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2015



PASTOR'S PEN

"Making a Difference"

Colossians 3:23



It's that time of year again when we seek your help and assistance in making a financial commitment to our church's ministry. Often, we view this period of stewardship campaign as merely of giving money to the church. Most of us approach stewardship campaigns with groans and sighs as we know that it is our obligation to give. In some ways I tend to feel like a salesman during this period, trying to "sell" our ministry and having you "buy" into our product. In the end, this process often leaves me feeling a bit uncomfortable and uneasy.

Instead of thinking of stewardship as some form of obligation, I would like to think of it as an opportunity. Instead of approaching our giving as something we do out of compulsion, I want us to think of it as a way of showing our appreciation to God and others. The Bible reminds us in Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not merely for others." When we begin to view our stewardship as a way of using God's resources, we begin to have a better understanding how God can use us to make a difference in our community and world.

In the coming weeks, leading up to Stewardship Sunday on November 15, you will be hearing more about this approach to giving. We have been placed on the earth, by the very hand of God, to not only take up air and space, but to make a difference in the lives of others. Through the ministry we carry out in our congregation, we provide compassion, care, counsel, and education to a number of people within our church and far beyond our physical property.

Within the coming week, you should receive a pledge card in the mail inviting you to share in the ministry of our church. I would encourage you to prayerfully consider how you will use your time, talents, and treasures to respond to God's call upon your life. We provide a number of ways for you to express your faith and I would love to help you explore avenues in which God is calling you to share your gifts. When we respond in giving for the glory of God, we certainly do make a difference in the lives of others and our lives as well!

I look forward to worshipping with you on the next Lord's Day!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Dave

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Global Village items for sale in the Fellowship Hall: Sunday, November 1
Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 1
New members class offered November 1 and 8 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room
Presbytery meeting in Lewistown on November 6-7
Stewardship Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, November 15
Senior Thanksgiving Dinner: Wednesday, November 18 at 6 PM
Community Thanksgiving Service at our church: Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 PM
Family Promise here the week of November 22-28
Christmas decorating: Saturday, December 5 at 5 PM— pizza will be served

MEMORY JOGGERS FOR NOVEMBER

The 1st

All Saints Day Preaching

Dave Thompson

Greeters

Bob & Barb Muir

Thelma Riggs

Ushers

Orrin & Emily

Feddes

Janet Kline

Edna Carlson

Liturgist

Deb Wiens

Key Elder

Chris Eriksen

Van Driver

Charles Leggate

Sound Booth

David Bauer

Communion

Kathy Baskett

Phyllis Brown

Kathleen Butler

Bob & Cathy

Culbertson

The 8th

Preaching

Dave Thompson

Greeters

Marge Myhra

Harry & Judy Cuff

Ushers

Marlene Spencer

Sharon Brady

Marian Shehein

Betty Ann Nesmith

Liturgist

Heather McLean

Key Elder

Sharon Lincoln

Care Board

Ken & Ann Chase

Van Driver

Don Harr

Sound Booth

Jeff Gruizenga

The 15th

Preaching

Dave Thompson

Greeters

Bud & Joanne

Leuthold

Judy Nusbaum

Ushers

Jerry Koch

Bob Fedric

Bill White

Don Reed

Liturgist

Don Reed

Key Elder

Sharon Mathews

Care Board

Chris Eriksen

Van Driver

Don Harr

Sound Booth

Chuck Leggate

The 22nd

Preaching

Dave Thompson

Greeters

Jo Albin

Chuck & Lois Maris

Ushers

Pat Clark

Sharon Mathews

Diane Noddings

Peg Ostland

Liturgist

Bill Lorentz

Care Board

Phyllis Brown

Van Driver

Heather McLean

Sound Booth

Bob Culbertson

3 PM Service

Thanksgiving

Worship

Volunteers

TBA

The 29th

First Sunday of Advent Preaching

Dave Thompson

Greeters

Craig & Denise Hash

Meghan Ascheman

Ushers

Gary & Judy

Lohnbakken

Marjorie Stewart

Royal Johnson

Liturgist

Coryn Martinez

Care Board

Sharon Lincoln

Van Driver

Don Harr

Sound Booth

TBA

SUBSTITUTES

USHERS

Pat Clark

Kay Doss

Chris Eriksen

Tom & Ginny Helmer

Earl & Sharon

Henderson

Biff Hogue

Diane Noddings

Charlie Reed

Don Reed

John Thompson

GREETERS

Kay Doss

Tom & Ruth

Drummond

Bob & Linda Fedric

Tom & Ginny Helmer

Earl & Sharon

Henderson

Biff Hogue

Bob & Barb Muir

Marge Myhra

Ralph & Jane Myhre

Betty Ann Nesmith

Charlie Reed

Bob & Shirley Shirley

Lucile Weisbeck

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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 Celebration @ 10:30

