

PresbEnews

Good News Edition - January 2011



A monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Holland-days...

On the third week of Advent, one of the hymns we sang during the second service was "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence." It has always seemed a dark and foreboding song both in its words and in its melody. The opening stanza even tells us "with fear and trembling stand/ponder nothing earthly minded." The hymnal indicates that its scriptural reference is Habakkuk 2:20 which states:

But the Lord is in his holy temple;
Let all the earth keep silence before him!

This notion of silence seems almost perverse in contrast to the joy of the season and hymns that implore us to 'let heaven and nature sing.' But I tried to find ways to 'keep silence' anyway. It's hard. There is a lot of competing noise (at least in my head). I finally found some silence one morning – quite by accident.

I was out bird hunting last week. I promised the dog a quick one; we'd get an hour in before work. What we hadn't taken into account, though, was the fog. The ice fog. Thick and cold and it kept the birds down during our window of opportunity. It was also quiet – eerily so. You could hear the hoar frost growing on the trees. There was nothing to do but listen. And in this otherworldly setting I also pondered.

On Christmas morning we had another round of thick ice fog. Later that morning – after the fog had lifted, but before the sun could melt the frost – we were driving west through the valley on our way to visit family. A single cottonwood with a thick coat of crystals stood against the bright blue sky. And I swear God winked at me from that tree.

(Continued on page 2)

***Best wishes
for a happy,
peaceful,
and blessed
New Year!***

*from the
PresbEnews Team at
First Presbyterian
Church of
Bozeman, MT*

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

January 2nd

8:30 am

Contemporary, Jazz Service

10:30 am

Traditional Worship

*Sunday School programs will
resume next Sunday,
January 9th.*

(Continued from page 1)

Hush, the Babe is Born

I pull the blanket snug – up to
my chin. Just my eyes peering out
into the grayness. It's like a down
comforter, except it's full of ice instead of feathers.
Quiet, now; don't wake the baby.

I can make out a tree through the shroud,
and it has arms for branches. White gloves
adorn its hands as it raises a finger to its
lips to shush me.
Quiet, now; don't wake the baby.

My once racing heart is slowed;
my breath-fog is controlled,
rhythmic.
I lay prostrate in his temple.
Quiet, now; don't wake the baby.

I can see him in the thickness. He watches
me, though he sleeps. Tiny arms
reaching,
reaching.
Quiet, now; don't wake the baby.
Be still, and know that he is God.

~~Dan Holland

As we begin the new year...

*First this: God created the
Heavens and Earth—all
you see, all you don't see.
Earth was a soup of
nothingness, a bottomless
emptiness, an inky
blackness. God's Spirit
brooded like a bird above
the watery abyss.*

*God spoke: "Light!"
And light appeared.
God saw that the light was
good and separated light
from dark.*

*God named the light Day,
He named the dark Night.
It was evening, it was
morning—Day One.*

*Genesis 1:1-5
(The Message)*

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.

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| November Income | \$29,243.63 | Year-to-Date Income | \$361,337.92 |
| November Expenses | \$28,513.57 | Year-to-Date Expenses | \$371,128.60 |
| November Balance | \$ 730.06 | Year-to-Date Balance | (\$9,790.38) |

Change for Changing Lives.

The session recently approved another opportunity for our congregation to financially support Love INC by giving spare change, and the Board of Deacons has agreed to facilitate it. Called "Change for Changing Lives," there will be a change bank at coffee hour each Sunday where such contributions can be made.

Love INC is in the process of expanding its ministry to include a relational ministries program that will provide classes with mentors that will help participants sharpen their life skills. Building on the success of its "Finding Financial Freedom" classes, Love INC hopes to offer classes on other life skills topics beginning early in 2011.

More details will be coming about how you can support this program as a teacher or mentor. In the meantime, consider donating some spare change in support of this new ministry.



Congratulations!

to

Bill & Marjorie Williams

who

celebrated their

63rd

Wedding Anniversary

On Christmas Eve

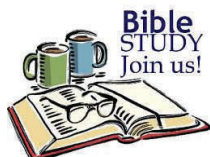
Need Help With Odd Jobs?

Dwayne Arcscott is available for snow removal, home repairs, and odd jobs. Call him at 581-8355.



Women's Ecumenical Bible Study

WEBS begins Monday, January 17, at 10 am at Bozeman United Methodist Church. We will study the Gospel of John using N.T. Wright's *John for Everyone: Chapters 11-21*. The study will be led by Pastor Dave McConnell.



WEBS is a diverse group of women interested in nurturing faith through Bible study, friendship and prayer, and welcomes all women in the community. Childcare is provided. Please call Jill Brauss at 586-0476.

Talking with Neighbors *An Interfaith Forum*

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 5th, and the topic is "God and the Big Bang."

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.



Food Bank Sunday - January 2, 2011

This Sunday, January 2, is our regular monthly **Food Bank Sunday**. The Gallatin Valley Food Bank is especially in need of: (or go to www.gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org)

- Rice Krispies
- Hamburger Helper
- Fruit Cocktail
- Tomato Paste
- Corn
- Tuna



Bring your donation to church with you on Sunday morning, and we'll place it at the front of the sanctuary for the worship services, and then make sure they get into the hands of those at the Food Bank who will distribute them to those in need.

QUICK NOTES FROM OUR DECEMBER SESSION MEETING from Holly Sinnema

- The session passed a new funeral policy dealing with Springhill members.
 - Christine Holland is in charge of the next brunch on March 6!
 - No New Year's celebration at Rockhaven, but a family retreat in January/February is still in the works.
 - We're still short on pledges, but optimistic about reaching our goal.
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Please Note: Our pastors are on vacation this week, so we've gone to "print" without their article. As far as I know, they'll be back in action in the February *Good News*.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------|----------|
| <h1>January 2011</h1> | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 8:30 Worship No Sunday School 10:30 Worship | 3 Office Closed | 4 7pm Handbells 7pm Boy Scouts | 5 4pm Study Forum 7pm Choir Rehearsal | 6 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group 7 pm Deacons 7pm | 7 | 8 |
| 9 8:30 Worship 9:20 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 K-5th Sunday School | 10 | 11 7pm Handbells 7pm Boy Scouts | 12 4pm Study Forum 7pm Library Committee 7pm Choir Rehearsal | 13 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group 7pm All | 14 | 15 |
| 16 8:30 Worship 9:20 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 K-5th Sunday School | 17 Office Closed | 18 7pm Handbells 7pm Boy Scouts | 19 4pm Study Forum 7pm Choir Rehearsal | 20 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group | 21 Merry Munchers | 22 |
| 23 8:30 Worship 9:20 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 K-5th Sunday School | 24 | 25 7pm Handbells 7pm Boy Scouts | 26 4pm Study Forum 7pm Choir Rehearsal | 27 7:30 Women's Morning Book Group | 28 | 29 |
| 30 8:30 Worship 9:20 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 K-5th Sunday School | 31 | | | | | |