

The 10th

Preaching

Key Elder

Greeters

Maris

Ushers

Chuck & Lois

Phyllis Brown

Ken & Barb

Eichenberger

Gary & Judy

Lohnbakken

Shari Dayton

Care Board

Phyllis Brown

Van Driver

Sound Booth

Jeff Gruizenga

Don Harr

Liturgist

Dave Thompson

Nonprofi Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Billings, MT 59101

Billings, MT 59102-2428 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



(USA

MEMORY JOGGERS FOR JANUARY 2016

The 3rd **Preaching** Dave Thompson **Key Elder** Sharon Lincoln **Greeters** Bob & Linda Fedric Judy Nusbaum **Ushers** Cindy Leggate Bud & Joanne Leuthold Megan Lorentz Liturgist Heather McLean **Van Driver** Chuck Leggate **Sound Booth David Bauer** Communion Pat Clark

Heidi Duncan

Jeff Gruizenga

Lois Maris

JoAnn Jones

The 17th Preaching Dave Thompson **Key Elder** Jenice Fugere Ken Eichenberger **Greeters** Chris Eriksen Earl & Sharon Henderson Ushers Jerry Koch Bob Fedric Bill White Don Reed Liturgist Marcia Muir **Care Board** Sharon Lincoln **Van Driver** Don Harr **Sound Booth** Chuck Leggate

The 24th Preaching Dave Thompson **Key Elder Sharon Mathews** Greeters Bob & Norma Thiesen Pat Clark Ushers Royal Johnson **Sharon Mathews Kurt & Mary Grabow** Liturgist Janet Kline **Care Board** Chuck & Cindv Leggate **Van Driver** Heather McLean **Sound Booth Bob Culbertson**

The 31st Preaching Dave Thompson **Key Elder** Chris Eriksen **Greeters** Diane Noddings Thelma Riggs Eleanor Reinecke **Ushers** Marlene Spencer Sharon Brady Marian Shehein Betty Ann Nesmith Liturgist **Doris Backus Care Board** Chris Eriksen **Van Driver** Don Harr **Sound Booth** TBA

February 7th Preaching Dave Thompson **Key Elder Sharon Mathews Greeters** Jo Albin, Shirley Shirley, Charlie Reed **Ushers** Bob & Cathy Culbertson Earl & Sharon Henderson Liturgist Tonya Appelt **Van Driver** Chuck Leggate **Sound Booth** David Bauer **Communion** Ken & Barb Eichenberger Sharon Brady Kathleen Butler **Sharon Mathews**



2016



PASTOR'S PEN

Looking Back, Looking Forward

It is hard to believe that in just a few days we will turn the calendar and usher in another year. This time of year provides a good opportunity to look back upon the past year and look forward to the next one.

This past year we brought in new members, expanded our ministry with several local mission groups (including Tumbleweed Youth Outreach), traveled to California with our youth group to help a community devastated by fire, formed the new Congregational Care Team, and saw God's hand working in many ways. In June we welcomed Glenda Wickstrom, a student at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, as she worked with us this summer as a seminary intern. We celebrated the lives of some of our long time members who have passed on to be with God in eternity. We miss these individuals and the unique qualities that each brought to our church family. We continued to update the church facility by adding air conditioning to our sanctuary space and automating the watering system in our church yard. We saw our Sunday school, youth group, and vacation Bible school programs grow with more kids and activities. 2015 was a good and busy year for our congregation!

So what about 2016? Mission will remain a priority, opportunities for faith building will be offered, updates around the church will be completed, and I am confident 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 think one of our church's greatest strengths is our church's culture. We cultivate a culture of fun, forgiveness, and faith that is attractive to many people. This culture is evident in the way we worship and work together for the glory of God.

I look forward to what the New Year will bring to our church and all of the opportunities that await us. I believe that God has great plans for our ministry as we move forward. Thanks to all of you who had a part on our 2015 ministry, bringing life and hope to a number of people.

