

PresbEnews

Good News Edition - September 2011



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

September 11, 2001, is one of those dates that sticks in our memories above most others. Nearly all who were around that day can tell you where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news of hijacked airliners flying into New York's World Trade Center Twin Towers. I had just come out of a breakfast meeting on that Tuesday morning and when I got in my car and turned on the radio, it was clear that something earth-shattering was underway. I got home just in time to turn on the TV where Jody and I watched the first tower collapse.

The world changed that day. Many Americans were jolted out of a sort of global myopia and started paying attention to a part of the world that had always seemed at the fringe edge of the map, if not off of it entirely. Words like "Taliban" and "al Qaeda" and "bin Laden" entered our vocabulary where they have remained ever since. Interest soared in one of the world's great religions—Islam—which previously had been of little interest. In the 10 years since that day the world has seen two major wars that have collectively been billed as parts of the "War on Terror." Our daily routines have been affected as safety and security have taken on a new preeminence in our lives.

As the calendar falls, the 10th anniversary of this day falls on a Sunday this year. It affords us as a worshiping community the opportunity to reflect on this anniversary from our perspective as Christians and in the context of worship. Both of our morning services that day will have as a centerpiece the observance of this somber event. We'll ponder our place in this new world, and we'll turn to God and to God's word for guidance as we continue to seek to be faithful. Later in the afternoon that day at 3:00, we will host in our sanctuary a community interfaith service on the occasion of this anniversary.

To help us prepare for this day, we'd like to invite you to join us in making the first days of September leading up to 9-11 an 11-day season of prayer. We're making available to you in this newsletter a devotional guide that has a verse each day from Paul's letter to the Romans, 12:9-21, in which he lays out the marks of the true Christian. This devotional provides the text, points on which to reflect, suggestions for action, and a prayer. The guide is also available on the church's website, www.fpcbozeman.org.

Each day's devotional for that day will also be posted on our church's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/fpcbozeman.

Please join us in worship on September 11 and join us now in preparing for that day.

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

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.

Facebook—just one more way for us to interact with today's world!



Scholarship Students

We are welcoming three new MSU scholarship students to our church this fall. Hopefully, many will have met them at Rockhaven on August 28, or will be meeting them soon at church.

They are: Emily Keegan (Hamilton, MT), Kristin Kochner (Billings), and Amy Kessler (Billings). In future issues of the newsletter, we will do further introductions and fill you in on their activities. They have many new project ideas and are connected to several MSU student groups with whom we might be able to have joint efforts. If you are interested in participating in these projects or have ideas about MSU collaboration, drop Nancy Giddings an email at ngiddings@bridgeband.com.

Thank You!

Thank you so much for all the beautiful cards, prayers and condolences upon my mother's death. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Donna Beck

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 July.

July Income	\$ 41,899.85	Year-to-Date Income	\$ 255,707.07
July Expenses	\$ 43,391.46	Year-to-Date Expenses	\$ 262,083.86
July Balance	(\$ 1,491.61)	Year-to-Date Balance	(\$ 6,376.79)

Sunday School

The Story: Tell it to me!

WHAT: A year-long, congregation-wide reading of the Bible

WHO: 5th graders through adults

WHEN: Beginning in Sept 2011, classes at 9:30 am on Sunday

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church

WHY: That depends on which of the following apply to you.

1. You've never read the Bible at all.
2. You've read parts of the Bible but you're fuzzy on how it all fits together.
3. You've tried to read the Bible but didn't get very far because it didn't make sense, you didn't have the self-discipline, it raised too many questions, etc.
4. You like a good story (this is the GREATEST story).
5. You'd like the accountability of reading with others.
6. You'd like to be able to talk about what you are reading.
7. You have questions about the Bible.
8. You love the Bible and would like to read it all again.
9. You would like to read the Bible with others in your family.
10. You remember that one of the 6 marks of Christian discipleship is READ the Bible regularly, and you want to be a disciple of Jesus!



