



PresbEnews

November 9, 2011

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
Willson at Babcock, PO Box 1150, Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 586-9194 - www.fpcbozeman.org - Editor - presbnews@fpcbozeman.org
To [unsubscribe](#), email presbnews@fpcbozeman.org and type "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

**Steward Pledges will be dedicated on Sunday, November 20!
Please return your cards as soon as you can!!**

THANKSGIVING BASKETS — Almost Last Call

It is that time of year again when our Deacons organize the preparation and delivery of Thanksgiving baskets to needy families in Bozeman. This year we anticipate a high number of requests due to the economy, so we are again asking for help from the congregation. We need donated 10-14 lb. Turkeys, or cash donations (please write "Turkey donation" on your check) and help packing and delivering the baskets on Friday November 18th at 2:30 PM 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

Operation Christmas Child 2011

It is Operation Christmas Child time again. The shoe boxes [will be](#) available for pick up [on Oct 30](#) and must be returned by Sunday November 20. Please help support this wonderful mission project. The kids and their families will appreciate it so much. This year the silent auction is downstairs in the Fellowship Hall and your bids are needed as well. Thank you! If you have any questions please call Joy Ames at 586-1854.

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, November 12, from 9 a.m. to noon to set out the items for the youth group to assemble Operation Christmas Child boxes on November 13. Please call Joy Ames if you can help at 586-1854.



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 the "Like" button at the top of the page if you're a Facebook member.



Thanksgiving service at First Presbyterian

It is an annual tradition of the downtown churches to hold a community service of thanksgiving, with various houses of worship hosting the service. This year it is our turn, so on **Wednesday, November 23 at 5:30 pm** the community is invited to join in thanking God for the blessings of life and of the year. Since we are hosting, please mark your calendars and plan to show our Presbyterian hospitality!

The service will include musicians from several churches, including a choir assembled for the occasion and directed by Russell Milburn. It will be a joyful celebration of God's goodness and mercy, and will last one hour. What a great way to begin the holiday weekend!

Winter shelter for the homeless

For a second year, HRDC will be operating a Warming Center at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds beginning Nov 25, through the end of March. This provides shelter for homeless persons from 7 pm -7 am. The Salvation Army will serve breakfast, with the help of volunteers. 3-4 people will be needed each weekday morning from 7:30 – 8:30 am, to help provide hospitality. If you are interested in helping, contact Captain Young at 586-5813.

***Christmas poinsettias are available** for purchase in honor of or in memory of loved ones or simply as a decorative gift. With a gift of \$12, your poinsettia will be used to decorate the sanctuary on Sundays, December 4, December 11, December 18, Christmas Eve and Christmas. If you are interested, please bring your check (made payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Poinsettia") to the church office or put in the Sunday offering plate with an order form. Orders must be in no later than Sunday, November 27th.*

Announcement: There will be a Prayer Chain Meeting after the second service on Sunday, November 13.

In memory of Jerry Crabs

Jerry Crabs was an active member of our congregation when he died suddenly in October 2010. One of his strongest commitments was to mentoring young people who had dropped out of school as they prepared for GED exams. In his memory, the Bozeman Adult Learning Center is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner and raffle fundraiser at Bozeman High from 5:30-7:30 pm on November 12, 2011, for the Jerry Crabs Memorial Scholarship fund for GED students. Dinner tickets cost \$10 for adults /\$7 for children and will include a gourmet spaghetti dinner with salad and your choice of Shrimp Alfredo, Marinara or Meat Sauce, a beverage and dessert. There will be live music, guest speakers, and \$1.00 raffle items including \$50 gift cards to most of Bozeman's top restaurants and much more! The \$5.00 grand prize raffles include full day Guided Fly Fishing Adventure for two through Montana Angler Outfitters and golf for four at Bridger Creek golf course with two carts. 100% of all funds raised will go to the Jerry Crabs Memorial GED Scholarship Fund. If you would like to attend the dinner or buy raffle tickets online, you can go to <http://www.bozemanschoolsfoundation.org/content/upcoming-events> or call 522-6012. Contact Betsy Crabs for more information.

