listen to Sermons” tab on the upper right front of our church’s homepage.

THE CHURCH MICE

Marjorie Stewart rejoined our church last year and has jumped right into a number of activities. As a deacon she sends many cards to people who are hospitalized and not feeling well. She also is a faithful volunteer with our Family Promise program who helps when homeless families use our facilities. She is also active in our Presbyterian Women’s organization. The church mice appreciate all that Marjorie does around our church, helping in many ways. Thanks Marjorie for all you do!



FOOD BANK SUNDAY REMINDER
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.

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 September months. They included Suzanne Braun, Daniel Repka, Bob & Linda Fedric, Mary Lou Jacobson, and Linda Luse.

DINNERS OF EIGHT

Schedule for September/October

Albin	Jo	656-5600	Muir	Bob	Barbara	256-6099
Brown	Marvin	Janet	Swanson	Jerry		656-8104
Gore	Pam		Morrow	Beth		656-2292
Ascheman	Jason	Meghan	Brady	Sharon		655-9046
Reinecke	Eleanor		Spencer	Marlene		252-5027
Myhre	Ralph	Jane	Lafko	Jody		5912060
			Erskine	Tom		656-0469

Lohnbakken	Gary	Judy	656-2046	Culbertson	Bob	Cathy	655-7826
Lorentz	Megan		855-5427	Baskett	Kathy	Mark	544-9857
Eichenberger	Ken	Barbara	248-8563	Riggs	Thelma		652-0898
Fugere	Jenice		252-9641	Wilson	Peggy		254-6726
Carlson	Edna		534-6211	Jones	JoAnn		652-3185
Pierce	June		245-7989	Hastings	Pat		656-0072

Lorentz	Bill	Colleen	656-8163	Substitutes			
Brown	Phyllis		652-3727	Leggate	Chas	Cindy	896-0686
Repka	Sarah		238-0092	Thompson	Dave	Vicki	252-2562
Drummond	Tom	Ruth	656-5977	Dayton	Bob	Shari	256-3130
Spring	BeBe		252-7898	Taubert	Carlene	Mark Parker	698-2205
Mercer-Wallace	Jody		656-4150	Stovall	Juanita		2599219

Since over the summer and in the near future there have been some drastic changes in our dinner of eight membership. We have had to redo the schedule for this fall. Please make a note of the changes.
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! It is not necessary to have 8 people for dinner, any number is OK. DO NOT MAKE IT HARD OR STRESS OVER IT.**

Stephen Ministry Update

Your Stephen Ministry area is needing to increase its leadership team. We had hoped to send people to training over the summer, but that did not happen. Therefore, we will not be starting a training session this Fall as planned. Please continue to pray for this group as we continue to assist congregation members through times of crisis in their lives.

A dedicated group of Stephen Ministers continue to reach out to people in our church by providing one on one caring relationship. If you could use or know of someone who could benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Doris Backus, Jack Bell, or Pastor Dave. Current Stephen Ministers meet for supervision the second and third Thursdays at 4:30 PM.



It is Fall and we have started our Circle meetings again. It is not too late to join a circle. If you are interested, please contact Sandi Schoenberger for information. Her phone number is (610) 945-7304. Her email address is Sandischo1@gmail.com.

There is some interest in reactivating the sewing group. There are some quilts that were begun several years ago and we would like to finish them so that we can donate them to someone in need. We will meet the fourth Wednesdays in September and October in the Fireside room 9:30. You do not have to be in a circle to come. Everyone is welcome.

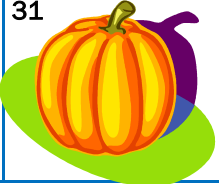
The Gateway House is in need of blankets (with their sizes labeled), queen sheets, sanitary pads, silverware and light bulbs. If you wish to donate something, you may leave it in the box in the coat closet at the church. Mark your calendar:

Our annual Christmas Luncheon will be on December 3rd at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship hall. All women are welcome.