Happy New Year to you and your families! Thanks for making 2015 a memorable year!!

—Pastor Dave

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Youth Group will resume on Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00 PM Sunday school resumes on Sunday, January 10 at 9:15 AM New Year, New You! class begins on Sunday, January 10 at 9:15 AM New sermon series titled "Change: Is it Possible?" begins on January 10 Annual congregation meeting coming on Sunday, January 31 after worship

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

EVENTS/ PW/ CHURCH AND SOCIETY YOUTH/ NOTICES/ PERSONAL BIRTHDAYS MISSION CALENDAR 6 DINNERS OF EIGHT STEPHEN'S MINISTRY MEMORY JOGGERS 3	Session Notes/ Finance/Church	2
PERSONAL BIRTHDAYS MISSION CALENDAR DINNERS OF EIGHT STEPHEN'S MINISTRY MEMORY A P MEMORY A MEMORY	CHURCH AND	3
MISSION CALENDAR 6 DINNERS OF EIGHT STEPHEN'S MINISTRY MEMORY		4
DINNERS OF EIGHT STEPHEN'S MINISTRY MEMORY		5
STEPHEN'S 7 MINISTRY MEMORY 8	CALENDAR	6
I H	STEPHEN'S	7
		8

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

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 Mary Brown** Jeff Gruizenga Sandi Schoenberger

Session Notes:

At the December 8 meeting of the session, the date for the annual congregational meeting was set for Sunday, January 31 after the worship service.

Committee budgets should be completed by the end of December and year end reports should be submitted to the office by January 10.

The property committee reported that new light bulbs will soon be installed in the sanctuary. Additional smoke detectors will also be installed.

The stewardship committee stated that pledges for 2016 are still be received.

The next session meeting will be held in the Fireside Room on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 PM

Financial snapshot

2015 Net Income Expense **December** \$ 70,170 \$ 35,576 \$ 34,594 \$ 102,764 Year to Date \$ 542.905 \$ 440.141

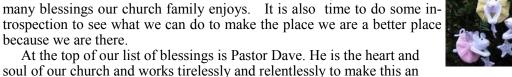
Thanks to all who gave to our church's ministry in 2015. We appreciate your generosity.

Sermons available 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. Stay connected even when you are away. Sermon for the past 12 weeks are archived on our church's website.

DEC	2015
6тн	217
13тн	231
20тн	225
CHRIST- MAS EVE	425
27тн	157
2015 Dec Average	251
2014 DEC AVERAGE	227

Church Mice: The church mice at this time of year reflect on the many blessings our church family enjoys. It is also time to do some introspection to see what we can do to make the place we are a better place because we are there.



efficient, spiritual church. Dave fills every void that appears because of a lack of helpers. He is truly a blessing to us. Orrin Feddes does an outstanding job with the youth and Sandy, Bey and Janie bring us beautiful music on Sundays and special occasions. Jeanne keeps the office running smoothly. There are countless others who contribute to the maintenance and well being of our church.

When you are looking for something worthwhile to do to serve God, remember the committees in our church. If you want a one - night stand, think of IHN or the youth group. Both need volunteers to make a dinner one night or set up and/or clean up for IHN. Check with Chris Eriksen or Janet Brown for IHN and Orrin for youth. PW always needs helpers to prepare and serve coffee and cookies on Sundays and at funerals - contact Marlene Spencer. Any one of the committee chairs can always use assistance.

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 January 3.

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. They are Ken and Barbara Eichenberger and Linda and John Luse. Thanks to all who donated poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones. A complete list is in this newsletter.