Whatever your motivation, **The Story** is a great opportunity. It is the actual Biblical text, set in 31 chapters as “one continuing story of God and his people.” The text is the New International Version (NIV), selected and chronologically arranged with short transitions to connect the reader to the continuing story. If you successfully read all 31 chapters (470 pp in adult version), you will have read the Bible’s entire narrative—the story. What’s been omitted are non-narrative and repetitive portions, which are important for other purposes than for understanding the Story. Materials for this church-wide emphasis will be arriving soon. Adults will have the opportunity to purchase a hard-back edition of *The Story*, along with a participant’s guidebook (all purchased at a bulk rate). Middle school and high school students who attend Sunday school will receive soft-back, age-appropriate editions. Teachers will use both the text and accompanying curricula to connect the story to our lives today. Check out www.thestory.com if you’d like to know more, and plan to join a group reading **The Story** this fall!

Welcome Back Sunday!

September 11 is “Welcome Back Sunday,” a day to welcome back our church family and gather for fellowship and a new year of learning in faith together. The Kids and Families Committee and the Spiritual Growth Committee would like to invite **people of all ages and stages in life** to a gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am. There will be food, sharing of summer faith experiences, the introduction of **The Story** experience for 5th grade through adults, and maybe even a fun game. Please come!

(Continued on page 4)



Welcome Back Sunday! (cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

Sunday school for children (K – 4th grade) will begin the same day, following Children's Time in the 10:30 am worship. If you are interested in helping nurture our children in faith by being part of a rotating team of teachers, contact **Suzanne Bratsky** (SuzBratsky@gmail.com, 539-0211) or **Brent Turner** (bettarcamping@gmail.com, 220-0855).

Children learn about the love of God when they are surrounded by a community of loving people. It takes a village to raise a child—and we have a village. Your help will be appreciated.

Session Notes – August 2011

After taking a month off in July, when we enjoyed a summer celebration picnic at the home of our Pastors Dan & Jody, Session resumed its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, August 28, at the Church.

This month most of the meeting was devoted to sharing summer activities and looking forward to a busy fall season. Our clerk, Donna Beck, led us in a meaningful devotion reflecting on how our hands do so much for us and in the end will reach out and touch the face of God.

Our co-Pastors reported on their successful summer activities, some well-earned vacation time, and a wonderful continuing education opportunity at the Ghost Ranch Camp & Conference Center in New Mexico. Jody reported the Youth had a very successful Mission trip to Wolf Point.

Betsy Crabs reported that our mission in hosting Family Promise is a great success and really appreciated by the families we host.

Nancy Giddings reported we have three MSU students with scholarships and we are hoping to see their presence in worship and other activities this fall.

Chuck Beck reported we are waiting for the arrival of some fasteners for the bicycle rack project completion.

Mike Atwood & Scott Thrasher gave a verbal report on the amazing camp season at Rockhaven and all the opportunities for continued growth. Scott will share a more detailed report at our next Session meeting in September.

We are looking forward to fall activities. Sunday School for ages 5th grade to adults will focus on a new curriculum on reading through the Bible in a year using the NIV tool "The Story." Sunday September 11 will be a special day for remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks against our country. In addition to our usual Sunday morning services, we will be hosting an Inter-faith service that afternoon at 3:00. Long range has us looking forward to hosting the 10th annual Messiah Sing. In honor of this anniversary, Kathy Braun asked for and session approved giving her permission to solicit extra gifts to go toward bringing in an orchestra to help accompany the singers.

In other Session business we voted to invite Yellowstone Presbytery to hold their spring meeting, March 2-3, 2012, here at our church. The Manhattan Presbyterian Church will also assist in hosting.

Please feel free to visit with any session member if you have questions or want more details.

Debbie Ernst

Memorial Gifts

On August 25, Session briefly discussed the topic of providing information to people desiring to make a memorial gift for their loved ones. We are currently dealing with memorials via the memorial fund, which provides the financial framework for memorials, but we do not have other support for the memorial process. Some memorial gifts are designated for a specific purpose, but others are very general.

