

PresbEnews - 11/10/2010

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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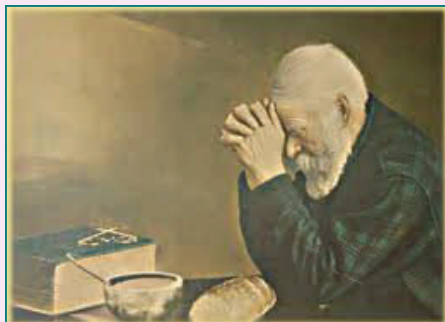
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It's Pledge Time at FPC

By now, hopefully, most of you have received your pledge card for 2011. This year, like last, the church elders will be tabulating their pledges during early November and reporting back to the congregation their level of committed support, setting a positive tone to the rest of the pledge process.

People pledge their support to the church for many reasons. Some are functional: if we wish to have this church with its current level of operations, we have to have at least a sustaining level of financial support. Many of us feel lucky to be part of a church body that has such an impressive set of missions and projects. Others feel blessed to be part of this particular community of shared belief.

We have the additional spiritual dimension of the pledging process. Sharing what God has given us with the church is very satisfying. Thinking about the positive impact our church has on our spiritual lives and the community around us makes us feel closer to God.



One of the contrasts between pledging at our church and other charitable gifts is the "nearness" of the outcome of the pledge. When we send a check to the Red Cross or United Way, it disappears into the fabric of a

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Quarterly Brunch *THIS Sunday!*

This Sunday, November 14th, at about 9:30a, many of us will be in Fellowship Hall enjoying a continental breakfast. Your church session is hosting this event.

Be sure to join us for this cross-service time

November
14
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of fellowship — reconnecting with folks you've not met before, or those who you haven't had a chance to visit with in awhile.

The brunch will also be another opportunity to purchase a fine wool blanket and help raise funds for improvements at Rockhaven. The blankets are customizable with many different embroidered decorations. Just look for Donna Beck at the brunch on Sunday!

We'll see you there!!



Feed Your Soul

continues tonight and November 17 at 5:30p. Join us for a simple supper, followed by an adult study on "The Bible and Homosexuality" led by our co-pastors from 6 - 7p. All ages are welcome to the supper; activities for children are provided during the study time. All are welcome!



The Operation Christmas Child boxes are ready to take home and fill. The Silent Auction items are also available to bid on in the south narthex. Proceeds from these sales go to providing the Sunday School and Youth groups with items to fill boxes. The boxes are due back to the church by November 15th. Please contact Joy Ames at 586-1854 if you have any questions.



Thanks-4-Giving Clothing Giveaway The 3rd Annual Thanks-4-Giving Clothing Giveaway (open to all) gives an opportunity to reuse and recycle gently worn clothes collected by Bozeman schools.



When?

Saturday, November 20th,
from 9:00a to 3:00p,
and
Sunday, November 21st,
from 9:00a to 1:00p,

at Willson School Gym,
404 W. Main Street

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Pledge Time (cont'd)

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gigantic operation. (Not that we shouldn't support these big charities; we love them.) When we bring a check to our church, we see nearly immediately the impact that the church's activities have on us and our community. There is something very "real" about being a part of a shared faith body.

So, hopefully more people will pledge this year. And, those who have pledged before will look at their level of support and think about increasing it. Many are targeting a 9% increase for 2011. Others are looking at approaching a tithing level of support.

~~ Nancy Giddings, Elder
Spiritual Growth

Step Up in Faith FAQs

Many thanks to those who have stepped up in faith and have already submitted your financial pledges for 2011. For those who have yet to do so, please remember that the session would like all pledges in by Sunday, November 21.

Two frequently asked questions:

How did the session arrive at the 9% increase that is being asked of the congregation?

While pledge income has remained strong in recent years, the loose offering from visitors and others who are not pledging has dropped off in the last year and a half. The reasons for this are numerous, but surely the economic downturn is a significant factor. In addition, it has been several years since the session has asked for a specific percentage increase in pledges. Many of our pledgers have pledged the same dollar amount for several years in a row. So in order to keep up the level of ministry and mission of the church, the session is challenging us to step up our pledge amounts if at all possible. The session is praying for at least \$326,000 in pledges which will enable us to do that.

What is the balance owed on the mortgage following our building modernization project?

