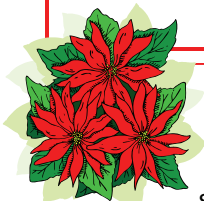


PresbEnews - Good News Edition

December 2010

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



Are you looking for a way to keep Christ in Christmas?

It is ironic that in this "holiday (originally "holy day") season," there are more distractions than ever. It is harder than in "ordinary time" to stay focused on being a disciple of Christ. But once again, the six marks of discipleship will help. You can think of them in pairs, as follows.

- First, remember to pray daily, and read the Bible. There are many good Advent devotional books and booklets available. Check our church library. Get a copy of the most recent *Presbyterians Today*, or *The Upper Room*. If you find yourself looking at a computer screen daily, subscribe to a daily devotional which comes to your email. I read meditations from www.d365.org/followingthestar and from www.unfoldinglight.net. Or just find time to open your Bible and read. The first two chapters of Matthew and Luke, and the first chapter of John, tell us about Christ coming into the world. Read from a different translation if you need a fresh view of familiar scriptures. You may discover details you never noticed before. And you may even discover that the story is so good that you want to keep reading.
- Second, worship weekly, and be in relationship to encourage spiritual growth in others. The Christmas season can stir up feelings of loss or regret as well as feelings of joy and gladness. Worship encompasses the full range of feelings, reorients us to look beyond ourselves and our feelings, and leads us to new understandings and growth. A community of caring friends helps one another when this process is difficult. There are many opportunities for gathering in community this month. You don't have to participate in them all. But be certain that your social life this season contains more than just parties. Gather with your church family, and keep the focus on loving God and loving one another.



Co-Pastor
Jody McDevitt

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Co-Pastors' Corner (cont'd)

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- Third, serve at and beyond our church, giving of time, talents and treasures. This is a season of giving, as we remember God's gift of love to the world in Jesus Christ. This past month, we practiced serving and giving in some very concrete ways. We gave over 300 Operation Christmas Child boxes to children in other parts of the world, and we gave nearly 300 people in our community a Thanksgiving dinner in their homes. There are so many ways that our church provides opportunities for serving and giving. And what could be a better testimony than that to our Lord Jesus Christ?

May this Christmas season be a blessing to you!

God's Promises

*"Glory to God in the
heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and
women on earth who
please him.*



Luke 2: 14
(The Message)

Stewardship Campaign Update!!

PRAISE GOD!!

On behalf of the Session, I would like to thank all of you who have so generously Stepped UP in Faith, to pledge your support for the 2011 Church year. As of November 24, 2010, we have received 112 pledges totaling \$272,000. Although we are still a bit short of our goal, we are encouraged and believe we have not received all our potential pledges.



It is NOT too late. If you have not sent in your pledge, we strongly encourage you to prayerfully consider what you can do. We realize these are challenging times, so if you feel you cannot commit to a pledge at this time, please let us know that too. The session counts on these pledges to assist us in planning our upcoming budget and to be the best stewards of our church resources as we can. Thank you again for your awesome support and know that with God, all things are possible.

God Bless, Debbie Ernst

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.

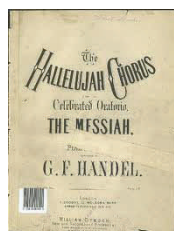
October Income	\$43,920.71	Year-to-Date Income	\$332,094.29
October Expenses	\$29,707.00	Year-to-Date Expenses	\$342,615.03
October Balance	\$14,213.71	Year-to-Date Balance	(\$10,520.74)

Annual Community Messiah

Messiah consists of three sections. In the first, the way is paved for the Redeemer's coming. After His Advent is announced, there follow descriptions of the events of the nativity. Part One ends with the chorus singing "His yoke is easy, His burden is light."

Part Two describes the Passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It concludes with the familiar *Hallelujah Chorus*. One of Handel's servants is said to have come upon him directly after he had composed this portion, and heard him exclaim, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself!" It was at this point in the oratorio, during one of the early London performances, that King George II spontaneously rose to his feet in a spirit of exaltation. Audiences have traditionally repeated this practice ever since.

Don't miss the 9th Annual Messiah Community Sing



Sunday December 19 @3:00pm in our Sanctuary.
Call **Kathy Braun** for questions if you want to sing in the lead choir. Rehearsal is Saturday Dec. 18 @ 10am.
539-3491 - cell or 556-4875 - work
(please note my new work number as I have changed jobs.)

We're Over 80% There!

