



PresbEnews

January 18, 2017

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Church celebrates Confirmation Sunday



On January 15, 2017, there was much celebration as nine young people of the confirmation class professed their faith in Jesus Christ and pledged themselves to be his disciples as members of the church. Eight of the youth were baptized as infants; Mitchell Larsson was baptized on Sunday. A special highlight was an idea which generated during the class—the formation of a youth choir. Six members of the class sang, while a seventh played violin in an anthem entitled "Oh, Children, Come." It was a great day for the church!



Special thanks go to those who helped this confirmation experience happen:

Wade Spoerl, who as a high school senior assisted in leading the class. Wade attended the retreat at Rockhaven and never missed a class.

He was a fantastic role model for the younger youth!

Aidar Haynes and Kori Robbins, Presby Cats who assisted with the retreat at Rockhaven. Kori planned and prepared all the food, and Aidar provided supervision for the boys.

Scott Thrasher, who hosted the retreat at Rockhaven and led several activities there.

Dani Repka and Matt Muehleman, Presby Cats who shared their faith journeys with the youth one Sunday.

Russell Milburn and Alison Todd, who rehearsed with the Confirmation Choir and encouraged their ongoing musical expression of faith.

All the parents of the youth, who helped ensure near-perfect attendance at the classes all fall, encouraged the youth, and shared their faith.



Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"Prayer invites us to bring our whole life into God's presence for cleansing and restoration."

Prayer by Philip Yancy

Welcome New Members—Confirmands January 2017



Rodney Aloise was baptized at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Boston on a Sunday when a snowstorm kept all but a handful of parishioners at home. Maybe that's why church has always felt like a second home to him, both in Boston and now in Bozeman, where he has lived with his family since 2014. Rodney is in seventh grade at Sacajawea Middle School. He plays the trumpet and is in Tae Kwon Do. His parents are Holly Aloise and the late Albert Aloise, and his sister is Martha.



Danielle Berg was baptized at First Presbyterian Church and has been an active part of Sunday school, VBS, youth group, and at Rockhaven Camp. She nourishes her faith at church and puts her faith into action at Chief Joseph Middle School, where she is in seventh grade. Danielle enjoys singing in two choirs at school, and just began taking voice lessons. She is the oldest daughter of Dan and Deana Berg, and her sisters are Dayna and Deliala.



Shelby Guenther was baptized by her grandfather when she was a baby. She began attending First Presbyterian Church with her family in 2014, and attended Rockhaven Camp and volunteered at VBS. Shelby knows that it is important to have faith in life's difficult situations. She plays softball, volleyball, and basketball and sings in two choirs at Chief Joseph Middle School, where she is in eighth grade. Shelby's father is Lane Guenther, and her three brothers are Michael, Peyton, and Wyatt.



Wyatt Guenther was baptized by his grandfather when he was a baby. His family moved to Bozeman in 2013 from Washington. One of his friends on the baseball team was Mitchell Larsson, and the families of these boys now spend much time together, including time at church. Wyatt feels like Christian faith has always been part of his life. He is in tenth grade at Bozeman High School, where he plays football, is on the wrestling team, and sings in the choir. His father is Lane Guenther, and his siblings are Michael, Peyton, and Shelby.



Julia Johnson was baptized at First Presbyterian Church. Her faith was nurtured by Sunday school, VBS, Rockhaven Camp, and youth group, and she has often played her violin in church services. Julia is steadfast in her faith when peers question the value of religion. An eighth grade student at Headwaters Academy, she is interested in science and music. Julia's parents are Todd and Diana Johnson, and her brother is Elliot.

Welcome New Members—Confirmands January 2017 continued



Annie Kolwyck was baptized at First Presbyterian Church and attended Rockhaven Camp. She became part of the youth group when she was in seventh grade and stayed overnight at the Cardboard Box City. Annie is a gymnast, loves boating and skiing, and she sings in two choirs at Chief Joseph Middle School, where she is in eighth grade. If you are wondering how to live as a Christian, she recommends *Love Does* by Bob Goff. Annie is the daughter of Joe and Laurie Kolwyck, and her sister is Sydney.



Mitchell Larsson is being baptized today. He attended VBS as a child, and with Wyatt, he is now a regular VBS volunteer. In 2016, the two boys attended Rotary leadership camp, and their leadership was evident in the confirmation class. Mitch is ready to make a commitment to keep growing his questioning faith. His sports are ice hockey, baseball, and golf, and he is active in 4-H, and sings in choir at Bozeman High School, where he is in tenth grade. He is the son of Laura Larsson and Anders Larsson, the grandson of Diane Stone (of FPC), and his sister is Alyce.