Global Village coming to our Church on Sunday, November 2

Thinking gifts, think Global Village. Global Village, which sells fair trade items, will be in our fellowship hall on Sunday, November 2 from 8 AM– 1 PM. A variety of gifts will be for sale with proceeds going to support third world cooperatives and individuals. For questions about Global Village contact Betty Ann Nesmith at 252-1836.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
October 2014			1 10 Grief Support 12 PW Luncheon 12 BLT 7 Choir Rehearsal	2 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 1 PM Mission Committee Mtg	3 Church Office Closed	4 10 Gluten Intolerance Group Fellowship Hall
5 Food Bank Sunday 9:15 Sun. School 10:30 Worship Communion served 11 WP Worship	6 4 PM Deacons Meeting	7 9:30 Staff meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Tony Campolo Dinner 7 PM Tony Campolo presentation	8 9-11 BSF Leaders 9:30 PW Board 12 BLT 6 Deborah Circle 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal	9 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 11 Fellowship Committee Mtg 4:30 Stephen Ministry Supervi-	10 Church Office closed	11 PEO Bizarre in the Fellowship Hall Cardboard Box City @ RMC
12 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Pie Action after worship 11:00 West Park worship	13 6:30 Men's Bible Study (MBS) 10 Worship Committee	14 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6 Sigma Meeting 7 PM Session Meeting	15 PW Circles meet throughout day 12 BLT 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adult	16 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) Fall Youth Retreat in Bozeman	17 2 PM Floyd Creekmore's Memorial Service Fall Youth Retreat in Bozeman	18 10 Senior Singles Brunch @ Perkins 10 Harriet Warne's memorial service
19 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park worship	20 6:30 Men's Bible Study	21 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study	22 12 BLT 6 Deborah Circle 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adult Bible Study	23 Newsletter Submission Deadline 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)	24 Church office closed	25 12noon Baby shower in Fireside Room
26 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Legacy Luncheon after worship 11:00 WP worship	27 6:30 Men's Bible Study	28 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study 3 Carving Pumpkins at Ponderosa Pines	29 12 BLT 6 Deborah Circle 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adult	30	31 	

Youth News



Fall has finally arrived! Hope everyone had a great summer and stayed cool. We at F.P.C. Youth have some exciting events coming up in October and this year. October 11 is Cardboard Box City, where students construct a place to sleep with cardboard boxes in order to raise awareness for the homeless of Billings. It is a great community wide event.

Right after Cardboard Box City on October 12 after church is the annual youth pie auction. There will be a silent auction and a live auction for some amazing pies. Also, the youth will be serving lunch during the pie auction. Proceeds will go the summer mission trip, which will be announced during the auction. Please sign-up to bring a pie or contact me if you would like to bring one.

Finally, our fall retreat is October 16-18 at Rockhaven Camp and Conference Center for grades 7th through 12th. This is a great opportunity for students to connect with others from across the state and grow closer to Christ through Biblical teaching and fellowship with students and leaders.

Thank you for your support of the youth group through monetary gifts, volunteering, and your prayers! Please continue to pray for the students and leaders.

In Christ,
Orrin Feddes (697-0994)

Legacy Luncheon coming on Sunday, October 26 Save the Date!

Leave a Legacy for your children, your family, your friends. The First Presbyterian Foundation Board will be inviting you all to a Legacy Luncheon on Sunday, October 26th. Learn how just a few dollars a year or gifts in your estate can benefit your Church family now and for generations to follow. Through dollars left to The First Presbyterian Foundation, the Foundation Board has been able to contribute over \$50,000 to the church's annual budget over the last 3 years. Started in 1990 by a few First Presbyterian members, the Foundation Reserves have grown to over \$850,000, in addition to giving large amounts for church items over the last two decades. The Foundation has received large and small gifts over the years. Gifts in memoriam, in honor of, and estate gifts, all gifts to the generations to follow to benefit the First Presbyterian Church family. Learn more about the Foundation, how to make a planned gift, or a yearly tax gift on Sunday, October 26th. Save the date now to leave a legacy for your family and friends.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

Our Church & Society class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. Our guests for the month of October will be:

October 5: Brent Cromley, City Council Member, Former Montana Senator and Representative, will discuss "The Billings Non-Discrimination Ordinance." Brent will discuss the history of the proposed ordinance, going back to January of 2014 when the City Council voted 10-1 to have City legal staff draft an ordinance based upon those passed in Missoula, Butte, and Helena, and bring it to the Council for consideration. That 'directive' specified that the proposed ordinance should prohibit discrimination in Billings, based upon, among other things, a person's sexual orientation. Brent will discuss the technical parts of the ordinance, the issues, and the its opposition and support. He also will discuss the effects of the ordinance not passing and whether it will be addressed again.