PAGE 7

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 Ascheman -259-1336 --aschemanim@hotmail.com (be sure to title it Dinners of Eight)

November/December/January

Basket,	Kathy	Basingthw , Mark	aite 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	Ì	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	656-8163
				Ascheman	Jason	Meghan	259-1336

M	1uir	Bob	Barbara	325-8016	Substitutes			
L	orentz	Megan		855-5427	Reinecke	Eleanor		248-8293
C	arlson	Edna		534-6211	Leggate	Chas	Cindy	896-0686
Pi	ierce	June		245-7989	Spencer	Marlene		252-5027
В	racken	Teena		672-4584	Thompson	Dave	Vicki	252-2562
В	racken	Carla		259-7973	Swanson	Jerry		655 5448
R	Reed	Don		252-5316	Dayton	Bob	Shari	256-3130

Stephen Ministry Update

A training class for Stephen Ministers continues through March. This group meets on Thursday evenings at the church from 6:00-8:30 PM in the Fireside Room. Upon completion of this training, each of our Stephen Ministers will be assigned a care receiver to whom they will provide skills of listening, encouragement, and spiritual help. More information about this training is available through JoAnn Jones, Doris Backus, Jack Bell, Shirley Shirley, or Pastor Dave.

Peace-Making at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church members are learning to facilitate constructive conversations on tough issues. The Billings community is invited on Saturday, January 23, from 1-4 p.m. to discuss "Gun Use." Participants will be assigned to a group of 6 people, with half the people favoring gun freedoms, and half favoring gun regulations. After each person tells their story and concerns, participants will explore areas of common agreement. There is no attempt to draw any conclusions. The program teaches us how to listen and how to share our opinions in a civil manner.

The Yellowstone Presbytery has given St. Andrew a grant for their training and workshops with the hope that other Presbyterian Churches will participate and develop their own Peace-making programs. Please call Susan Dickson at 656-9256 weekdays, 9-1 p.m. if you are planning on attending. There is no charge for this event.

PAGE 6

Angel Tree gifts were delivered

Over 100 gifts were delivered in time for Christmas to the Billings area homeless youth served by Tumble-weed and the residents of Ponderosa Pines Nursing Home in Lockwood. Both groups greatly appreciated the gifts, kindness, and thoughtfulness from many of you. Items ranging from clothing to school supplies, to backpacks were delivered to Tumbleweed. Items such as comforters, socks, and hygiene items were delivered to Ponderosa Pines. Again we thank you for supporting the Angel Tree once again this year and making Christmas a bit brighter for these children and adults.

On a Personal Note

We extend our sympathies to the following families who have lost loved ones recently. They include:

Adam Ashworth passed away at Eagle Cliffs Manor in the Heights on November 24. A memorial service will be likely held sometime next summer.

Helen Pluhar died on December 6 at her residence at Tender Nest Care Center. Her funeral was held in our church on Thursday, December 10.

Ruth Ewen would appreciate prayers for her son Roger as he deals with some health issues.

Ginger Green is making some good improvements following an infection in her leg. She remains at West Park Village.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Happy New Year 2016	2
3 Food Bank Sunday 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park worship	10 Worship Comm 12noon BLT 6 Billings Child Care Association Meeting (BCCA)	5 9:30 Staff Meet 9:30 Women's Bible Study 11 Stephen Min Leaders Meeting 6 Sigma Meeting	9-11 BSF Lead 10 Grief Support Group 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adults	7 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 1 Mission Committee 6 Stephen Ministry 7 CE Committee	8 12noon Church Women United gathering at our church	9 10 Gluten Intolerant Group (GIG) decorating
10 9:15 Praise team 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park Worship	11 12noon BLT 12 Noon Men's Group	9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1 Property Comm 7 Session Meeting	9-11 BSF Lead 9:30 PW Board 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Young Adults	9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) Dave at meeting in Bozeman	15 Church closed	9:30 Ste- phen Ministry Retreat 10 PEO Mar- lene
17 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:00 West Park worship	18 Church Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday 4 Deacons Meet- ing	9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study	9-11 BSF Lead PW Circles Meet 6 Youth Group 7Choir Rehears 7:30 Young Adults	9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 11 Fellowship Committee 6 Stephen Ministry	22 Church Closed Newsletter Deadline	8-1:30 Billings Child Care Assn Training
24 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11 West Park wor- ship	25 12noon BLT 12noon Men's Group	26 9:30 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study	27 9-11 BSF Lead 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehears 7:30 Young Adults	28 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship 12 Congregational Care Team 6 Stephen Ministry	29 Church Closed	30
31 9:15 Sun Sch. 10:30 Worship 11 West Park 11:45 Cong. Meet and soup lunch						



Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's circles gathered on Wednesday, December 16 for their annual Christmas parties. Lots of Christmas treats were enjoyed and we continued our Bible study series on the importance and significance of water.