With pledges received from over 110 households we're more than 80% of the way toward our goal of \$326,000 for 2011. Thank you to those who have added their pledges to the \$272,000 received to date. Thank you also for the additional pledges to the Deacons Benevolence Fund of \$12,750 and to the building debt reduction of \$15,460. Help us close the gap and reach our goal. Please mail your pledge card today or bring it to worship next Sunday. Your pledge will help the session as it finalizes the 2011 budget. If you have questions, please contact Linda in the church office at 586-9194, ext. 202, or by email at secretary@fpcozeman.org.



Adult Sunday School Focuses on the Season

Pastor Dan Krebill is leading the adult Sunday School class for 3 sessions, Dec. 5, 12 & 19. The first session will look at the church year and the reasoning behind the liturgical seasons that begin with Advent each year.

Then on Dec. 12 and 19 the class will study the two versions of the Christmas story as found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Each class will stand on its own. So please join us for any or all of these on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:15 in the library.



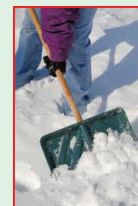
Need Help With Odd Jobs?

Ron Vaughn has found full-time employment! Congrats, Ron! He will still be available for odd jobs around the house and yard as he has time. If you have something he might be able to help you with, give him a call at 548-4863.



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

Dwayne is also seeking a roommate to share a 3-bedroom home. Call Dwayne for more information.



Love INC 's

Christmas Village Tour

December 4, 11, & 12
Noon-5p



A grand home
completely transformed into a Christmas Wonderland
6931 South 19th Avenue in Bozeman

Different themes in every room
Complete collections of Christmas villages
Dozens of scenes, 1,000+ lighted buildings
A nativity collection
Elf library, Gingerbread kitchen, Nutcrackers
Christmas quilts, Santa's room
And much more.

No strollers allowed, not handicap accessible.
Children must be supervised by an adult.
Parking is limited. Please carpool if possible.

Tickets: \$10/individual — \$25/family
Available at Bozeman Hallmark stores, Van's IGA,
Heeb's Grocery, Lee & Dad's (Belgrade),
and at the door.

All proceeds go to support Gallatin County Love INC.

To volunteer for this event, please call 587-3008, or
Email LoveINCoffice@yahoo.com by November 30th



Rockhaven Lessons & Carols

Come enjoy the spirit of Christmas at Rockhaven in our annual service of Lessons and Carols, followed by a warm chili dinner with friends. The date is Saturday, Dec 18 at 5 pm. With the woodstove burning and a fire in the fireplace, the chapel provides a memorable setting for hearing the Christmas story and singing favorite carols. Supper in the dining hall will consist of chili and cornbread provided by members of the Rockhaven Committee. Please bring a "treat" to go along with the supper.



This season's abundant snowfall promises a good sledding opportunity, too! Bring the family, and come early to sled in the afternoon, or plan to sled after dinner. Snowshoes and cross-country skis are welcome, too!

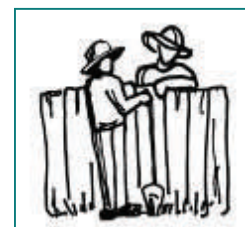


Talking with Neighbors *An Interfaith Forum*

Talking with Neighbors *An Interfaith Forum* The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 1st and the topic is "Holy Eating and Drinking."

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.



TODAY!
December

1

Food Bank Sunday

This Sunday, December 5, is our regular monthly **Food Bank Sunday**. The Gallatin Valley Food Bank is especially in need of: (or go to www.gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org)

- Pasta Products
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Rice Products
- Boxed Meals
- Boxed/Bagged Cereals
- Canned goods (fruit, vegetables, meals, tomato products, beans, meats)

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.



Deacons say "Thanks!"



On Tuesday, November 23, 65 families in the greater Bozeman area received Thanksgiving baskets with all of the trimmings. The baskets provided dinners for 292 individuals, 118 adults and 174 children. This was due to the incredible generosity of the members of our congregation!

The Board of Deacons would like to thank everyone who made this possible. The thirty eight people who braved the weather to pack and deliver the baskets, the four truck drivers who transported the food from Van's to the Senior Center and countless others who donated money or turkeys to fill the baskets. It was truly a team effort that made this possible and was so gratefully received by the recipients.

Special thanks to Dick Rote, Rhoda McCormick, Jim Mitchell, and Bob Olsen for organizing this ministry so well!

Session Notes...

