

# PresbEnews

## Good News Edition - February 2011



A monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors  
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### Co-Pastors' Corner...



Happy New Year! We missed the opportunity to say that this year due to vacation and Good News deadlines, so we'll say it now. We hope that 2011 is off to a good start for you.

2011 is a year when the Christian calendar feels well suited to the Montana calendar. With any luck, we won't be wearing our Easter finest in a snowstorm, since Easter is not until April 24 this year. There is time this winter to grow deeper in faith and fellowship with one another, and we have planned to take advantage of this "extra" time.

First, there will be two sessions of "Feed Your Soul" this winter, with two different sorts of nurture for our faith. The first session will stimulate our minds and challenge how we put our faith into action as we read the Belhar Confession. This document was written in South Africa in the 1980s as that nation struggled under apartheid. Christian practice helped create apartheid; Christian witness helped dismantle it. We'll learn the story in a three-week session (Feb 2, 9, 16) which will include supper at 5:15 and study from 6-7 pm.

Our second session of Feed Your Soul will take place in the 6-week period the church calls Lent, beginning on March 9. This session will stimulate our hearts and help us grow together in faith as we hear one another share "Walks of Faith." Surely there are members of the congregation whose faith journeys you have wanted to hear! Surely there are hidden stories of God's faithfulness in the lives of our church family which few of us have ever suspected! This series will help us know one another better. If you are willing to share your testimony, or would like to encourage someone else to do so, talk to one of us and we will develop a schedule for this series.

The third way we will delve deeper into our faith as a congregation this winter will be on Sunday mornings. Beginning on Jan. 30, a sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount will help us all immerse ourselves in the extraordinary and wise ways of God. When Lent begins, the scriptures will parallel the "Walks of Faith" series, as we listen to and learn from the faith journeys of Biblical figures.

You are invited to join this journey, and to invite a friend to come along.

### Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, February 6th (see article on page 2)

#### THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

##### Wednesday, Jan 26:

4:00p - Adult Forum Study

7:00p - Choir Rehearsal

##### Thursday, Jan 27:

7:30a - Women's Morning  
Book Group

10:00a - Sunday Bulletin  
Deadline

7:00p - Session

##### Saturday, Jan 29:

9:00a-2:00p - Project  
Homeless Connect at FPC

##### Sunday, Jan 30:

8:30a - Jazz Worship

9:30a - Adult Sunday School

10:30a - Traditional Worship

7:00p - "Countdown to Zero"  
at BUMC

### LIBRARY SUNDAY SET FOR MARCH 13



The library committee is busy organizing activities for the 4th Annual Library Sunday to be held this year on March 13. This event has become a highlight of FPC's activity program and YOU are a big part of its success with your donations of books, puzzles, board games, CDs and DVDs for the book sale. Storage areas have been set up in the library for your contributions. Thank you in advance for your participation in this event.

### Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, February 6th, is the annual meeting of the congregation, which will take place following a luncheon in the fellowship hall after the 10:30 service. All members and friends are encouraged to attend to hear about the ministry and mission activities of the church in 2010. Plans for 2011 will also be shared and the congregation will be asked to vote on the terms of call (salary & benefits) for our co-pastors.

The session is serving a hot baked potato bar for the meal. Plan to join in on this time of fellowship and sharing. Beginning on Sunday, January 30, printed 2010 Annual Reports will be available for pick-up or can be accessed on the church website, [www.fpcBozeman.org](http://www.fpcBozeman.org).



### Get Well Soon!

If you would like to send well wishes to Donna Mandeville, her address is:

*Donna Mandeville  
Room 160 Quality Suites  
1635 N Scottsdale  
Tempe AZ 85281*

The pathology reports came back negative, so she is doing very well and will be at a rehab center for two weeks. Her daughter, Letha, is with her staying nearby.



### Envelopes for your offering



are available by calling the church office at 586-9194, or emailing [linda@fpcBozeman.org](mailto:linda@fpcBozeman.org)

### 2 Corinthians 9:7

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Thank you for giving your time, talents, and financial contributions. Without your generous support, we could not do all the great things we do to Glorify God.

Below is a table showing our financial status as of the end of October.

December Income	\$33,659.22	Year-to-Date Income	\$395,122.14
December Expenses	\$31,711.67	Year-to-Date Expenses	\$403,469.94
December Balance	+ \$1,947.55	Year-to-Date Balance	(\$8,347.80)

## More Thank You's

While reading the "thank you" letters in the last issue of the PresbEnews, I realized how remiss I have been in publicly thanking each and every deacon for their dedication to our congregation and community at large. Each member has a designated responsibility, but all pitch in and help each other when needed. They are truly a wonderful group!