The circles meet the third Wednesday of each month. Two groups meet at 9:15 AM, two meet at 1:00 PM, and one meets in the evening at 6:00 PM. For more information about these groups you can talk with Marlene Spencer.

The Presbyterian Women Board meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room.

Church Women United will be meeting at our church on Friday, January 8 at 12noon. All women are invited to attend this community gathering of women.

Sunday school classes that are currently offered

Sunday school for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 10. Lots of great classes are provided for all ages! Hope you all with join us!



Classes for Kids:

Kindergarten through 5th grade: This class meets at 9:15 AM

Middle School and High School: Youth meet in the downstairs youth coffee room with Russ and Heidi Sunday school during our worship service is held every week after the children's sermon. A variety of teachers lead this class for children ages kindergarten through the 5th grade.

Special Class for Adults:

New Year, New You! With Pastor Dave

With the New Year comes all kinds of resolutions to start afresh, change bad habits, and begin the year 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 10 at 9:15 AM in the Fireside Room for a six week class on this interesting topic. He will help us set realistic goals and provide a biblical blueprint to change. Join us if you have a desire to change your life.

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

JANUARY 10: Dr. Alan Muskett, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon. Dr. Muskett will be imparting serious messages of life and faith, interspersed with humor. Known for his entertaining talks and writings, he has recently published his second book, "True Enough: A Surgeon's Mostly True Reflections on Life Medicine, and Marine Navigation." Dr. Muskett is always a popular draw to this class.

JANUARY 17: Jim Gransbery, retired Political and Agricultural Reporter for the Billings Gazette. He will be addressing, "Confronting Evil: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Letters from Prison." As a German Lutheran pastor, key founding member of the Confessing Church, and an anti-Nazi dissident, Bonhoeffer was accused of an assassination plot to kill Hitler. He was imprisoned, quickly tried, and executed by hanging. How do we as a faith community confront evil today?

JANUARY 24: Kim Woeste, Chaplain/Director of Spiritual Life and Church Relations at Rocky Mountain College. At RMC since 2012 Kim will discuss what her role is at RMC, a church affiliated school, and her work with young adults in the Higher Education environment. Previously, she was the minister at MSUB for United Campus Ministry for 10 years.

JANUARY 31: Barry Beach, will present "A Free Man." In November Governor Steve Bullock granted a clemency request and commuted the life without parole sentence of Barry Beach. Barry will discuss the last several years after being returned to prison, his quest for freedom, his plans for his future, and how his strong faith sustained him.

Happy New Year to all of our youth and their families in the church. On Wednesday, December 18 the youth met at the church for its annual Christmas party. Lots of kids were here to exchange white elephant gifts, play games, and enjoy a wonderful meal cooked by Orrin and Emily and many other volunteers

Special thanks to all of the children and youth who took part in the Christmas program during worship on Sunday, December 18. What a fun and wonderful way to share the story of Jesus coming into our world

Youth group for all middle and high school youth will resume on Wednesday, January 6 from 6-8 PM. Join us each week as we share a meal, develop a deeper relationship with God, play great games, worship, and enjoy fellowship with one another. Dinners are always needed and a sign up sheet is on the bulletin board across from the Fireside Room.

Thanks to all who donated meals for youth group this past year. A variety of wonderful meals were served and the youth enjoy having a warm meal served each week.

Happy New Year to you and your families!