Ideas about how we could better help this process might include a Memorial Committee or having an idea -list of potential memorial gifts from which a family could choose.

If you have energy for this topic, please drop Nancy Giddings an email (ngiddings@bridgeband.com). She will be starting by having a brainstorming session to gather ideas and develop a plan for supporting memorials. If you come to the brainstorming session, you don't have to be on a committee unless you want to!

FPC Library Committee

FPC LIBRARY COMMITTEE will hold its first meeting of the 2011-12 season on Wednesday, September 14, at 7:00 pm in the library. Please feel free to join us as we begin planning library activities for the next months. Budget, Library Sunday, and library purchases will be among the items under discussion and your input is important. We'll look for you on the 14th.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

First Presbyterian Church has had a prayer shawl ministry for several years. We are preparing to kick off the new year of knitting in September. Our current plan is to meet once per month; probably the fourth Tuesday of each month, in the afternoon. There is also the possibility of lunch meetings. At our organizing meeting in September, we will make decisions such as frequency and location of meetings.

Knitters are encouraged to email Nancy Giddings (ngiddings@bridgeband.com) if they are interested in being on the distribution list for announcements about the Prayer Shawl Ministry. If you are not on email, call Nancy at 406-585-1387. Also, look for an announcement in the bulletin about the monthly meeting.



We have information on knitting classes available through the Yarn Shop, as well as numerous patterns and sources of patterns for prayer shawls. The Yarn Shop has three-session introductory classes (usually held on Monday night), as well as short workshops on Saturday morning.

Famine Relief

In the region known as the "Horn of Africa," 12.4 million people are in need of **urgent** humanitarian assistance due to drought and famine affecting people in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya. The world's largest refugee camp, in Kenya, was built for 90,000 people but now holds more than 420,000. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding to this crisis in cooperation with members of ACT Alliance, a worldwide ecumenical relief organization, providing food, water, sanitation, and medical care. If you desire to give to this effort through the church, please note "Africa Famine" on your check. You can learn more at www.pcusa.org/pda.



September 11, 2011

The ten-year anniversary of the attacks on the United States is cause for remembrance and reflection. In our worship at 8:30 and 10:30 am on that day, we will include special music, prayers, scripture and reflection which express our sorrow, hope, and commitment to peacemaking as followers of Jesus Christ. It will be a special day in our life as a congregation.

Then at 3 pm, First Presbyterian Church will host an interfaith memorial service to honor those who died. A wide variety of religious traditions will come together in a service of candle-lighting, singing, meditative chanting, readings, and prayer. Dr. Ruhul Amin, professor of mechanical engineering and president of the Islamic Center of Bozeman, will offer a homily. An interfaith service with this sort of inclusivity has not happened before in Bozeman, and because of our downtown location and beautiful worship space, FPC was asked to host the event.

All are welcome to join in this shared time of remembrance and show of unity.



Former FPC Pastor Meets His Maker

The Rev. Hervey MacFerran, pastor of First Presbyterian Church from 1967 to 1980, died on August 3, 2011, in Aurora, CO. He was 83 years old. Hervey is survived by his wife, Jean, and children David and Kathleen as well as Kathleen's family. A service was held at Montview Presbyterian Church in Denver on August 6. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit. They will rest from their labors, and their deeds follow them." (Rev. 14:13)

Editor's Note

Pat and I have decided to close our business here in Montana in the next couple of months. Pat has a job training and selling for the Dale Carnegie business in Des Moines, Iowa. God seems to have closed all the business doors for us here, and is opening many new doors in Iowa, so we must go where He leads. The good news is that we will be nearer most of our children and grandchildren, as well as most of Pat's family.

Oh, how we will miss you and this wonderful church! The decision to leave First Pres was harder than the decision to leave our home, or these magnificent mountains. We are so grateful for the dear friends we've made here.