Graham Overton was baptized at First Presbyterian Church in Westfield, NY. His family moved to Bozeman in 2012 and Graham began attending Sunday school as well as Rockhaven Camp. Graham wants faith to be part of his life, and being confirmed feels like the right way to make that life commitment. He is in seventh grade at Chief Joseph Middle School, where he plays trombone in jazz band and sings in two choirs. He also plays violin and piano and is a member of Boy Scout Troop 679. His parents are Mitch and Heather Overton, and his brothers are Jonas and McCabe.



Evan Spoerl was baptized at Highland Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, PA. He moved to Bozeman with his family in 2013, and they immediately found First Presbyterian Church. Evan jumped into youth activities at church with his two older brothers. His understanding of faith grew this year as he grasped how important it is to have a church family. Evan is a swimmer, and also was on the freshman football team at Bozeman High School. His parents are Steve and April Spoerl and his brothers are Karl and Wade.

Pledge envelopes for 2017 are available at the church office. The per capita this year is \$48 per member.

Birthdays this week

- 1/18 Jennifer Frye
- 1/19 Linda Miller
- 1/20 Fritz Dickensheets
- 1/21 Suzanne Galinac
Scott Thompson
Chuck Broughton
Jeffrey Bissell
- 1/22 Jill Brauss
Cheryl McNicholas
- 1/23 Helen Craig
Wade Spoerl
- 1/24 Jim Gannon

Love INC

In January, First Presbyterian Church will undertake to renew our church's commitment to Love In the Name of Christ. During this month, we will be hearing more about the work of this cooperative ministry that facilitates our mission to help our neighbors right here in Gallatin County, in the Name of Christ.

Cleaning out YOUR closets? Why not help someone else's closet?

Personal Care Pantry:
Diaper Rash Cream
Women's Deodorant
Feminine Products (both pads and tampons)
Laundry Detergent
Paper Towels

Linen Closet:
Queen Sheet Sets
Twin Sheet Sets
Bath Towels

The items can be placed in the wicker basket located in the north narthex.



FIRST FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 3

Join us at 5:30 for a spaghetti dinner - movie – popcorn – and ice cream for dessert as we discuss the implications in our lives from a Christian viewpoint of the movie for the month, *SULLY*. “Tom Hanks stars in this portrait of airline pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, which depicts his successful emergency landing of an Airbus A320 on the Hudson River in January 2009. In the aftermath of this unprecedented and heroic feat, the traumatized pilot must endure second-guessing by investigators, the weight of sudden fame, and his own doubts about his actions that fateful day. From the start, Sullenberger wanted the film to encompass "that sense of our common humanity"... He explains: "People were wondering if everything was about self-interest and greed. They were doubting human nature. Then all these people acted together, selflessly, to get something really important done. In a way, I think it gave everyone a chance to have hope, at a time when we all needed it.”

If you will be bringing children, please call the church office to arrange for a sitter and allow us to provide appropriate movies for the younger set.

**MERRY MUNCHERS
OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2017**

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.

THIS IS A POTLUCK WHERE EVERYONE CONTRIBUTES.

HOST PROVIDES THE MAIN DISH.

You do not need to volunteer to be as host to participate.

Name(s) _____

Guests: CIRCLE BELOW the dates you will participate.

FEBRUARY 17 MARCH 17 APRIL 21 MAY 19

HOSTS: PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR A DATE (6 guests unless indicated):

____ FEBRUARY 17

____ MARCH 17

____ APRIL 21

____ MAY 19 **ALL GROUP PICNIC.** All participants will gather at one house. We need one host to volunteer for the site and beverages. Everyone else will bring the food.

PLEASE LEAVE THIS FORM IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR AT THE OFFICE.

QUESTIONS: CALL Sally Broughton 585-3544 or email at hawgeemt@gmail.com.

**DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

Adult Sunday School books Recycling

Have you ever wondered what to do with your Adult Sunday School study guides once we have completed that class?? The Mission and Outreach Committee is going to try something new. We are going to collect any that you are willing to part with. With 5 or 6 of the same study, we will offer them to one of the small churches in the Yellowstone Presbytery or to Ryan Mandeville's churches in Alaska or take to the Fort Peck Reservation when we go in the spring. There will be a box in the church library clearly marked. Or put them in my box near the church office. Clean off your shelves by the end of February and in early March, we will get this project underway. Call Marcia Jarrett at 388-6314 with any questions.

Panel on World Religions

Campus Christian Center, Christus Collegium, is sponsoring a panel on World Religions. There will be representatives from the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths presenting the tenets of each religion followed by a question and answer time. This will be held in the Christus Collegium Wesley Hall, 714 S. 8th Avenue on January 24 at 7:00 p.m. This is a great time to get together and show our support for one another in an ever changing environment.