Howdy from the Session. Here's what is going on right now in the Session...

In our pledge campaign, we have pledged \$32,236 together as the elders, and overall are right on track. If you want to talk with someone about pledging, grab an elder! Our giving focus for this year is on shrinking the gap in the budget, and we hope you continue in your generosity through the holidays to come.

Great things are still happening at Rockhaven. Look out for some more info regarding an inter-generational overnight to ring in the New Year. Also, we are excited to say that we are inviting Scott to stay with our church team as Rockhaven Director for 2011. Sneaking up faster than the year-end retreat is Lessons and Carols on the 18th of December. Look forward to seeing you there.

~~Brent Turner

Christmas Eve Worship

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

All are invited to worship Christ on Christmas Eve at First Presbyterian Church. Three services will provide three different settings for celebrating the birth of Christ. Plan to attend, and invite a friend to come along.

- 5 pm—Family-centered service, led by children and youth of our congregation. Includes scripture readings, special music offerings, and lots of Christmas carol singing. Children will be in costume to participate in telling the Christmas story.
- 8 pm—Traditional Christmas Eve service, with Worship Choir and First Bells, sermon, and the singing of Christmas carols.
- 11 pm—Candlelight and Communion service, with special music and the singing of Christmas carols.

Service of Hope

Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service
&
The Compassionate Friends
invite you to join us for the third annual

Service of Hope

Sunday, December 5
2:00 p.m.
Dokken-Nelson Sunset Chapel



DOKKEN · NELSON
FUNERAL SERVICE & CREMATORY

For more information please call Dokken-Nelson at 587.3184



Greetings again to all knitters - Joanne Jennings has most generously passed on some excellent yarn suitable for caps, mitts and scarves for the three schools we are now knitting for. Yes, we have added Whittier - thanks to Nancy Rote! Christmas is coming and the children - girls AND boys - could do with some extra warmth. If any of you would be willing to take some - I already have a cupboard-full - please let me know - 624-6292 or mumsie27@bresnan.net - -
T H A N K S - Joyce Armour



MERRY MUNCHERS - WINTER 2011

It's time for the next round of Merry Munchers!! All adults are welcome, whether you are a church member, a friend of First Presbyterian, or visiting in the Gallatin Valley. The Fridays selected are January 21, February 18, March 18, and April 15, 2010. As always, hosts may reschedule as needed.

PLEASE NOTE: *You do not need to be a host in order to sign up as a guest.*

To Participate as a Guest:

Please circle the date(s) you are available to be a **guest**, the number of adults participating, and your name(s), address, phone number and e-mail address if you have one.

Friday, January 21 Friday, February 18 Friday, March 18 Friday, April 15

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone #: _____ Number of adults participating: One Two

E-mail address: _____

To Participate as a Host:

Please circle the date(s) you are available to **host** and indicate the number of people your home can accommodate.

Friday, January 21 Friday, February 18 Friday, March 18 Friday, April 15

Number home can accommodate: _____

Call Deb Griffin at 388-8031 with questions. Drop this registration in church offering, by the church office, or e-mail Deb at debg52@gmail.com. **Deadline for registration is Sunday, December 26, 2010.**

Holland-days ...

Last Sunday was our first worship service for the Advent season. The anticipation of Advent, along with the change in the weather and the newly decorated sanctuary seems to always put me in a more attentive state. Take, for example, the unison prayer of confession in the late service, which spoke of our sinful nature causing us at times to 'miss the gift of holy encounters.' That phrase got me to thinking about what may well have been a holy encounter that I experienced last week. I'll let you be the judge:

Some of you may know that I have long had a relationship with goats. I currently serve as the project leader for the Gallatin County 4-H goat project, and it was in that capacity that I led the project as they performed a milking demonstration at Parkhaven Retirement Home in Manhattan last Tuesday. Our demonstrations typically consist of introducing the audience to goats in general, then dairy goats in particular, and then the act of milking (including group participation). Interspersed throughout the demonstration is the singing of silly goat songs and Tuesday's was no exception. This was our first time with a more seasoned audience (normally they are school-aged), and the residents for the most part sang along with us. There was one woman sitting in the corner, though, that didn't appear to be having any fun. She had a sour look on her face throughout the demonstration, didn't join in with the sing-a-longs, and was positively repulsed when we offered her a chance to pet the young goat we brought along. As you might expect, we sort of shied away from her and directed most of our attention to the other residents. However, just as we were about to leave, this same woman motioned me over and in a barely audible whisper asked me if I wanted to learn a new goat song. My eyes lit up and I told her absolutely. She then proceeded to sing in a clear, strong voice all of the words to "Bill Grogan's Goat." This is an old-time children's song that I was not previously familiar with, but you can rest assured that it will now become a part of our repertoire for future shows.