On a related note, I think many of you would agree that this weekly PresbEnews and the monthly *Good News Edition* are vital pieces of keeping our church family connected to each other and all the many ministries of our church. I also think many of you would agree that it is a ministry that is bigger than this editor, and it MUST continue long after we leave. If you can find it in your heart to consider taking on this project, call me with any questions you have. I will be more than happy to train a person or people who might give it a try. We don't need to have it always look the same — make it a outgrowth of your God-given creativity. The important thing is to get the word out!

I can be reached at 599-8258 or debg52@gmail.com. Give me a call!

Deb Griffin, Editor

A Round of Prayer

Please join other Yellowstone Presbyterians as we pray for, encourage, and equip one another for God's work in our communities.

September 4 - First Church Butte, Pastor Lanny Rounds

September 11 - Rev. Neva Rathbun, Pastor At-Large, Terry

September 18 - Rev. John Dyce, Pastor At-Large, Billings; Theological Education Fund

Wednesday, September 21 - International Day of Peace

September 25 - Rev. Paul Cousins, Honorably Retired, Philipsburg

More information is available at www.yellowstonepcusa.org.

Food Bank Sunday - September 4, 2011

Sunday, September 4, is our next regular monthly **Food Bank Sunday**. This week, the Gallatin Valley Food Bank *Wish List* of immediate needs includes:

- Chicken & Rice Soup
- Pasta
- Fruit Cocktail
- Tomato Sauce
- Tuna
- Chili



www.gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org

THE BOOK NOOK



INFORMATION AND NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

In both the check-out and reference sections, you will find a variety of Bible commentaries to inform you on any passage of scripture you may want to study.

A Bible Commentary is arranged book by book, chapter by chapter, just as in the Bible.

When you want to study a certain passage you will find it in the commentary in the same location as it is in the Bible.

There you will find explanations and background information on your chosen passage.

In many commentaries, there will also be meaningful insights and applications to daily life.

Paul at the book Nook

Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

It was one of those postcard-perfect summer Sunday mornings in downtown Bozeman. The sky was a brilliant azure as I looked up through the verdant green trees and the imposing bell tower of our sanctuary. The succulent grounds in front of the church were reflecting the meticulous care that Larry provides. As I walked back to my car after receiving nourishment from the early service I noticed young Miriam and Frances Frye standing on the concrete pad in the middle of the church's front lawn. They were dressed in their Sunday best (fortunately their mother had dressed them and not Don) and they were posing for pictures. As their parents stood on the sidewalk I recall commenting on the Kodak moment they were capturing. Jennifer's reply, though, was that they didn't have a camera; the girls were evidently just practicing their posing.

God's Photo Album

Two fourth generation congregants. An ancient (for these parts) sanctuary. A pastoral setting on a bucolic summer morning.

Though there is no photographic evidence of this scene's existence, the Creator certainly saw it, and it no doubt rekindled thoughts of a like-wise camera-less picture taken a hundred years prior: of first generation congregants, the bell tower no less imposing, the sky no less blue, the trees smaller, yes, but no less verdant. But unseen to our eyes in these two frames is the spirit, the truth, the love abiding from one generation unto the next.

Memories to last an eternal lifetime.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2011</h1>						
				1 7 pm Deacons 7 pm Compassionate Friends	2	3
4 Food Bank Sunday 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	5 Labor Day- Office Closed	6 6:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Boy Scouts	7 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 7:30 am Women's Book Group 7 pm All Committee Night	9	10
11 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School Welcome 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School K-5 11:45 Prayer Chain Meeting 3:00 Interfaith 9/11Service	12	13 6:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Boy Scouts	14 7 pm Library Committee Meeting 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 7:30 am Women's Book Group	16	17
18 8:30 Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School K-5	19	20 6:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Boy Scouts	21 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	22 7:30 am Women's Book Group 7 pm Session	23	24
25 8:30 Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School K-5	26 PresbEnews Deadline	27 6:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Boy Scouts	28 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	29 7:30 am Women's Book Group 7 pm Special Session Meeting	30	