

# PresbEnews - 11/18/2009

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church  
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## Commitment Sunday - November 22

Learning love, sharing faith, serving people and celebrating God are at the heart of how we live as disciples of Jesus in First Presbyterian Church. Every day, there are examples of how each of these ministry emphases are lived out in our family of faith.

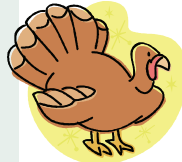
A most recent example is the coming together of folks of all ages to prepare gifts for the annual Operation Christmas Child program in which our love and faith serve children around the

world – truly a celebration of God!

Another current example is the over 100 financial pledges that have already been made to support the continued ministry of our church in 2010. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge card for 2010, the session is asking that all pledges be made by this coming Sunday, November 22, when we will be celebrating our commitment to be disciples of Jesus.

## Thanksgiving Baskets

Our deacons are organizing the preparation and delivery of Thanksgiving baskets to needy families in Bozeman again this year. They anticipate an especially high number of requests due to the economy, so they are again asking for help from the congregation.



They need donated 10-14 lb. turkeys, or cash

donations (please write "Turkey donation" on your check), and help packing and delivering the baskets on Tuesday, November 24th at 3:30 at the Bozeman Senior Center. Please consider helping with this special ministry to our community. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary, or you can call Dick Rote (219-3154) or Marcia Jarrett (388-6314).

## Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to so many of you who made contributions to Operation Christmas Child this year. Our church donated 357 boxes!!

Many of those boxes were the result of a year-long shopping trip and the energetic help of our youth group, who came together to pack up the remaining boxes

with items donated or purchased with the cash that was donated.

Thanks to every one who had a part in making this such a successful year as we share our resources (mark #6) with those in need.



## Our Church Family is Thankful for...

- the joy and peace that are now part of my life.
- my wife and children
- God, who is always there
- both answered and unanswered prayers
- the fall lessons of the six marks of discipleship. It is a concise guide to strive to follow.
- Dan & Jody
- Rockhaven
- Feed Your Soul
- God's continued blessing in our personal lives as well as the church body
- snow
- friends
- our forests for their gifts of life & purpose
- a smiling face
- our youth group kids
- pets to comfort us
- entertainers
- diversity of God's people
- good health
- loving Friends
- beauty all around us
- that our grandchildren are growing up so nicely and for their wonderful stepmother who has helped them so much



- my parents and amazing family I can always count on
- the great beauty in nature where I can find peace
- people and organizations who look out lovingly and generously for those who are poor and oppressed.
- for my family and friends
- health and safety of my family
- answers to prayers
- growing faith - and all the people who help me on my way
- this church and its people who keep it going - with love and kindness - our pastors
- my many kind & loving friends - who put up with me!
- the blessings of family
- our heavenly father loves us so much more than we even love our children
- a peaceful resolution to

Springhill Presbyterians leaving the denomination

- friendship, fellowship, and music of First Bells
- living in a free land
- time spent with family
- Scott & Mary being in our lives
- my incredible husband
- Presbyterians everywhere
- the witness of our church in our community
- family, health, all learning and being, God, Jesus, faith
- answered prayer for grace, not revenge, to prevail in a major decision
- in Zimbabwe, stopping of much of the brutality, bringing the new leader into power, & a place for Christians to lead the country in Forgiveness
- dedication of our church members to our church

*(Continued on page 5)*

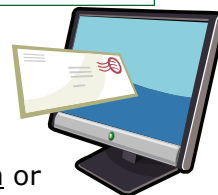
## WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

If you didn't get a chance to respond to this question yet, or if you have more things you're thankful for than would fit on the bulletin insert, go ahead and send me an email with your answers to the

question, "What are You thankful for?"

You can reach me at [debg52@yahoo.com](mailto:debg52@yahoo.com) or

[presbenews@fpcbozeman.org](mailto:presbenews@fpcbozeman.org).



## Dan Holland's Story

Good Morning!

Three weeks ago, Dan Krebill, co-pastor of this church, president of the Montana Association of Churches, and permanent member of both the finance committee and stewardship task force of this church, stood in this very pulpit and told us that the church does not need our pledge. This church does not need your pledge.

Dan, what on earth were you thinking?

The accountant part of me immediately went into panic mode. But the spiritual part of me knew that Dan was right. And it is this spiritual part of me that I'd like to talk to you about this morning.

Two weeks ago, Debbie Ernst, in her stewardship minute, told you about a formative experience that she had in the small church that she grew up in in central Montana. Well, I'm going to top her story this morning, because the church in southwest Montana that I had my formative experience in was even smaller. In fact, at the Presbyterian Church of the Big Hole in Wise River, where I spent my summers as a youth, was so small that my uncle, the permanent usher at the church, could collect the Sunday offering and never leave his seat. But my

formative experience did not come inside the church. It came before the church, where I would witness my grandfather and my uncle and whenever my parents would come to visit or other uncles and aunts, they always wrote a check before they went to church. And they would tell me that this check that they would write was not from a sense of obligation, but from a sense of celebration — that giving back to God was an integral way of maintaining one's relationship with God.

