



PresbEnews

January 11, 2012

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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CPR/AED CLASSES

As a result of your generous response to fundraising efforts, the church has purchased our AED's and it's time for CPR/AED training. Dan Archer is volunteering his time and expertise as a trainer and will provide classes at FPC.

Dates: Sunday Jan 15th 12:30-3:30 p.m., following a light lunch
Thursday, Jan 19th 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Where: Library, FPC

Who: Those interested in a class combining Red Cross certification in CPR/AED's.

Each of the classes can accommodate up to 15 people, with the cost of the first 20 people who register already having been covered by the AED fundraising.

Otherwise, the cost is \$19.00. Books will be provided for use in the class at no charge.

We hope to have a good mix of folks who regularly participate in activities at FPC and/or Rockhaven since we'll have AED's in both locations.

How: Sign up by contacting Linda in the church office, 586-9194, and providing your choice(s) of dates and your contact information to include name, phone number, address, and e-mail address.

Questions: Contact Linda in the church office (586-9194) or John Patterson (587-9722).

Post-Christmas Sale

There are a few cookie mixes still available for purchase from the Youth Group, now at 50% off (\$6 for one, \$10 for 2). Contact Linda in the church office or check with a youth group member on Sunday. Proceeds benefit two Youth Group projects—wheelchairs for 2 children in Cameroon and summer mission experiences. Thank you to those who have already supported our youth.

Prayer Request Line now available by calling the church at 586-9194. If calling during office hours, requests for prayers on our church prayer chain can be shared with the secretary. After hours, the prayer request line is available by pressing option 6. The recorded requests will be immediately forwarded to our prayer chain coordinators, Helen Craig and Fran Bradley.

Church Facebook page a source of up-to-date info!

Even if you're not a Facebook member yourself, you can still access the church's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fpcozeman



to get in on regular breaking news. If you'd like to interact with the content and others on the page, click the "Like" button at the top of the page if you're a Facebook member.

Facebook—just one more way for us to interact with today's world!

Pulpit exchange with local rabbi

In the past several years, First Presbyterian Church has been exploring interfaith understandings in several arenas. Co-pastor Jody McDevitt has been a regular panelist in the monthly interfaith presentations held at Temple Beth Shalom, the adult Sunday school class studied various faith traditions in 2010-11, and on Sept. 11, 2011, we hosted the community interfaith observance of the 10 year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. What next steps might we take to learn from our neighbors of different faith traditions? How about a pulpit exchange?

Jody has been invited to be the guest preacher at Temple Beth Shalom on Friday evening, January 27, and in exchange, Rabbi Ed Stafman of Temple Beth Shalom will be our guest preacher at both 8:30 and 10:30 services on Sunday, January 29. Rabbi Ed is a very learned person with an interesting background. Prior to eight years of rabbinical study, he was a trial lawyer in Florida specializing in defending death penalty cases. In addition to his rabbinical study and law degree, he holds a masters in Religion and has completed all coursework for a PhD in Religion of Western Antiquity, which includes early Judaism, early Christianity, and Greek & Roman religion. He is an engaging speaker whose commitment to interfaith relations, justice, community, and spiritual growth have made an influence in the Bozeman community since his arrival here in 2008.

Don't miss this "first" at First Presbyterian Church!

Love INC Visit

Have you ever wanted to know many of the ways ways to serve God in our community? Nancy van Dyken, the Executive Director of Love INC is coming to First Presbyterian on Tuesday, January 17th at 5:30 p.m, room 204. She will be meeting with all who are interested in learning about volunteer opportunities. We hope you will take the time to explore possibilities and learn about the opportunities for service in God's name that Love INC provides!

Thank you ...

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your generous support of Love Inc.'s Personal Care Pantry. December was a busy month at the pantry--we packed 70 baskets. This would not be possible without the each of you gives to this ministry. Thanks for helping share God's love with those going through difficult times.

Libby Cameron, Love Inc. Personal Care Pantry

Birthdays

1/12 Christine Holland
1/13 Ric Tieman
1/14 Don Frye
1/15 Alison Todd
McKinley Hall
1/17 Lyle Biekert

Volunteers Needed....

We are looking for two providers from our congregation for child care on Mondays from January 16th through March 26th. Our church is hosting the Women's Ecumenical Bible Study during this period and child care is an integral part of the program. Work hours are from 9:45 am to noon each Monday for this paid position. Providers will undergo a background check and five hours of training in the Safeguarding God's Children curriculum; training hours are also paid. In interested please contact Susan Gibb at 582-7413 or susgibb@gmail.com Thanks!

Mission Co-worker John McCall writes from Taiwan

The Rev. John McCall, who serves as a seminary professor teaching spiritual development in Taipei, also supports the pastors and youth ministries of aboriginal churches in the mountains of Taiwan. A recent letter describes a weekend in the mountains. . . .

I left in pouring rain walking out of the seminary gate down the mountain to the bus stop. By the time the bus arrived, I was soaked. I took the crowded Friday afternoon bus to the train station where I took a train to a city south of Taipei. An aboriginal pastor, one of my former students, picked me up at the train station and we headed to the high mountains of central Taiwan.