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 25 for elders and deacons. They include:

Elders: Chris Eriksen (2nd term), Jenice Fugere (2nd term) Chuck Leggate (1st term), and Heather McLean (1st term) Deacons: Peggy Cluff (1st term), Dodie Cox (2nd term), Bob Fedric (1st term), and Janice Ward (1st term)

Nominations from the congregation will also be received as well. If elected, these people will begin their terms in February. Thanks to all of our wonderful church leaders who guide and direct the church in the ways and hope of God.

Choir Cantata Appreciation

Special thanks to the choir for presenting 'Behold the Glory" Christmas cantata on Sunday, December 18 during worship. The message that was portrayed through narration and songs was moving. Special thanks to Janie Sutton, director; Bev Wornom, piano accompanist; Greta Murray and Scott Harr narrators; and the rest of the choir for pre senting this wonderful piece. Look for anoth er cantata near Easter.

Upcoming Committee Meetings in

(All meetings are in the Fireside Room)

Worship Committee Monday, January 4 at 10 AM Fellowship Committee Thursday, January 7 at 11 AM Mission Committee Thursday, January 7 at 1 PM Christian Education Thursday, January 7 at 7 PM Deacons Thursday, January 11 at 4 PM **Property Committee** Tuesday, January 12 at 12noon Session Meeting Tuesday, January 12 at 7 PM PW Board Meeting Wednesday, January 13 at 9:30 AM Congregational Care Team Thursday, January 28 at 12noon

Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 31

Be sure to join us after worship on Sunday, January 31 for our annual congregational meeting. At this meeting you will hear about some of the ministry activities of 2015, nominate a new group of elders and deacons. review our 2015 finances, and look at the 2016 proposed budget. This meeting will be held immediately after worship and we do hope that you will join us.

Following the meeting we invite you to join us in the fellowship hall for a free soup and bread luncheon. This event is being organized by our church's fellowship committee.

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 \square 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, January 6 at 10:00 AM at the church in the conference room.



PAGE 5

January Birthdays

- 3 Willard Johnson
- 4 Mary Rottrup
- 5 Greta Murray George Schuman
- 10 Zackery Bennett
- 20 Scott Harr Thelma Riggs

- 22 Willeen Dailey
- 24 Robert Keenum
- 29 Mark Parker
- 30 Jean Schneider

Anniversaries

6 Kurt & Cathy McLean



Foundation makes annual gift to the church

The Foundation of our congregation recently gave the church \$23,000 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 Trina White or Tanya Appelt. Special thanks to all who have given to the Foundation in 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 107 pledges for the coming year for a total of \$270,064.

Mission News

Thank you so much for the generous outpouring for the Angel tree. We are such a blessing to so many. Most of the kids at Tumbleweed and residents of Ponderosa Pines would receive no gifts at all without your generosity. Many of them asked for the bare necessities and are so very thankful for anything.

Sue Bentley and Karla Mahan shared some Christmas crafts with the kids at Tumbleweed. It was such fun. The youth are kind and polite and thankful for someone to come and share an activity with them. It was good to see so many of them come in and greet each other with a hug and friendship. They have had a tough start to life but through the safety they have at Tumbleweed, so many of them seem to

be starting to heal. We have been asked to come back sometime. The Mission Committee prayerfully donated \$35,000 to those in need this year. We also supported the work of

our denomination with \$18,000 that is given through our Per Capita offering. Your generosity in allowing us to reach out and make a difference in our community and world is greatly appreciated!!

God's children were helped locally and internationally. On top of that you generously gave through activities like "Make a Difference/Pay it Forward" campaign in November where we gave out \$10 to each person as seed money to make a difference. We also received several Noisy Offerings during this past year.

On Sunday, January 17 we will welcome a representative from the Gideon who will be sharing in worship about their important work in getting Bibles distributed around the world.

In this coming year please pray for the Mission Committee and join us if you feel so led. We usually meet the first Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM in the Fireside Room. The committee is led by Ken Eichenberger and currently has 11 members.

> In this New Year, we pray for Joy, Hope, and Peace Together we can help God's precious children