STAFF

Pastor: Dave Thompson
Youth Ministry: Orrin Feddes
Office Manager: Jeanne Thompson-Raney
Accompanist: Sandi Rabas
Choir Director: Janie Sutton
Choir Accom: Bev Wornom
Custodian: Kent Fellingham

SESSION MEMBERS

Clerk of Session:
Marlene Spencer

Class of 2016

Samantha Cormier
Heidi Duncan
Chris Eriksen
Jenice Fugere

Class of 2017

David Bauer
Ken Eichenberger
Sharon Lincoln
Sharon Mathews

Class of 2018

Kathy Baskett
Marv Brown
Jeff Gruizenga
Sandi Schoenberger

Session Notes:

During the October stated session meeting, Jeff Gruizenga reported on the progress of the property committee. The committee has received a proposal to revamp the lighting system in the sanctuary. They will also work on exterior window washing prior to the end of October. Planning for renovation of main floor restrooms will begin soon. He advised that a new company has been contacted to resolve the issues with the kitchen door and that the ice maker is now working. Construction will begin on a pole barn to house the van and bus once the city has issued a permit.

Pastor Dave is now leading a confirmation class on Wednesday evening with confirmation Sunday to be held on May 1, 2016. He will also lead a class for new members on November 1 and 8.

Chris Eriksen will serve as our congregation's commissioner at the Yellowstone Presbytery meeting in Lewistown on November 6-7.

Financial snapshot

2015	Income	Expense	Net
October	\$ 34,148	\$ 18,121	\$ 16,027
Year to Date	\$ 426,720	\$ 377,180	\$ 49,540

OCT	2015
4TH	213
11TH	135
18TH	192
25TH	232
2015 OCT AVG	193
2014 OCT AVG	210

Church Women United Gathering

Friday, November 13, 2015 at 1 PM

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

40 10th Street West

Program: Trinity Lutheran Church Bell Choir

Sermons available on-line

Did you know that you can listen to sermons on-line at our website at www.fpcbillings.org? Just click the "Listen to Sermons" tab on the upper right front of our church's homepage. Stay connected even when you are away. Sermon for the past 12 weeks are archived on our church's website.

Church Mice:

One of the most important goals of our church is to try to insure that new members become involved in the life of our church family/community. Craig and Denise Hash are relatively new members and have become very active in our church. We have enjoyed listening to the beautiful voice of son, Hunter. Daughter Alexa is always smiling and helps with Sunday School, cheerfully and efficiently. Denise has helped with the responsibility of food preparation for the Youth Groups on Wednesday nights. It was a pleasure to see the usher team of Alexa and Denise as they accepted another opportunity to serve the church and God. Thanks to this wonderful family!!!!



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 Nov. 1

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 October. They are: Cathy Culbertson, Marian Shehein, "The Stillwater Sistahs," and Don Reed.

Dinners of Eight

Here is the November/December/January list of Dinners of Eight. Hosts/hostesses are highlighted in red. Hosts/Hostesses may choose to have a potluck dinner, go to a restaurant, or plan an activity around town. **Make the most of it and have fun!**

If there are any questions, call or email Meghan Ascherman at 259-1336 or aschermanjm@hotmail.com (be sure to title it Dinners of 8)

Baskett,	Kathy	Basingthwaite,	Mark	544-9857	Gore	Pam	694-6381	
Hogue	Jim	Biff		259-9114	Drummond	Tom	Ruth	656-5977
Brown	Phyllis			702-7040	Lohnbakken	Gary	Judy	656-2046
Repka	Sarah			238-0092	Myhre	Ralph	Jane	325-8033
Stovall	Juanita			259-9219	Erskine	Tom		656-0496
Riggs	Thelma			652-0898	Fugere	Jenice		252-9641

Brown	Marvin	Janet	256-0257	Spring	BeBe	252-7898
Hastings	Pat	Mike	696-0072	Mercer-Wallace	Jody	656-4150
Culbertson	Bob	Cathy	655-7826	Morrow	Beth	656-2292
Jones	JoAnn		652-3185	Brady	Sharon	655-9046
Albin	Jo		656-5600	Lorentz	Bill	Colleen
				Ascherman	Jason	Meghan
						259-1336