The current balance owed on the building project that was completed in 2006 is a little over \$126,000. Our monthly payments are \$1,088. The session has asked for "over and above" pledges to help us draw down the principle owed more quickly so as to reduce the overall amount of interest paid. Thank you to those who are able to make this additional pledge.

Dan Krebill, co-pastor

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in Bozeman.



This is a great opportunity to look in your closets and see what clothes and shoes you and your family are no longer using. Gently used items should be sorted and labeled according to gender and size.

Donations will be accepted at individual schools and at Willson School on November 18th and 19th from 9:00a to 5:00p.

Adult Sunday School continues

for just one more Sunday. This upcoming Sunday, our time will be spent together at the All-Church brunch. But the following Sunday, November 21st, we'll be studying "What Roman Catholics Believe." All are welcome!



Order a Christmas wreath and help build water wells in Cameroon. Led by Valerie McMakin of our congregation, the



Leo Club of Bozeman High School (sponsored by Jim Thompson) has adopted this project.

Valerie will be taking orders (\$20/standard wreath) until Nov. 23rd. See her at the coffee hour if you are interested in learning more about the wells and/or ordering a wreath.

Give Thanks During the month of November, you'll find in your bulletin an insert with space for you to write down the

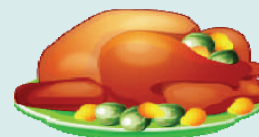


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Preparations for Thanksgiving

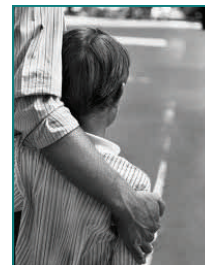
It's that time of year again when our Deacons organize the preparation and delivery of Thanksgiving baskets to needy families in Bozeman. We anticipate a large number of baskets this year, so we are once again asking for help from the congregation. We need help packing and delivering the baskets on Tuesday, November 23 at 3:30 at the Bozeman Senior Center. We also need donated 10-14 lb. turkeys (or monetary donations). Turkeys should be brought to the church kitchen by noon on the 23rd.

Please consider helping with this special ministry to our community. Last year 67 families enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner because of our commitment. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or you can call Dick Rote at 219-3154.



Mentors for Monforton School

The **Mentors for Monforton School** program is in need of adult men and women to meet with a student once a week for about an hour. These students need someone to listen, play games, and help them with homework, etc. Please contact Jessica Flack or Shirley Arsenault at Monforton School, 586-1557 or go to www.monfortonschool.org.



Today's Tidbits...

Help Wanted - We have an elderly gentleman in our church who could sure use some male companionship for 1-2 hours at a time. His wife could really use a break as well! If you are interested in filling this need, please give Deb Griffin a call at 599-8258 for more information.

Check out these videos!!

A "Random Act of Culture" at Macy's in Center City Philadelphia

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wp_RHnQ-jgU

Carrie Underwood sings "How Great Thou Art"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhvaDJTUmRU>



Ron Vaughn continues to be available for odd jobs around the house and yard. If you have something he might be able to help you with, give him a call at 548-4863.

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things you are thankful for. The responses will be in the PresbEnews throughout the month of November. Please join in sharing our blessings.



Donate your old eye glasses to the Lions Club. You'll find a collection box in the North narthex ready for your contributions. If you need more information, call Richard Reiley or go to www.LionsClub.org.



Love INC Personal Care Pantry is in need of bathroom tissue, the item that has been assigned to First Presbyterian. Please bring your donations to the church and we will see that they are delivered to the pantry. Leave in containers in the narthexes.

There are a few blankets left!!