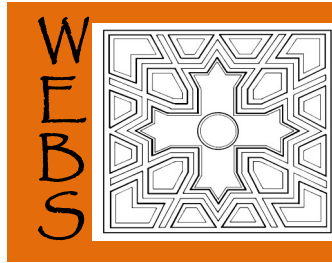
When we got to the mountain village several hours later, it was still raining and it was late, so we drank some tea to warm up. It was cold up in the mountains and there is no heat inside Taiwanese homes. Thankfully, the bed where I slept had three thick comforters.

When we awoke early the next morning, the sun was beginning to spread its golden rays across the heavy clouds. It was a welcome sight. We had a simple breakfast and then the village youth arrived at the church to begin practice for the worship band. Five high mountain church youth groups were meeting together this morning, and I had been asked to preach at the renewal service. The other youth groups slowly began to arrive from even higher villages tucked into these rugged mountains. Most of these junior high and high school youth attend school in the plains and come home on the weekend to see their families and to attend church activities. The church is still the center of their lives. In their schools they are often a misunderstood minority, but back in their home churches they can be themselves and grow into the people God has created them to be.

The service started with music...

To read the entire letter, click the second file sent with this edition of PresbEnews.





Women's Ecumenical Bible Study

Join us for our Winter/Spring 2012 study of ...

The Book of Acts

Mondays ~ January 16 – March 26 ~ 10:00-11:45 at First Presbyterian Church

You are invited to join our community wide women's Bible Study starting up again after the first of the year; we would love to have you be a part of the group. The mission of WEBS is to offer women a safe, engaging learning environment to nurture our faith through Bible Study and relationship with others. WEBS also seeks to build connection by sharing our stories as we explore God's story.

Beginning January 16th, we'll spend 10 weeks exploring **The Book of ACTS** using **N.T. Wright's Acts for Everyone** (chapters 13-28). For this session, we'll meet Monday mornings from 10:00-11:45 at First Presbyterian Church (Willson & Babcock). Our morning include small group discussions of the Bible text for that week, followed by a gathering of the large group together. Here we seek head and heart understanding by sharing 'insights & inquiries' with a pastor. For this series our pastor will be the Rev. Valerie Webster, (vwebster587@gmail.com or 587-7202), an Episcopal priest, Spiritual Director, & staff chaplain at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. WEBS is for women from all around our community, so invite your friends! And Remember young moms: we have a fantastic... and free!... Childcare for your babies & Christian learning activities for your preschoolers. If you have questions or need more information, please call Kay Lansverk at BUMC (586-5413) or Katie Daughenbaugh 570-4146.

New Discussion Group Forming

A new Discussion Group is being formed at our church. This coming Thursday, January 12 at 4:00 PM in the church library this group will be meeting to explore Social Justice Issues. If you are interested please join us for discussion on how the group will proceed.

We are not a political group but one who seeks to know and understand issues that continually seem to plague us as Christians. Betsy Crabs will present information on Immigration issues that she studied this past October in El Paso Texas. At this time she was involved in an internship with The Center for Action and Contemplation. We hope all interested will join us on Thursday.

Holland_days...

By Dan Holland

This one's been festering a long time — a year to be precise. It was exactly one year ago that I sent our dog into water that I shouldn't have; the dog never made it out of that water.

Regret is a dish served over and over, and I apologize for using this space for my own catharsis, but this was no ordinary dog. We got the Yellow Lab named York almost five years ago in the aftermath of our daughter's accident to help in her recovery process. At least that's the line I bought into when I got talked into raising a puppy at the same time we were adapting to a newly disabled child. York, however, had no such misgivings and immediately opened up his heart and got to work. He became a familiar sight at her side at horse shows, running down the road beside her motorized scooter, or frolicking with her as she relearned how to swim at the pond.

Eventually Katie went away to college, but this big, goofy dog still had lots of himself to share. Most often he could be seen laying at the end of the driveway like a Sphinx with his front paws crossed, waiting to give and receive Lab sugar to whoever wandered past.

On Christmas day the highlight of our worship service was the 'blessing of the animals.' I realize there are some folks that scoff at this notion, but I truly felt honored to be one of those providing blessings to animals of all shapes and sizes. In my case it wasn't much of a stretch, because I had already been blessed.

Big Yellow Healer

The puppy came to us as a means
to facilitate her rehabilitation.
Talk about an easy sell.
"Our old dog needs a friend"
became
"Katie needs a friend."
And a friend he was —
to everyone:
mail carriers, joggers, stray dogs, horses,
barn-cats, goats, but above all else
us.

There's an old Jewish prayer,
Mi Sheberakh, which I prayed
many times during Katie's ordeal.
It can be taken to mean
"blessed to be a blessing,"
and somewhere along the line York
had been blessed. Now he
was passing out his own blessings —
big heaping helpings — like mashed
potatoes at a harvest dinner.

Then in a flash he was gone,
and no matter how many times people
told me 'it wasn't my fault,'
or 'he died doing what he loved to do,'
I still had this dreadful ache
just like the roiling in the river
that carried him away.

Now, I'm not smart enough to know
if dogs have souls, or if they
follow us to the afterlife as
some would suggest.
But when I do cross over
to the other side, I'd like
to think there will be a sphinx-like
creature lying in the path
front paws crossed,
imperceptibly wagging his
tail, big brown eyes looking straight
into my heart and letting me
know I am
home.