



PresbEnews

January 25, 2012

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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New Church Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The annual meeting of the congregation will be on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012, immediately following the 10:30 service. Ordinarily the meeting is on the first Sunday of February, but session voted on Jan 18 to change this date in order to accommodate travel schedules of several of those making reports. Please plan to be present for a provided lunch, to hear year-end reports, to vote on the co-pastors' terms of call for 2012, and to celebrate all that God is doing through First Presbyterian Church and its ministries.

C.A.T.A.P.U.L.T Ministry

Creative, Animated, Theatrical, Artistic, Praise and Unique Liturgy Team

Calling all creative, out-of-the-box thinking, dreamers, to brainstorm ideas and begin talking about a Creative Worship/Liturgy Team. Do you play an instrument, speak well in public, have experience or interest in dance, acting... or clown ministry? Do you like interactive liturgy, puppetry, sign language, hand drumming, praise music, storytelling, intergenerational and experiential ministry... or do you just have a spark of interest in being part of creative, authentic and unique worship styles? If you answered yes to any of these questions then I want to talk to you! It doesn't matter if you think you are creative or talented or inspired... it doesn't matter if you are 5 years old or 95 years old... All you need is some desire and willingness and God's going to do the rest. Contact me now!

Scott Thrasher: 406-600-1891 or scott@thrasherarts.com



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/fpcbozeman to get in on regular breaking news. If you'd like to interact with the content and others on the page, click

Pulpit exchange with local rabbi this weekend

On **Friday, January 27**, Jody McDevitt will be guest preacher at Temple Beth Shalom at the 6 pm Shabbat service. If you have never attended a Jewish service before, consider this opportunity to give it a try. Temple Beth Shalom is located at 2010 W. Koch, behind the Albertson's shopping center.

On **Sunday, January 29**, Rabbi Ed Stafman will be guest preacher at both the 8:30 and 10:30 am services at First Presbyterian Church. Rabbi Ed has been in Bozeman since 2008. 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 married to Beth Lee, who is a calligrapher, book and graphic designer, and web designer (check out www.bethshalombozeman.org to see a great website!), and they are parents of two grown children.



The purpose of the pulpit exchange is to increase understanding and promote peace. We will celebrate our common heritage and learn from one another.

Rabbi Ed

Hello all Knitters: Would any of you like to join us in knitting caps, scarves and mittens for the less privileged children of some of our schools? We could use your help - please contact me if you can join us. Thanks - Joyce Armour - mumsie27@bresnan.net.

Birthdays

1/25 Stephen Eilers

Betty Austin

Bruce Wilson

Spencer Hallin

1/26 Lindsey Kurz

1/27 Stephanie Breen

1/28 Kendall Mosley

1/30 Margaret Heath

1/31 Shirley Sedivy

Don Frye

Dan Archer

Say Howdy!!! Greeter/Registrar Volunteers are needed for the Change Your Life program of Love INC. If you are a people person, this position is easy, easy, easy! Simply greet students and mentors, see that they get their paperwork and sign in. Time commitment is only Tuesday evenings 6:00-6:30pm, located at E-Free church but the service is very important! Call Dawn at Love Inc. 587-6395,

Project Homeless Connect 2012 Event. Project Homeless Connect brings volunteers of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels together to serve people in our community experiencing homelessness. This event is taking place here at our church on Saturday, January 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed for two shifts from 8:45 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. and 11:15a.m.-2 p.m. for this worthy event. For more information call Project Homeless Connect Director Bridget Pitman at 406.582.7388 or bpitman@familypromisegv.org or contact the church office.

Youth Group at Work

On Sunday afternoon, Jan 22, members of our youth group made 3 customized wheelchairs for 3 children in Cameroon who need them, thanks to local nonprofit ROC (Reach Out and Care) Wheels. The project was funded by the soup and cookie mixes which the youth made and sold in December. Tom and Valerie McMakin, who met and measured the children last summer in Cameroon, are now working on the challenge of delivering the wheelchairs. When delivered, these three children will have mobility for the first time in their lives, bringing to life the gospel story of the paralytic Jesus healed because of the faith of his friends.

Our youth are growing in compassion and competence as they learn to follow Jesus. Thank you to all who support them. The kingdom of God is here, and growing.