And so when I grew up and went out on my own, I took this experience with me. And eventually I would start a career and start a family and became a member of a new church and received my first pledge card. And I had a vague notion of what tithing and giving 10% was. But I also knew that I couldn't afford to

do that some 20-odd years ago. But I knew that I could make a start. And so when I received that first pledge card, I made a covenant with God. And what I did was I pledged what I could afford at that time, which was \$30 a week, or roughly \$1500 a year. But I also pledged, to no one other than to God, that every year thereafter I would increase that \$30 pledge by \$10 per week each year. And so after seven years my pledge was \$100 per week. And that, at that time, represented for the first time in my life, a tithe. It was 10% of my income. And I kept doing it. Now at a point, a \$10 increment became unsustainable, so I changed it to \$5. But this year, when I turn in my pledge card in the offering plate today, it will represent a \$5 increase per week over what I gave last year. And I do that no because the church needs my pledge. I do that because I celebrate a living and loving God.



## Worried about winter heating costs?

Please call the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) Energy Program staff at 587-4486, or visit their web site at [www.thehrdc.org](http://www.thehrdc.org).

HRDC Energy programs can assist families with the following:

- monthly heating costs
- energy emergencies - including shut-off notices, furnace repair, propane and wood assistance, and weatherization.

New guidelines in 2009/2010 are allowing the HRDC to help more families than ever before. Homeowners and renters are eligible.

If you or someone you know needs a little extra help this heating season, please contact the HRDC for an application or more information.



## Family Promise Training

There will be a Family Promise training on Tuesday, November 27, at 6:00—8:00 in our church library. A light supper will also be served beforehand at 5:30 for those who plan to attend. We hope that you will be able to join to

participate in a most rewarding ministry. Please let us know if you plan to attend the supper by calling Betsy at 585-1465.



## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The annual community interfaith Thanksgiving Service will take place at 12:10 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25th, at Holy Rosary Catholic Church located at 220 W Main in downtown Bozeman. Hosted and led by the clergy of several downtown Christian and Jewish congregations, this service each

year provides an opportunity for us to express our corporate thanksgiving for the blessings of life. An offering for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank will be received during the service. Plan to attend this service to begin your Thanksgiving holiday.



## Love INC Grand Opening

Come to the Grand Opening of Love INCs Biblio-tek library! Join us any time between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, November 20, at 101 E Oak in Bozeman.

The Biblio-tek library

has Christian books for reading or to check out. I believe the denomination of each supporting church will have a section pertaining to that denomination.... Good information for all!



## Love INC needs Blankets

Brrr! Several Love INC client families are in need of warm blankets! Donations to the Love INC Linen Closet are being accepted from now until Thanksgiving.

Blankets must be

clean and in good condition. They can be dropped off at the Love INC office (or email [loveincoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:loveincoffice@yahoo.com) for information). Help your neighbor stay warm!



## Our Church Family is Thankful for... (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 2)*

- members
- my husband's love of God and his family
- our family, food, & the comfort of our home
- friends that make me feel at home in Bozeman even though my family is far away
- the sweet husband I have and three healthy, fun kids
- FPC
- my children & family & friends
- music
- Martha Krebill, Holly Sinnema, & the rest of youth group!!
- Holly Sinnema, Hannah Holland, Chelsey Ross, Valeria McMakin, youth group, First Bells
- my church, my family, the power of love, the love God shows us in every minute of life
- our beautiful sanctuary to worship in - and our pastors
- my grandchildren
- the health and happiness of my family
- our friendly church family
- God's goodness in my life, and families life all year long
- good health, family, & friends
- the fellowship of our Presbyterian members
- loving family and friends
- the beauty of Montana

- the staff and congregation of First Presbyterian
- wonderful memories
- the joy of family
- sons having jobs in today's economy
- that we can worship freely without fear
- family, caring, & patient friends and caregivers
- spouse & family

*(Due to an overwhelming response to the question, not all answers would fit in this*

*week's PresbEnews. We'll enjoy the rest of them, and any others that are turned in, next week!)*

### KIDS CORNER

- earth, family, paper, food, stuff amumes
- I am thankful for so much. I love earth, family, friends, and so much more. But I really love being able to praise God.

## Time to Order Christmas Poinsettias

*Christmas Poinsettias are available for purchase in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones, or simply as a decorative gift. Your poinsettia will decorate the sanctuary on December Sundays and Christmas Eve. The cost is \$12.00 for each plant. Please send your check (made payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Poinsettia"), along with this form, to the church office. Orders must be in no later than Monday, November 23rd.*



Name of donor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_