

# PresbEnews

*Good News Edition - February 2012*



A monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors  
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The season of Lent that begins on February 22, Ash Wednesday, will soon be upon us when we have the opportunity to intentionally slow down and reflect on God's amazing love for us in the gift of Jesus. While it's easy to get swept up in the joy and happiness surrounding the birth of the baby Jesus at Christmastime, pondering the life that Jesus led during his 3 year ministry that ultimately led to his death is a much more onerous and sobering pursuit. While Jesus' teaching is inspiring and uplifting, it is somewhat puzzling to witness how that teaching was received by the religious leaders of his day. They were threatened by his challenges to the established ways and were reluctant to change and grow. This is the challenge that we can face today as those who are in the established Christian church.

We, like those leaders of old, may find ourselves at times feeling more ready to dig in our heels in an effort to resist change, rather than being open to ideas that just might lead us to a new way of being Christians and a new way of being the church. Lent provides us the opportunity to slow down and ponder how we might be called to change.

As it does each year, our annual congregational meeting provides us the opportunity to reflect on the year past and to look to the future. When we gather after worship on February 12 for our luncheon meeting, this year we'll be looking at some big steps forward in our special ministry with which we have been entrusted at our Rockhaven Camp and Retreat Center. While our Rockhaven ministry has undergone some dramatic growth in the last 7 or 8 years, for the first time we have a full time director this year. In approving this expansion, the session believes that by having Scott Thrasher fully engaged year round will enable us to move forward in a big way. The new sign at Rockhaven has surely caught the attention of passers by. An even more dramatic sign will be the increased numbers of people whose lives will be affected by the ministry that takes place under our stewardship. And while that ministry grows up the canyon, our ongoing ministries flourishing in town will also continue to positively affect lives. While the Lenten season is an annual 6-week period set aside for intentional reflection, the Christian ministry that we carry out is year round. May this Lenten season, this year, be a time for renewal and re-energizing that lasts the whole year long.

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

31 members of the congregation were able to attend the January 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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!



## **Feed Your Soul to study “Christian Testimony in a Multifaith World”**

“Go into the world and make disciples of all nations,” said Jesus to his disciples in his “great commission.” Yet in our multifaith world, we struggle with questions such as: Is our truth the only truth? Can non-Christians be saved? Can I be faithful to Jesus Christ and respect the religious traditions of others? We know that while nearly all religions teach peace, religious triumphalism has been the cause of much strife. How can we give testimony to Christ and not be triumphalistic in our testimony?

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb 22, all are invited to “Feed Your Soul” with supper at 5:15 pm and adult study from 6 – 7 pm (child care provided during the study). For the 6 Wednesdays in Lent, we will examine what the church teaches about the nature of Jesus Christ and salvation using the 2002 General Assembly paper, “Hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.” This paper addresses the controversy about Christian testimony in today’s world with such clarity that it was approved with virtual unanimity, giving diverse Presbyterians confidence that we can speak with a united voice regarding Jesus Christ.

Our goal is that upon completion of these six sessions, we will know what we want to say about Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (our testimony) and what that faith calls us to do (our mission) in our multi-faith world.

**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.**

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**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](mailto:mumsie27@bresnan.net).

### 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/>

### Bulletin Board shows youth at work

Maleford, Rhoda, and Bong Effience—three Cameroonian children who need wheelchairs—are at the center of a bulletin board in the entry to the Fellowship Hall. Surrounding them are pictures of members of our youth group at work in the ROC Wheels shop in Bozeman—building 3 customized wheelchairs. It is a picture of Christ in today's world, for as the hearts of our youth were touched by these three children, the children's lives will be dramatically changed by the receipt of their own wheelchairs. Thank you to those who supported our youth in mission by purchasing the soup and cookie mixes which funded this amazing project. Stop by and see the bulletin board, created by the 'tweens (5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade) Sunday School class.

### *Stewardship campaign wraps up*

Many thanks to the 124 households that have pledged a total of \$312,494 for the operation of our church this year. It is a testimony to the vitality of our congregation that of these pledges, 66 households increased their pledges this year compared to last year. In addition to these regular pledges another \$13,570 has been pledged to the Deacons' benevolence fund, and \$14,840 toward the retirement of the church's debt. Added together, \$340,904 in financial support has been pledged this year. Thanks be to God!

A number of folks indicated as 2011 ended that they still intended to submit pledges for 2012. It is not too late to submit your pledge cards. Please be in touch with Linda Best, financial secretary, if you can still offer your support. Your gifts will be gratefully received. She can be reached at [secretary@fpcbozeman.org](mailto:secretary@fpcbozeman.org) or at 586-9194. Thank you for your support.

### Session notes from January 26, 2012

Brent Turner provided a very inspiring devotions based on the mustard seed, and how can we take small things and grow them to God's glory.

Session members spent the first hour of tonight's meeting debriefing the recent budget process and discussing how we can be unified in our leadership of the congregation.

The possibility of having a Session offsite/retreat this spring was introduced. This idea engendered much positive response.

Correspondence from the Presbytery was read that acknowledges our contribution to the new water system at Westminster Spires. This was a long-standing commitment from the previous Capital Campaign.

We will host Presbytery meetings on March 2 and 3 and will be providing snacks and meals.