Youth at work



Child needing wheelchair

Volunteer of the Month at Family Promise



One of our Family Promise volunteers, **Judy Arkwright**, has been named as Volunteer of the Month by Family Promise of Gallatin Valley. Judy has been a volunteer at our church ever since First Presbyterian joined as a host church. She has served on the steering committee and schedules volunteers each time we have hosted. She has contributed in many different ways to make our weeks with the families so welcoming and successful. We are so pleased that she has been chosen and celebrate her contributions to solving homelessness one family at a time.

Check out the complete article at:

<http://www.familypromisegv.org/january-2012/>

A marriage enrichment workshop called “Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage” is being held February 10-11 at the Journey Church. Nationally known speaker Mark Gungor will present the very crucial aspects of a great marriage friendship. His take on marriage issues is refreshingly free of both church and psychological lingo. More information and registration forms are available in the church office (586-9194). Information is also at www.laughyourway.com.

CPR/AED CLASSES – A ‘LIFESAVING’ EXPERIENCE!!

31 members of the congregation were able to attend the January 15th and 19th CPR/AED classes led by Dan Archer. The classes were not only educational but also a very interesting and fun experience to share with other folks from the church.

The AED’s are now mounted and operational at the downtown church in the ‘old library’ room out the northeast door of the sanctuary and at Rockhaven just inside the door of the dining hall by the phone. Please familiarize yourself with where they are in case of an emergency. You might be called upon to ‘Call 911 and get the AED’!!

Sincere thanks to all those who made the purchase of the AED’s and the CPR/AED classes and certifications possible!



Holland_days...

By Dan Holland

I'm not sure exactly why, but the other day one of our annual ministries popped into my head. Operation Christmas Child has been spearheaded by Donna Beck for many years and she and her crew do a tremendous job getting hundreds of shoeboxes ready to ship each November. Our family has always participated, but I have to admit that sometimes we just go through the motions. We don't think enough about the kids on the receiving end of the process.

I visited the Samaritan's Purse website, and I found a map of the world where you can click on each country to see how many shoeboxes have been delivered since 1993. The best I can tell India and Mexico lead the way with over seven and six million boxes, respectively. The only other country with over five million deliveries was, surprisingly, the Ukraine. So I thought I might take a fictional journey to the other end of the shoebox line.

The Ball (part I)

Viktor gazed at the horizon beyond the chain-link fence at the boundary of the orphanage. The winter sun was setting into the haze offered up by bustling Donetsk to the west. He watched in amazement as multi-hued streaks predictably raced across the sky. The old-timers said the nightly parade of colors was a gift of Chernobyl, the same disaster that doctors said was to blame for the cancer that ultimately took his parents when Viktor was only four. Theirs was a small family, so there was no one else to care for Viktor. Now he lived inside these links of chain.

Thump! The soccer ball struck Viktor in the back of the head. "Pay attention," his best friend Andrey yelled. "It's almost dark and the mistress will make us go in soon."

Viktor rubbed his head and yelled back, "Good thing you kicked that ball, Andrey, otherwise it would have hurt." He popped the ball up with a deft touch and volleyed it back toward his friend. They were in the midst of reenacting the latest tilt between Shakhtar Donetsk and Dynamo Kiev, the two storied rivals of Ukrainian football. "Five minutes of added time and the score is tied one-one," Viktor mimicked the announcer they had listened to on the internet feed last week. The mistress had allowed them to stay up past their bedtime to watch the match, because the two had had a remarkable change in behavior ever since the shoeboxes came.

The orphanage was state run and subject to the whims of local bureaucrats. As a result recreational supplies ebbed and flowed. Likewise food. And winter was always the worst. Bread and cabbage, cabbage and bread. Day and night. Night and day. To the boys' way of thinking, though, not having a football was a far worse crime against humanity. They lived and breathed it, often to the chagrin of the teachers who often found the boys diagramming plays in lieu of homework. Then when their last ball wore out in October, their attitude suffered. "Improvise," the mistress had implored, but tape wound around trash was a poor substitute. Their grades dipped. Their chores went undone.

At Christmas the staff reluctantly allowed the boys to each have one of the boxes that came from the American relief agency. For the past five years it had been a rite of passage with the orphans, so the mistress thought denying the boys a brief glimpse of hope might make things even worse.

Viktor had only half-heartedly opened his box. It held the requisite soap and toothbrush, stationary and hard candies. But then he felt the deflated leather at the bottom of the box. And he read one of the few English words he knew: Nike.