Muir	Bob	Barbara	325-8016	Substitutes			
Lorentz	Megan		855-5427	Reinecke	Eleanor		248-8293
Carlson	Edna		534-6211	Leggate	Chas	Cindy	896-0686
Pierce	June		245-7989	Spencer	Marlene		252-5027
Bracken	Teena		672-4584	Thompson	Dave	Vicki	252-2562
Bracken	Carla		259-7973	Swanson	Jerry		655 5448
Reed	Don		252-5316	Dayton	Bob	Shari	256-3130



A note from Carol and John Limbach

"We would like to thank the church community and especially the Tuesday morning Bible study group for all your prayers, good thoughts and wishes, all the cards and gifts of food during the time I was in Houston for surgery. It was this community that kept me lifted up throughout the process. For that, we are forever grateful. We have been home for about nine weeks and we are ready to get back into some of our activities. Thank you for many kindnesses." --Carol and John Limbach

New men's group

A new men's group has formed and is meeting the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 12noon in the Fireside Room.

Join other men for a time of encouragement, fellowship, prayer, and study. This group is studying the New Testament book of 1 Peter which talks about living as people of faith. For more information about this group, please talk with either Orrin or Pastor Dave. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 9 at 12noon in the Fireside Room. All men are invited to join us.



Stephen Ministry Update

A new training class for Stephen Ministers began on Thursday, October 8 with seven new trainees. We are excited for this new group of people who are undergoing the training each Thursday night. Those involved in leading the training sessions are Doris Backus, Shirley Shirley, Jack Bell, JoAnn Jones, and Pastor Dave. This newest group of Stephen Ministers will be commissioned in March.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Join us on Sunday, November 22 at 3:00 PM in our church for a community Thanksgiving Service. We will be gathering with our friends from St. Stephen’s Episcopal and Peace Lutheran for this special service. We invite you to bring something that represents something for which you are thankful. It can be a picture, object, keepsake, memento, etc. Time in the service will be given for you to share this item. Come and let us remember all that God has given to us and for all which we are grateful.


New Members’ Class to begin on Sunday, November 1

A class for new members will be held on Sundays, November 1 and 8 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room. This class, titled “So What’s a Presbyterian?” would be appropriate for anyone wishing to learn more about our denomination, background, and mission. This class will be taught by Pastor Dave.



Senior Thanksgiving Dinner

All senior (60+) adults are invited to join us for a special dinner on Wednesday, November 18 at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Provided by the youth group, this free dinner is a way to honor our senior members. Please RSVP to Orrin or you can sign up on the sheet in the gallery by Sunday, November 15. Transportation will be provided upon request. Be sure to join us for this special evening.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 TIME CHANGE Food Bank Sun 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park worship 3 BB Open Gym	2 12noon BLT	3 9:30 Staff Mtg. 9:30 Women's Bible Study	4 9-11 BSF Lead 10 Grief Group 6 Youth Group 6 Deborah Circle 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adult	5 9-11 BSF 1 Mission Committee Meeting 6 Stephen Min. Training 7 CE Committee	6 Church Office Closed	7 10 Gluten Intolerant Group (GIG)
8 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park worship 3 BB Open Gym	9 10 Worship Comm 12noon BLT 12 Men's Group	10 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6 Sigma Mtg 7 Session Meeting	11 9-11 BSF Lead 9:30 PW Board 6 Youth Group 6 Deborah Circle 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adults	12 9-11 BSF 11 Fellowship Committee 4:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision 6 Stephen Ministry Training	13 Church Office Closed 1 Church Women United Gathering at Bethlehem Lutheran	14
15 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Stewardship Sun 11:00 West Park 3 BB Open Gym	16 12noon BLT 4 Deacons Meeting	17 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study	18 Circle Meetings 9 BSF Lead 9:30 PW Board 6 Senior Dinner 6 Deborah Circle 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adults	19 9-11 BSF 12 Congregational Care Team 6 Stephen Min. Training	20 Church Office closed	21 10 Senior Singles @ McCormick Café
22 8:15 Family Promise Set-Up 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park	23 Family Promise 9 BSF Leaders 12noon BLT 12 Men's Group	24 9-11 BSF 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	25 Family Promise Here No Youth Group No Deborah Circle No Choir Rehear No Young Adult Bible Study	26 Church Closed 	27 Family Promise Church Office Closed	28 Family Promise Here
29 8:15 Family Promise Clean-up 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship	30 12noon BLT					



Presbyterian Women

We had a very nice Thank Luncheon on Wednesday, October 7. We have so very much to be thankful for.