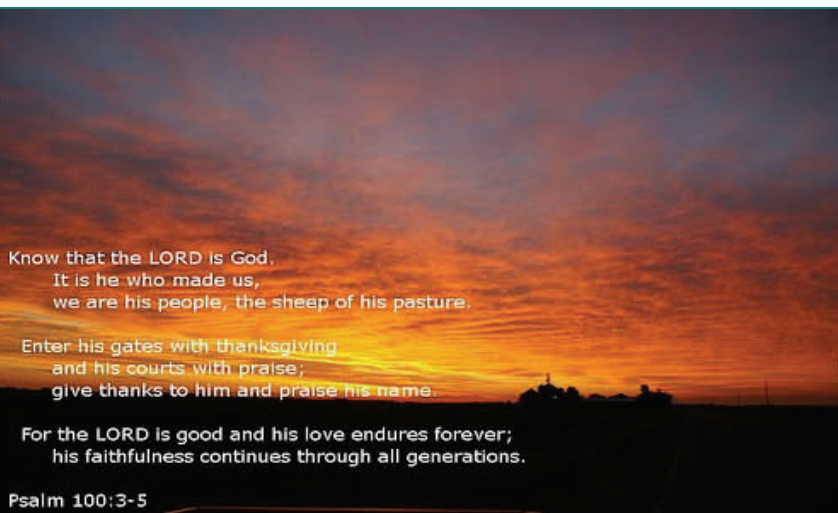
Come to the Brunch on Sunday and take your pick of top-quality, pure wool blankets embroidered with various designs! They would make great Christmas gifts, car blankets, stadium blankets etc. They will be for sale (\$50) at the All-Church Quarterly Brunch in the Fellowship Hall. Special orders will be taken at this time but the supply is limited. All proceeds support Rockhaven.



What are we thankful for?

Following are some of the responses we've received to date to our question, What are you thankful for?

- My church family, my family, and the love of my Lord
- The good health I have and that my family has
- Our pastors and our church family
- That my husband did not have to go through suffering cancer, that my family has all had jobs and work in this unsettled economy
- That we've had such beautiful fall weather and for the colors of fall
- Friends and relatives
- Beautiful mountains and skies
- My church family and pastors, my own family who are such a comfort
- I am grateful to God that when I get out of bed in the morning I can walk on my two feet
- Church family, my baby's laughter, my husband, and fabulous fellowship
- A successful hip replacement, my safe move from Colorado to Bozeman, my daughter finding a job
- I am thankful for all the things I take for granted: a warm home, a good bed, water, electricity, and a church where I can pray for those who don't enjoy these comforts.
- A God with enough grace to cover my faults



Holland-days...

On October 17th, many of us gathered at Rockhaven for the Fall Festival. It was a bluebird autumn day, and there were loads of activities for young and old alike. Without question, the item that garnered the most attention was the zip line. Three dozen of you intrepid souls participated in this wild endeavor, and it, too, was composed of both young and old. I was unable to join the others up in the wild blue yonder, because I was recently diagnosed with a disorder called feet-firmly-on-the-ground-itis. I was, however, able to observe the proceedings. In addition to the adventurousness of the zip liners, one of the characteristics that struck me as we watched was how we flatlanders could hear the hum of the zip line before seeing the participant. This was especially true as one stood by the east end of the bridge by the last tower on the zip line course. That particular section starts way on the other side of the river and the trees on the east side prevent one from seeing the zip liners until they were right at the tower. I could only hear the loud hum, and then, bam, someone appeared out of the thin air.

This might be a bit of a reach, but it reminded me of the way that the Apostle Paul described the interactions of the Holy Spirit in the eighth chapter of Romans. He wrote that the Spirit intercedes on our behalf with sighs or groans. This has always seemed a somewhat mystical passage for me. I had never paid too much attention to it, and I don't think I have ever heard the sighing or groaning of the Spirit (unless you count the sound my knee makes after I sit for an extended period). But there in the crown jewel of God's creation was a living, humming, zipping metaphor.

Zip-a-dee-doo-dah

How are my prayers answered?
What I really mean to ask is:
what is the physical evidence that a mere
thought in my brain travels to my Creator's
heart?
Or more succinctly,
how does God go back and forth between
dimensions?

And then I have my answer:
guide-wires.
You don't even notice them; they
blend in with the scenery.
But then you hear them, faintly at first.
This distant droning
grows louder and louder
and a crescendo builds like
U2's rattle and hum.
Until suddenly, out of the clear blue sky,
an angel appears.

Only it is Lloyd Mandeville,
or some other human manifestation
and he or she or they
smile and whoop and swoop down
almost like Mighty Mouse declaring
they are here to save the day.

This seemingly innocuous and silly
action serves to assure me on this day
that, yes, my prayers are heard.
And the next thing you know there is a
bluebird on my shoulder, and I sing:
Zip-a-dee-doo-dah,
Zip-a-dee-ay,
my oh my,
what a wonderful day!

The End

~~Dan Holland