Birthdays

11/10 Julie Cunningham
11/11 Robert Staffanson
Lu Spears
11/12 Alan Fauque
11/13 Jim Babcock
11/14 Judy Belding
11/15 Diane Stone

Stewardship Update

Most of you heard the excellent “Moments for Stewardship” from the Session at Sunday’s worship services. Hopefully, you have also received your pledge package (if not, please call Linda in the church office). Many have already returned their pledge cards. Thank you! Hopefully many more of you will have the great feeling of pledging financial resources to this church. We recently had a visit from the Presbytery. The purpose of the visit was twofold — to assess how the Presbytery might better help our church and to assess how our church might help the Presbytery. After hearing about the broad mission agenda of our church, Presbytery representatives were most interested in thinking about how our community engagement might be replicated in our neighboring churches. This should be a source of great pride for all our congregation, and is a testimony for our pledging of not only funding, but also our talents and time. We are praying that this year’s pledges will not only sustain our existing missions but support expansion.

As of today, November 9, we have received pledge cards totalling \$71,279. Compared to 2011, this represents a 16.29% increase over the same group of pledgers in 2012. Great response, people! As noted on the front page of this newsletter, the pledges will be dedicated on Sunday, November 20, so please return your card ASAP. Thank you.

Thank You’s.....

Thank you to our wonderful congregation for the lovely way you expressed your appreciation of our ministry last month, with a special cake at coffee hour, numerous cards, and the thoughtful gift of an overnight at the Jeffers Inn bed and breakfast. We are looking forward to a luxurious “getaway” next spring when it re-opens for the season, and we will remember your generosity when we do! It is such a great privilege to share God’s love in Christ in this place, with this congregation. We are grateful for you—maybe we should have a “Congregation Appreciation Sunday” to show it! Thank you for your kindness.

In Christ, [Dan and Jody](#)

[Nancy Williams](#) wishes to thank everybody for their support following her recent car accident.

Bob and Greta Mathis featured

In the Sunday, Nov. 6 Bozeman Daily Chronicle, First Presbyterian Church members Bob and Greta Mathis were featured in the newspaper’s 100 year anniversary series of major newsmakers in the history of Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley. The story described their vision, efforts, and commitment to found and establish Eagle Mount as a center for therapeutic recreation for those with disabilities, motivated by their Christian faith. You can read it online at http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/100/newsmakers/article_e98a0bba-08c1-11e1-b89d-001cc4c002e0.html. Greta died in July; Bob is living in Billings. You can send him a note at 3840 Rimrock Rd., Billings, MT 59102.

We are collecting copies of the story to send to members of the Mathis family. Please bring the “Sunday” section of the paper to the church office this week. Thank you.

Holland_days...

By Dan Holland

In his sermon this past Sunday Dan spoke of waiting — not just pointless waiting, but constructive waiting. I'm not sure if procrastinating qualifies as a positive type of waiting, but I have certainly mastered that art. There are very few things I haven't managed to put off until the day after tomorrow. Take, for instance, health care. Everyone knows you're supposed to get a colonoscopy after you turn fifty. Well, I succeeded in relegating it to the back burner for almost four years. After writing about breast cancer awareness last month, though, I figured I'd better practice what I preached. So a week ago I prepared for my own version of the end times. And guess what? Clean as a whistle, not a single polyp. I attribute the outcome to my unique diet.

A Land of Goat Milk and Jalapeños

Bountiful are thy gifts, O Lord:
pliant soil waiting to be turned,
seeds eager to bloom,
ample water and sun.
And all manner of creatures
provided for our benefit:
sow and hen, buck and doe,
meat and eggs, curds and whey.

We nurture your gifts;
we enjoy the fruits of our labor,
but far too often we hoard both
the credit and the bounty.
Covenants are two-way streets,
quid pro quo;
there is an expectation that when
Joshua crossed the river
we would be your people.

So everyday shall be a day
of thanks-giving,
and everyone shall be a partner
in your harvest.

The 4th Annual Thanks-4-Giving Clothing Giveaway will take place the Saturday and Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, November 19th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and November 20th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Once again, Bozeman area schools and volunteers are collecting gently used clothing and offering the items free of charge during a two day event held at the Willson School Gym at 404 W. Main Street, Bozeman, Montana. Everyone in the community is invited to come and take what they and their families can use. Donations of gently used items, sorted and labeled according to size and gender, will be accepted at the Willson School Gym, South 5th Avenue entrance, Monday November 14th through Friday November 18th from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.