Advent is a sacred season, but in the midst of it we also brush up against the profane. And it is sometimes in those purely secular settings that the Lord will present us with 'the least of these, his sister.' May we all be attentive to these opportunities as we stand on tiptoes to await Christ's arrival.

Close Encounter

Music soothes the beast.
God's light sent from soul to soul.
Goats get a bad rap.



~~Dan Holland

Krebill joins with other leaders to urge Tolerance

Our pastor, Dan Krebill, is currently in the midst of a 2-year term as president of the Montana Association of Churches, a statewide organization made up of 8 different Christian traditions. He recently joined with several of the leaders of those churches in issuing a pastoral letter urging tolerance. It appeared in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle on November 11, 2010. In this sacred season when we celebrate and proclaim the coming of Jesus who is the true Prince of Peace it seems appropriate to share this letter with you.

A Pastoral Letter to the People of Montana from Religious Leaders

Dear Fellow Montanans,

Montana has a long history of openness and tolerance to a variety of religious beliefs and practices. America is now home to a religious diversity that was unknown to the framers of the Constitution. But just as the First Amendment protected Baptists in Rhode Island and Catholics in Maryland, Quakers in Pennsylvania and Congregationalists in Massachusetts, it still protects practitioners of all faiths today, including minority religions and unpopular traditions. Based on our own faith traditions, and based on our commitments to the laws of this country, we urge our fellow citizens to practice religious tolerance and civility towards all.

In the early 1600's when Europeans of different faiths first came to North America they desired freedom of religion and soon found that freedom meant granting it to others as well. The framers of our government saw the wisdom in that and established a constitution and society that guaranteed both the separation of church and state and a society marked by pluralism of belief and practice.

The United States became a beacon for people seeking freedom, and over the decades waves of different immigrants have continued to come – each making wonderful contributions to the fabric of our shared life. Today in the United States we have people from over 200 different nations, many of whom still speak their native language and practice the faith of their heritage, while at the same time learning to speak English and blend into the rich mix of peoples that makes us unique among nations.

This proud history is something to celebrate, but it is also something we could lose if the current extreme expressions of religious intolerance, hatred, and civil discord continue to dominate the media and the relationships of people with strangers and even neighbors. It is with this concern foremost in our minds that the following leaders of Montana Christian organizations call out to the citizens of the State of Montana to overcome the political and social and religious divisions they encounter and instead work for the unity that was modeled for us by the man we know as Jesus.

The measure of a society's character is not taken when life is easy. How a society treats its minorities and strangers, especially when the economy is tough, and the country is at war, is a better measure of a society's moral health. Montana has a long history of tolerance and openness. We call on our fellow citizens, *whatever their own faith commitments, to respect the civil and religious rights of all our neighbors.*

Sincerely,

The Rt. Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart

Bishop, Diocese of Montana, Episcopal Church in the USA

The Rev. Dr. Ruth Fletcher

Regional Minister, Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Montana Synod

The Rev. Dan Krebill

President, Montana Association of Churches

The Rev. Jessica Crist

Bishop, Montana Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Randy Hyvonen

Conference Minister, Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Elaine Stanovsky

Bishop of the Denver Area, United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2010</h1>						
			1 4pm Forum Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	2 6:50am Women's Book Group 11:00 Staff Meeting 7pm Deacons 7pm Compassionate Friends	3	4
5 8:30 Worship 9:20 Church Sunday 10:30 Worship 10:45 K-5	6	7 7pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Boy Scouts	8 4pm Forum Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	9 6:50am Women's Book Group 7:00 All Committee Night	10	11
12 8:30 Worship 9:20 Church Sunday 10:30 Worship 10:45 K-5	13	14 7pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Boy Scouts	15 4pm Forum Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	16 6:50am Women's Book Group 7:00 Session	17	18 5:00 Rockhaven Lessons & Carols
19 8:30 Worship 9:20 Church Sunday 10:30 Worship 10:45 K-5 3:00 Messiah Sing 4:00 Reception	20	21 7pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Boy Scouts	22 4pm Forum Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25 5:00 Family Service 8:00 Traditional Service 11:00 Candlelight Service
26 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 7:00 Boy Scouts	29	30	31	