**Deacon:  
servant  
of  
God**

Current positions are: Jim Mitchell, Vice-Moderator, Food Baskets, Benevolence Committee; Paula Thomsen, Secretary; Peg Biekert, Treasurer and Reception Committee; Lyle Biekert, Receptions; Rhoda McCormick, Food Basket Committee and Assistant Treasurer, (taking over for Peg this month); Rita Fish, Warm Clothing

Drive and Receptions; Marcia and Jim Jarrett, Coffee Hour; Judy Arkwright, Visitation; Lynda and Richard Reiley, Alison Todd, Kitchen; Pat Donehoo, John Patterson, Transportation; Dick Rote, Food Baskets; Bob Olsen, Food Baskets; Cherie Olsen, Warm Clothing Drive; Bernie Mitchell, Warm Clothing Drive, Receptions; Doug and Sue Westphal, Coffee Hour and Crisis Meals; Judy Patterson, Crisis Meals; Rachael Minter-Cookies; Maureen Poremba, Visitation and Benevolence; Doris Krebill, Visitation; Nancy Williams, Devotions.

Thank you all for your dedication!

Nancy Rote, Moderator

## Help Wanted!

It's time to begin planning for our congregation's auction donation for Love INC's "Plant the Seed" dinner on May 3. Our last two themes, a garden wheelbarrow and the patio/barbeque cart have been huge successes, raising sizable sums for Love INC.



We are looking for your help in deciding upon an original theme for this year. If you have any ideas please call Nancy Rote at 219-3154 if inspiration strikes. We will announce the theme in a few weeks so we can get going!

## Talking with Neighbors *An Interfaith Forum*

The next Interfaith Forum will be on Wednesday, February 2nd, and the topic is "Roles of Men and Women." Are there distinctions in practice today? Why?

All are welcome. Bring your lunch (please respect the Temple and do not bring pork or shellfish products) and a friend, and we'll see you at Temple Beth Shalom, 2010 W Koch Street, in Bozeman (behind Albertsons).

Panel participants include Rabbi Ed Stafman, Dr. Ruhul Amin, Rev. Jody McDevitt, and Rev. Leo Proxell.



## The new documentary "Countdown to Zero"

will be showing at Bozeman United Methodist Church on Sunday, January 30, at 7:00p, in the downstairs Fellowship Room. This film shows the importance of nuclear disarmament which is essential to the safety of God's earth. It has been filmed by the maker of [An Inconvenient Truth](#) and is made available by the Social Justice Committee of BUMC for preview, and possible interchurch support for city-wide showing. Please respond to BUMC at 586-5413. To see the movie trailer, click on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mn-1LuLhrw>.



## Food Bank Sunday - February 6, 2011

Next Sunday, February 6, is our regular monthly **Food Bank Sunday**. The Gallatin Valley Food Bank is especially in need of: (or go to [www.gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org](http://www.gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org))

- Cream of Chicken soup
- Oatmeal
- Beef Stew
- Whole tomatoes
- Pasta
- Refried beans



This Food Bank Sunday has a special theme this month — on this Super Bowl Sunday, we will also celebrate the Souper Bowl of Caring.



### Souper Bowl of Caring is February 6

On Sunday February 6th, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal.



Our youth are joining with young people around the country by leading the congregation in the Souper Bowl of Caring once again. Bring a can of soup or other non-perishable food item to church (it's Food Bank Sunday), and drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 6th. All donations will go to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank.

Love INC is in need of crib sheets for the linen closet. Please call Bernie Mitchell at 586-2485 or Nancy Rote at 219-3154 for more information.



### Project Homeless Connect

Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop event at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 29th, from 9a to 2p. Free available services will include:

- Medical care
- Mental health assistance
- Clothing
- Hot food and drink
- Housing assistance
- Dental care
- Self-sufficiency programs
- Employment services
- Haircuts
- And More!



For more information, contact Bridget Pitman at 582-7388 with the Project of the Greater Gallatin Homeless Action Coalition.

For those interested in a virtual experience of the zipline canopy tour at Rockhaven, try this link:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECCfyctGXQ4&feature=player\\_embedded#!](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECCfyctGXQ4&feature=player_embedded#!)

## Adult Sunday School

Our adult Sunday School continues to study other expressions of faith in Christian churches that are identified as evangelical and fundamentalist.

Beginning in February, the focus will switch to a 6- to 7-week study of Islam. Later in the spring, we will take a more overview look at several other world religions. Pastor Dan Krebill will lead many of the sessions, while also making arrangements for occasional guest speakers on the topic at hand.

Students interested in receiving the class material by email each week can send an email request to Dan at [dan@fpcBozeman.org](mailto:dan@fpcBozeman.org) asking to be added to the weekly list.

Join us each Sunday morning from 9:30—10:15a in the church library as we seek to better understand the wide variety of people of faith in our world.



## Next Sunday Brunch has been Scheduled

Our next Sunday Brunch has been scheduled for March 6th. Christine Holland has agreed to host this brunch. Thanks, Christine! So it's time to mark your calendar! We hope you plan to be there!