October 12: Olena South, Native of Ukraine, will address "Visiting Ukraine Today." Olena will discuss the background leading up to the conflict in Ukraine. She will include the effects on the people and her family, who still reside in the western part of Ukraine. Now a U.S. citizen, Olena will also detail the process of gaining citizenship in our country.

October 19: Barb Brady, Program Director for Saint Vincent Healthcare Foster Grandparent Program, will speak on "Improving the Health of Billings through Foster Grand parenting." Under the auspices of the Federal National Service Program there are over 50 foster grandparents serving non-profits and schools in Billings and the nearby reservations. Representing cultural and religious diversity, foster grandparents work with at risk and lower income children with the mission helping solve community problems. Barb will demonstrate how the interaction between the volunteer grandparents and children has health benefits for all involved.

October 26: Shelby Long-Hammond, Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Rocky Mountain College and Director of the Debate Program, and Members of the Debate Team, will share "The Common Core Curriculum; Is it Appropriate?" Shelby will discuss the history of the debate team at RMC and its method of using British Parliamentary debate procedures. Members of the team will then demonstrate civil discourse by debating the religious and philosophical challenges facing Common Core.



Mission News

On Sunday, November 2 we will have a food drive for the Lewis and Clark Teen Food Pantry. This will be on Communion Sunday. We will be fed by the Lord’s Supper and feed others at the same time. What a blessing.

Please bring food that is in individual containers and do not need refrigeration. Here is a list of the types of things to bring. Some of the items that are needed are: Canned corn, soups, chili, stew, pastas, peanut butter, jam (in plastic squeeze bottles), fruit juice (100% fruit), fruit cups, granola bars, instant break-fast mix, cereal, and hot coco (especially the calcium enriched varieties). Thank you so very much!!

Pay It Forward Campaign:

This year there will be no Time and Talent craft sale. It is time for a change. We still plan to give out \$10 on October 12 to whoever wants it. But instead of making something to sell, we hope that you will “Pay it Forward.” That is to say do something to help another person. We are sure there is something that you can do to help your neighbor. In doing this, you are participating in Mission. The Mission Committee has thought of a few ideas to get you started. We know that you will have more.

You can: Drive someone where they need to go; visit someone; take care of a yard by mowing, weeding, watering, or raking leaves. Feed a family. You may want to send a card; give some stamps; send a package to a missionary or someone else in need. How about taking care of an animal? Volunteer your time at a hospital, prison, or the zoo; or Pray. Make this a family project. What a wonderful way to teach children to love others.

The bottom line is we want to encourage you to help God’s children—your neighbors. Please share your ideas with others so we are all excited about the possibilities. Email or give your thoughts and ideas to Sue Bentley at bentleyfam@avitusgroup.com. Sue will in turn share them back with all of you.

There are some in our congregation who are not able to help others even with the \$10.00 because of illness or other concerns. Please, if you know of these individuals, tell Sue or Dave and we will be sure they get a card and a prayer.

On Tuesday, October 28th, at 3:00 we will be having a worship service at Ponderosa Pines. After the service, we will be decorating pumpkins with the residents for Halloween. Come join in the fun.

The Mission Committee discussed our Meet and Eat tradition. The purpose of these gatherings was to have fellowship while we worked on mission projects together. We wanted everyone to understand that they could do mission activities very easily by helping their neighbors near and far. We feel like this has been accomplished. So we have decided to discontinue the Meet and Eat gathering.

In late October, we will ask you to donate clean, usable sweaters to those in need. We will have more details soon.

Habitat for Humanity Open House: Saturday, October 4 at 12noon

Habitat for Humanity will be hosting an Open House at their ReStore located at 1617 1st Ave North on Saturday, October 4 from 12noon—1:30 PM. Join Pastor Dave and others for a time to learn more about Habitat and how they have a positive influence on our community. Ice cream will also be served.