Presby Cats Cookie Dough Fund Raiser Underway

Members of our Presby Cats collegiate ministry group are currently taking orders for Elliotts of Montana frozen cookie dough and other yummy products. Like last year, in addition to purchasing for yourself, consider buying a tub or 2 of cookie dough that can be baked for our Deacons ministry of hospitality. Either bake the cookies yourself, or if you'd prefer, the Presby Cats will bake them and get them to the Deacons. Watch for Presby Cats with order forms in hand on the next 3 Sunday mornings. February 5 will be the last day to place an order. Your support of this fund raiser to help with our spring break mission trip to Chicago is much appreciated. If you'd like to call in (or email in) an order, you can contact Amy Desjardins at 541-815-1608 or



E. Stanley Ott Workshop February 10-11

Yellowstone Presbytery is bringing to *your* backyard nationally recognized Pastor, Author, Church Vitality expert and trainer *E. Stanley Ott, M.Div., Ph.D.* on Friday and Saturday, February 10-11, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church in Billings for a training workshop for a team from your church:

Transformed & Mobilized:

Loved & Called – Gifted – Equipped – Sent

Friday, February 10

10:30 am – 12:00 noon Optional Interactive Workshop with Stan:

Transforming Your Church with Ministry Teams

12:00 noon break for lunch

1:00 pm – 8:00 pm Main Workshop – Transformed & Mobilized, Part I includes break for dinner

Saturday, February 11

8:30 am – 11:00 am Main Workshop – Transformed & Mobilized, Part II

12:00 noon -2 – Optional, opportunity to dialog with Stan over bag lunch

Housing: A block of rooms is being held until January 31, 2017 at the Sleep Inn, 4904 Southgate Drive in Billings for \$101.00/night. Call (406) 254-0013 to make your reservation referencing "First Presbyterian Church. Call Now, filling up.

Cost: \$15.00/per person which includes dinner for 1-3 people from the same church.
\$7.00/per person for each additional person, includes dinner.

Registration: Please e-mail your registration to: yellpres@yellowstonepcusa.org and include the following information:

Name (s):

Church:

E-mail address:

Phone Number:

Events you will attend: Adv. Workshop Main Workshop Dialog with Stan

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

If your eyes regularly stumble across the words in this space, then you may recall an edition from this past November wherein I announced a storytelling project. The stories I would retell would be from the people in our congregation and my hope was that these stories would form a rich tapestry of faith chronicling the journeys of God's people. Since God's people are everyday people, their stories involve everyday life. While everyday life is filled with its fair share of triumphs, it also contains tragedies.

Bozeman, MT (1976)

Last week we learned Marj and Bill Williams moved back to the Storey family ranch near Four Corners during the fifties. While Bill learned to stack hay and navigate the rigors of calving season, Marj gave birth to two children, Gary and Cindy. Their children were introduced to the same sorts of things Marj did when she was growing up. They became 4-Hers and sold steers from the Storey bloodline at the Gallatin County Fair. They became involved in the activities at First Presbyterian. They rode horses, including the blooded Thoroughbred Marj's father gave her when she was young. In a nutshell they grew up.

Growing up in an idyllic setting doesn't always produce an idyllic outcome. On June 8, 1975 Cindy Williams, at the age of nineteen, watched her friend fall into flood swollen Bozeman Creek. Cindy jumped in to save her. Neither of them survived.

Marj was distraught; she was numb. For months she walked around in a surreal fog. In the throes of her agony she even convinced herself she could bring Cindy back from the dead if only she tried hard enough. Nothing worked. It was as if God was ignoring her.

Like many ranch folks, Marj had a town job at the time. She drove from the ranch into Bozeman every day to help make ends meet. Her commute became an ordeal, because she cried all the way to town. She cried all the way home. Deep sobs of anguish. Every day. Both ways.

The Book of Job in the Bible is filled with stories of misery heaped upon misery. It could easily be called the Book of Marj, because a year after Cindy's death Marj was struck by lightning. She was mowing the lawn outside their house and a bolt of lightning hit her square on the head. It blew her glasses clear across the road. How she was able to survive is beyond anyone's speculation, but she lived. She was forced to spend a long time in the hospital. Fortunately a doctor from the Houston Space Center happened to be vacationing in Bozeman at the time. He was not unfamiliar with injuries of this sort and assisted in restoring Marj back to health. He was there as the swelling slowly subsided. He was there to ask annoying questions to insure Marj's mental faculties were intact.

Then one day as Marj lay in her hospital bed she heard a reassuring voice. It was the voice of God. After months upon months of deep sorrow, God was bringing Marj assurance. It was a beautiful psalm, spoken in a calm, quiet voice, telling her:

*I could have saved Cindy,
but it wasn't part of my plan.
That is why I didn't save her,
so be still, Marj, be still.*