**Sunday, March 6, 2011**  
**All-church Brunch, 9:30 - 10:15a**

## The Birth of the Hymn, *Precious Lord, Take my Hand.*

Back in 1932, I was a fairly new husband. My wife, Nettie, and I were living in a little apartment on Chicago's south side. One hot August afternoon I had to go to St. Louis where I was to be the featured soloist at a large revival meeting. I didn't want to go: Nettie was in the last month of pregnancy with our first child, but a lot of people were expecting me in St. Louis. I kissed Nettie goodbye, clattered downstairs to our Model A, and, in a fresh Lake Michigan breeze, chugged out of Chicago on Route 66. However, outside the city, I discovered that in my anxiety at leaving, I had forgotten my music case. I wheeled around and headed back.

I found Nettie sleeping peacefully. I hesitated by her bed; something was strongly telling me to stay. But eager to get on my way, and not wanting to disturb Nettie, I shrugged off the feeling and quietly slipped out of the room with my music.

The next night, in the steaming St. Louis heat, the crowd called on me to sing again and again. When I finally sat down, a messenger boy ran up with a Western Union telegram. I ripped open the envelope. Pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: YOUR WIFE JUST DIED.

People were happily singing and clapping around me, but I could hardly keep from crying out. I rushed to a phone and called home. All I could hear on the other end was "Nettie is dead. Nettie is dead." When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that same night, the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart.

For days, I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve Him anymore or write gospel songs. I just wanted to go back to that jazz world I once knew so well. But then, as I hunched alone in that dark apartment those first sad days, I thought back to the afternoon I went to St. Louis. Something kept telling me to stay with Nettie.

Was that something God? Oh, if I had paid more attention to Him that day, I would have stayed and been with Nettie when she died.

From that moment on, I vowed to listen more closely to Him. But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially one friend. The following Saturday evening he took me up to Maloney's Poro College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet; the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows.

I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys. Something happened to me then. I felt at peace. I felt as though I could reach out and touch God. I found myself playing a melody. Once in my

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*(Continued from page 5)*

head, they just seemed to fall into place: Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand. I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

The Lord gave me these words and melody. He also healed my spirit. I learned that when we are in our deepest grief, when we feel farthest from God, this is when He is closest, and when we are most open to his restoring power.

And so I go on living for God willingly and joyfully, until that day comes when He will take me and gently lead me home.

~Tommy Dorsey

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## *Holland-days...*

By Dan Holland

One of the hallmarks of the Presbyterian denomination is that it is connectional. This is not an exclusively Presbyterian attribute; there are other denominations that also proclaim their connectivity. While I am not sure I can give you a precise definition of this term, I can give you an illustration. Much like the cross has vertical and horizontal components, so, too, does the connections of the church. There is a vertical hierarchy (Presbyteries, Synods, the General Assembly) that provides resources to local congregations. But more important are the horizontal connections between congregations — and even more crucial, between individual members of different congregations.

Our congregation receives benefits from this connectivity in many different ways. We have welcomed into our midst members of other congregations scattered across the country. These people help create a new church every time they are folded into the old one. This new church in turn connects itself to the world at large through mission trips, mission support, and just plain contact with old acquaintances.

Here's an example: Let's say there is a member of our congregation that grew up in a small town (which, for the sake of this story, we'll call Hysham.) Now this member has an uncle who is a retired college professor that is still actively involved in the Presbytery's college mission program. This uncle has been alerted to keep an eye out for a college student from our congregation that is not too hard to miss because of a unique disability. The uncle and the college student make contact, and the college student is invited to the uncle's church thereby enriching that church as well as the life of the student. To paraphrase Paul in Ephesians: Christ is the head and the church is his body.

## **Dem Bones**

Wolf Point is connected to  
Terry;  
Terry is connected to  
Colstrip;  
Colstrip is connected to  
Cincinnati;  
Cincinnati is connected to  
San Jose;

San Jose is connected to  
Nairobi;  
Nairobi is connected to  
Seoul;  
Seoul is connected to  
Chicago;  
Chicago is connected to  
Bozeman - now hear the word of the Lord.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2011</h1>						
		1  7pm Handbells 7pm Boy Scouts	2  4pm Adult Study Forum 5:15 Feed Your Soul 7pm Choir Rehearsal	3 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group  7pm Deacons 7pm Compassionate Friends	4	5
6 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 K-5th Sunday School  12:00 Annual Meeting	7	8  7pm Handbells 7pm Boy Scouts	9  4pm Adult Study Forum 5:15 Feed Your Soul 7pm Choir Rehearsal	10 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group  7pm All Committee Night	11	12
13 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 K-5th Sunday School 12:00 Prayer Chain Meeting	14	15  7pm Handbells 7pm Boy Scouts	16  4pm Adult Study Forum 5:15 Feed Your Soul 7pm Choir Rehearsal	17 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group  Merry Munchers	18	19
20 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 K-5th Sunday School  Family Promise Week	21 Office Closed President's Day	22  7pm Handbells 7pm Boy Scouts	23  4pm Adult Study Forum 7pm Choir Rehearsal	24 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group  7pm Session	25	26
27 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 K-5th Sunday School	28					