Habitat is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. To accomplish this, we invite people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Habitat builds houses with volunteer labor and community donations, and then sells the houses to pre-qualified homebuyers at \$0 profit with a 0% interest loan.

Habitat was founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller, along with his wife, Linda. The Yellowstone County affiliate, Habitat for Humanity Mid-Yellowstone Valley, was founded in 1992 and built the first house here in 1993. Locally, volunteers with the support of thousands of donors, have built 67 houses, and are currently working on houses #68 and 69. House #68 will be completed and dedicated in a ceremony on October 16th.

The program has housed over 200 children in Yellowstone County in simple, decent, affordable, safe homes thanks to the efforts of generous community members.

Please pray for adequate shelter for all, in recognition of the Habitat for Humanity International Day of Prayer, and throughout the year. For information on how you can get involved, or information on how you can apply to participate in our homebuyer program, please contact the administrative office at 652-0960.



October Birthdays

- 1 Erin Thompson
Beverly Pinnick
- 3 Sharon Lincoln
- 5 June Holmes
- 8 Barbara Gullard
Bob Zent
- 11 Judy Cuff
- 12 Nick McLean
- 13 Scott Murray
- 14 Ruth Ewen
- 15 Ginny Helmer
- 16 Jody Lafko
- 17 Mary Louise Ritter

- 19 Shari Dayton
- 19 Priscilla Laird
- 21 Wava Knutson
Megan Lorentz
- 22 Bonnie Grosshuesch
- 26 JoAnn Jones
- 27 Mary Quandt
- 29 Janie Quandt
Kay Doss
Megan Henderson
- Joel Spring
Rhonda Stennerson
- 30 Don Harr
Jerry Koch
- 31 Gary Lohnbakken

Anniversaries

- 2 Jim & Joan Bateman
- 5 Lewis & Sandra
Schoenberger
- 7 Jerry & Bobbie Koch
- 15 Mike & Margaret
Hofacker
- 20 Mike & Pat Hastings
- 26 Mark Parker & Charlene
Taubert

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Congratulations to Jason and Amanda Lauwers on the birth of Peyson Machail Lauwers. He was born at the Billings Clinic on September 17 weighing 6 lbs. and measuring 19”.

We share our joy with John and Lauren Wright on the birth of their son Henry Barnett Wright, born at the Billings Clinic on September 24 weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 22” long.

We share our sympathies with the family of Floyd Creekmore who died on September 27. His memorial service will be held at our church on Friday, October 17 at 2 PM. A reception will follow the service in our fellowship hall.

Marie Reamy died on September 24 at the Billings Clinic. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Prayers for John and his family are appreciated.

We extend our condolences to the family of Ellen “Bert” Ward whose memorial service was held in our church on September 13.

A memorial service for Robert Nelson was held in our church on September 11. We share our sympathies with his wife Fern.

Laurel Schook died last month at the Butterfly Home in the Heights. Her funeral service was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Miles City where she had been a member for a number of years.

“Our family is humbled by and appreciative of the prayers from our church for our nephew in Michigan. We felt the power of those prayers during this heart wrenching time.” —Bob and Shari Dayton

A note from John Reamy: “As I slowly rise from the depths of despair and uncertainty, I am struggling to find a meaningful and sincere way to express my thanks for the outpouring of prayers, cards, visits, and concern for Marie and I during our recent nightmare. Although God had different plans in the end, your caring and Maries determination greatly helped her put up a good fight. When the suffering became too long and unbearable, our Faith was sorely tested, but somehow, you helped us to realize that God was in charge. If her suffering was too great, maybe it made someone else's a bit less-who knows? During my long vigils, I sought answers in many places. While the doctors and nurses provided excellent physical care, I found the Bible an endless source of hope and balm for the soul. We both found the following lines especially helpful, saying them several times a day as a small prayer when the going got rough. "Be gracious to me O Lord, for I am in distress. My eye is wasted from grief - my body and soul also."

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP CONTINUES EVERY MONTH

A grief support group within our church continues to meet the first Wednesday of each month from 10-11. This group is open to anyone in the church or community who is experiencing grief. Facilitated by Dr. Don Harr, this group provide support, encouragement, and help to those facing grief, loss, or transitions in life. All are invited to join this special group.