We will have our Christmas Luncheon on December 2 at noon in the Fellowship hall. Ladies please plan to come and bring a friend. If you are not a member of a circle, you are still very welcome to attend. If you are not in a circle, call Marlene Spencer at 252-5027.

We continue to support the Gateway House. Gateway offers safety and hope for women and children who are victims of violence.

According to Gateway’s website, these are the items they will accept and not accept.

WE DO ACCEPT: Full size unopened hygiene products (shampoo, conditioner, body wash), new toothbrushes, full size toothpaste, any new full size dental care products, tampons/pads, diapers/wipes all sizes, baby bottles (gently used but prefer new), bedding (full and twin size only, please label the size), new pillows, blankets, alarm clocks, batteries, towels, blow dryers/curling irons, laundry pods/dryer sheets, Q tips, new cleaning supplies (Windex, toilet cleaner, dishwashing soap/scrubs, Clorox wipes), any gift cards, new hair brushes/combs, new women razors, new nail clippers/files, gently used purses/handbags, new makeup, can openers/silverware (in good condition please).

WE DO NOT ACCEPT: Sample hygiene/travel hygiene products, opened or used makeup, clothes and shoes, used stuffed animals, toy swords, fake guns and any weapons kid toys, bikes or big toys, furniture of any kind, used household appliances, strollers, play pens, car seats, used books, magazines, reading articles, opened food, televisions, computers.

Church & Society Class Schedule for November

Church and Society class meets each Sunday morning at 9:15 AM in the C & S Room. A different guest speaker presents each week on atopic relating to church and society. Shari Dayton welcomes suggestions for guest speakers. Here is the schedule for the month of November:

NOVEMBER 1: Paige Darden, 2010 Yes for Kids Campaign Chair, SD2 Budgeting for Results Committee, and writer for Friends of Billings Public Schools Facebook page, “Public Education and Religion.” Paige will lead a discussion regarding public education and the many challenges it faces that intersect with our faith, values, morals and political beliefs. The conservation will be wide-ranging, seeking answers to questions such as: Should the role of public education be limited or expanded? Where does the responsibility of parents end and educators begin? Should the goal of k-12 education be to create employees, college students, good citizens or moral beings? What are the threats to public education? Can every public school serve every child equally, adequately? Are we keeping up locally, nationally and internationally? Is more money the answer?

NOVEMBER 8: First Presbyterian Foundation, “Leaving a Legacy.” Members of the Foundation, including Trina White and Bob Dayton, will explain the annual distribution from Foundation interest and where that money is designated. They will discuss various avenues of giving that include the Montana Tax Credit, planned giving, appreciated stocks, and direct donations to the Foundation.

NOVEMBER 15: Shawna Housmann, “Being a Foster Parent in a Blended Family.” Led by a strong faith in God and having been adopted, Shawna made a decision that she wanted to adopt children, as her parents did for her. She and her husband, believing that is their calling and ministry, have fostered over 100 children in the last 4 years, resulting in the adoption of 4 children. Partnering through the Department of Health and Human Services Shawna will discuss the challenges and rewards. Their adopted daughter, Ali, will relate her experiences through this process and her role in this blended family.

NOVEMBER 22: “Pope Francis: Life of the Man Behind the Pontificate.” Jim Gransbery will lead a discussion about the life and times of Archbishop of Buenos Aires Cardinal Jorge Bergolio before he was chosen Pope, the first Jesuit elected to the Chair of St. Peter.

NOVEMBER 29: No class due to Thanksgiving Break



Youth News:

Happy Fall! Seems only like yesterday that we were enjoying the warm weather and sunshine. Now winter is upon us and the nights are a little bit cooler, but even cooler than the nights are the events and what's upcoming at FPC Youth!

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the pie auction! \$4,829 was raised— a record amount! Thanks to those who brought a pie, paid for a couple pies, and everything in between. A special thanks goes to Michelle Lee for providing a wonderful lunch. Pastor Dave, Hunter Skov, and I were happy to take one for the team as we were pried in the face with shaving cream! So thank you everyone for participating and having a great time!

Coming up on November 18, is our Senior dinner where FPC youth provides and serves the seniors of First Presbyterian Church as a thank you! Put it on your calendar and plan to join us.

Here is a look ahead to what our high school group will be learning the next couple months. November and the beginning part of December we will be looking at Jesus in the Old Testament. The rest of December will be, "Old Testament, Relevant Truth." There are many lessons that we can learn from the O.T. and we will explore some of those truths that we can apply in 2015/2016. In January, we will be looking at the topic of Christian Apologetics (the defense of the Christian faith). With so much opposition in today's world and what our youth face today, it is important to know how to defend what we believe and why its logical to believe in the Christian message and why its *the* truth! Thanks so much for your continued support of FPC Youth through your prayers, volunteering, and financial contributions.