Session approved a new, expanded job description for the combined position of Office Administrator and Financial Secretary.

## Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

***(It has been pointed out to me that Joy Ames has been in charge of Operation Christmas Child in our congregation for the past three years, which proves that I truly have been just going through the motions of late. My apologies, Grandma Ames.)***

### **The Ball (conclusion)**

Viktor dropped the rest of the contents of his shoebox on the floor and slowly traced his fingers across each panel of the ball. He felt the needle that had been conscientiously taped to the ball adjacent to the air hole. He held the beautiful black and white ball aloft for Andrey to see. He, too, dropped the contents of his shoebox and whooped. The two boys simultaneously jumped up and raced each other to the custodian's room to find the pump. Two minutes later they were outside passing the ball in the sub-zero air.

The staff noticed an immediate change in their attitude. They now arose before all of the children in order to finish their chores early. Their homework was always meticulously completed. Their test scores even improved. They left nothing to chance in order to insure they would have their precious time outside with the new ball.

When the weather turned particularly sour the mistress begged them to play in the dilapidated gymnasium. They merely scoffed at her saying, "The Champion's League is not played indoors."

One rare, warm day the head mistress happened to be watching the two boys as some of the other younger children were also gathered outside. Viktor and Andrey stopped and considered the others. "Hey, Oleg," Viktor said to the oldest of the young ones, "do you guys want to join in?" Soon the mistress' ears were filled with the unadulterated joy of children at play.

In Fairfax, VA a boy was preparing for his first soccer practice of the spring season. He donned the jersey of the strange European football club whose name he could not pronounce, a Christmas gift from his parents. He continued to dig through his soccer bag and shouted, "Hey, Mom."

"Yes, dear," was her weary reply.

"Didn't I used to have an extra ball in my bag?"

"Yes, but don't you remember? We put it in the Christmas shoe box for church."

"Oh, yeah." The boy thought for a minute, then he said, "Hey, Mom, do you think the ball went to somebody that will use it?"

His mother smiled, "There's an old saying, dear, 'God works in mysterious ways.'"

## Birthdays

- 2/1 *Ruth Welch*  
*Laurie Kolwyck*
- 2/2 *Antoine David*  
*Bill Prunty*
- 2/5 *Linda Hinman*  
*Joyce Armour*  
*Valerie McMakin*

## Presbytery annual meeting in Bozeman in March

The Presbytery of Yellowstone will be meeting at our church on March 2-3, 2012. Joining us in hosting this meeting will be the Presbyterian Church of Manhattan. Volunteers will be needed to welcome attendees, serve refreshments at breaks, serve and clean up dinner, and provide general hospitality. Our choir, joined by members of the presbytery, will sing at the Friday evening communion service. The Rev. Paul Neshangwe (Zimbabwean pastor who visited our church in 2003) has been invited to preach at that service. All are invited to attend.

If you have never observed a presbytery meeting, this is a great opportunity to meet some of the wonderful Presbyterians from other parts of our state. Jody McDevitt will be installed as 2012 moderator at this meeting.



## Souper Bowl of Caring 2012

- Did you know that the Souper Bowl of Caring was started with a prayer said in a youth group in a Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC?
- Did you know that the original idea was to have every person in

church on Super Bowl Sunday put \$1 in a soup pot to give to a local charity?

- Did you know that every dollar generated is given to local charities?
- Did you know that in 2011, more than 10,000 charities received nearly \$10 million in donations of cash and food? All 50 states were represented.

Did you know that in the 8 years our church has participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring we have generated \$1,336 and 1,092 food items for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank?

Please remember Food Bank Sunday and bring a food item for the Food Bank on Sunday, Feb 5. And if you are able to also put a donation in the soup pots, please do so. The Gallatin Valley Food Bank will use your contributions wisely to help improve food security in our community.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Library Sunday is scheduled for March 11, 2012 and it's not too early to begin looking for those books, puzzles, table games, CDs, and DVDs you'd like to donate for the sale. Sale items may be brought in during February and early March. Betty Knutson

## Church Facebook page a source of up-to-date news!

Even if you're not a Facebook member yourself, you can still access the church's Facebook page at

[www.facebook.com/fpcbozeman](http://www.facebook.com/fpcbozeman)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2012</h1>						
			1  4:00 pm Adult Forum 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	2 7:30 am Women's Morning Book Group  7:00 pm Deacons 7:00 Compassionate Friends	3	4
5 Boy Scout Sunday 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	6	7  6:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Boy Scouts	8  4:00 pm Adult Forum 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Library Committee	9 7:30 am Women's Morning Book Group  7:00 pm Committee Night	10	11
12 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Congregation Annual Meeting	13	14 1:15 pm Staff Meeting 2:15 pm Worship Committee 6:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Boy Scouts	4:00 pm Adult Forum 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30 am Women's Morning Book Group	17  6:00 pm Merry Munchers	18
19 Family Promise Week  8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	20  President's Day Office Closed	21  6:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal	22  4:00 pm Adult Forum 5:15 Feed Your Soul 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 7:30 am Women's Morning Book Group  7:00 pm Session	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	27	28  6:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 Boy Scouts	29  4:00 pm Adult Forum 5:15 Feed Your Soul 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			