In Christ,
Orrin Feddes



Hunter Skov
takes a pie in
the face



Singers Welcome!

The Nova Center for the Performing Arts is looking for people who love to sing for their February production of *Turandot*.

No experience necessary! Call Janie Sutton, our church's choir director, at 647-1766 or NOVA at 591-9535 for more information.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Property Committee	Tuesday, November 3 at 12noon
Fellowship Committee	Thursday, November 5 at 11 AM
Mission Committee	Thursday, November 5 at 1 PM
Christian Education	Thursday, November 5 at 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	Monday, November 9 at 10 AM
Session Meeting	Tuesday, November 10 at 7 PM
PW Board Meeting	Wednesday, November 11 at 9:30 AM
Deacons Meeting	Monday, November 16 at 4 PM
Congregational Care Team	Thursday, November 19 at 12noon

On a Personal Note

We extend our condolences to the family of Mae Hunter who passed away in Texas on October 23. A memorial service will be planned at a later date.

We extend God's blessings to Tom and Janette Davis who will be moving soon to be closer to family in Bellingham, Washington. We wish you the best in your new home and community.

A memorial service for Jim Wempner remains pending. Jim passed away in September.

Marilyn Mahan has returned to West Park Village after receiving rehabilitation for a broken hip sustained in a recent fall.

Juanita Stovall has returned home following recent neck surgery on October 19 at St. V's Hospital.

Mary Ann Canan is home and recovering from a recent fall.

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. The next group meets on Wednesday, October 7 at 10 AM.



November Birthdays

- 1 Josephine Bartels
- 2 Marian Shehein
- 5 Cherrie McRae
- Marge Pemble
- Janet Brown
- 7 Cook Murch
- Janice Ward
- 9 Beth Morrow
- 10 Chris Eriksen
- 12 Deborah Oliver

- 15 Barbara Muir
- 16 Lis TenHarmsel
- 17 Ginger Green
- 19 Emma McLean
- 20 Helen Zottnick
- 22 Shirley Voyta
- 27 Colleen Lorentz
- Gail Janiak
- 28 Heather McLean

Anniversaries

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



Mission News

Mark your calendar: On November 1, items from Global Village will be for sale in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a good place to start your Christmas shopping.

The Angel Tree will be up on December 5. This year we plan to have names on it from Ponderosa Pines Nursing Home and also names from Tumbleweed. It is always fun to shop for someone who is very needy. Maybe you can shop as a family and wrap your gifts together.

Representatives from The STEP Organization and the Chinook Horse program spoke to the Mission Committee. STEP's mission is to enhancing the power of people to achieve personal growth. Independence is their long term goal. The Chinook Horse program incorporates horses to address mental health and personal development needs. They serve geriatric, youth at risk, youth, corporations, support groups, families, and couples.

Several members of the Mission Committee had the honor of attending the Tumbleweed fundraising dinner. It was called "When the Night Comes." The funds raised go to assure that no homeless or at-risk youth has to endure the winter weather outside at night. Remember that Tumbleweed serves teens who have had a very hard start to life. They just want to be normal kids and have a good and productive life. It is very good that our Billings church is helping them succeed.

Many thanks to those who donated items to the Billings Food Bank and Tumbleweed recently. A large amount of food, hygiene, and clothing were taken to these two locations last month. We continue to collect items for these two wonderful agencies in town that help many children, youth, and adults.

Special thanks to all who went to Ponderosa Pines Nursing Home on Tuesday, October 27. We provided a worship service and also helped the residents decorate pumpkins for Halloween. Ponderosa Pines is a low income home in Lockwood.

Family Promise returns to our church the week of November 22-28. Volunteers are needed to help with serving as overnight hosts, meals, and activities. If interested in helping with this vital program to homeless families, please talk with Marvin and Janet Brown or Chris Eriksen.

Our mission committee meets the first Thursday of each month at 1 PM in the Fireside Room. We are always looking for ideas and opportunities to reach out to serve those in our area.

Senior Singles plan to meet on Saturday, November 21

The Senior Singles plan to meet in one of the private rooms at McCormick Café at 2419 Montana Ave. on Saturday, November 21 at 10:00 AM. All singles are welcome! This group meets monthly for a time of developing friendship. For more information about this group, please contact either Tom Erskine or Phyllis Brown.