



PresbEnews

November 9, 2016

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is in full swing! Thanks to the session and the Presby Cats, more than 200 boxes were assembled and ready to go. Thanks to Joy Ames and helpers, the toys, school supplies, clothing, and hygiene supplies were all set up in room 204 for an assembly line. Thanks to Sunday school children, parent and youth



helpers, youth, and more Presby Cats, nearly 300 boxes were filled on Sunday. And thanks to eager congregation members, dozens of boxes were taken home to be filled, to be returned and dedicated on Sunday, November 20th.

If you would like to support this ongoing ministry, you can bid on items on the silent auction tables in the Fellowship Hall entrance, or make a financial donation which will be used to purchase items to fill next year's boxes when available.

"Enhancing Our Conversation With God"

*Give yourselves wholly to prayer and entreaty;
pray on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Ephesians 6:18

Giving to First Presbyterian Church

In addition to traditional methods, First Presbyterian Church offers the option of making financial contributions to the church electronically via the web or by texting. Contributions via the web can be made from the online giving link on the church's website, www.fpcbozeman.org or by scanning this QR code with your Smartphone. To give by text, simply text the amount of your gift and any designation to 406-278-6267. *Thank you!*



Deacon Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving is once again upon us and the Deacons will be distributing food baskets to needy families in the Gallatin valley on Friday, November 18. Please help in this important church project by signing up to help with set up, clean up, and most important, delivery teams. Donations are also needed to defray the cost of the turkeys. Please make checks to FPC, memo Thanksgiving basket project. Sign up sheets are located at the back of the sanctuary.



Thanks for your continued support of this most worthy project. For questions, please call Mike Roser at 580-5818.

Higher Ground Coffee Hut Opens



When Pat Donehoo passed away in February 2015, he left a legacy of friendship, community volunteerism, generosity, and joy matched by few. He also left First Presbyterian Church a significant estate gift, undesignated. A team of church members came together to discern the best uses of those funds, following Pat's commitments in life. The team wanted to give beyond our church family, as Pat always did, and recommended giving \$14,000 (10% of the total) to the Community Café. The session concurred.

HRDC staff took the idea from there. Could Pat's gift be used to help build a coffee hut which could become the source of an income stream for the Café? When we said "yes," this idea came off the planning board and local businesses agreed to contribute the remainder of the cost of building the hut, whether in dollars or in services. On Wednesday morning, November 2, the "Higher Ground" coffee hut, located in the parking lot of the Community Café on N. 7th Ave., officially opened.

Pat was a lifelong resident of Bozeman who grew up in the neighborhood where the Café is now located. One of our church's regular volunteers at the Café, he served as coordinator of the team for a year. Now he is remembered anytime someone orders the "Pat Donehoo Special," an Irish Mocha latte. Soon the image pictured here will be a decal on the window customers look at while they wait for their beverage to be made.

And Pat's smile will once again share his favorite verse of scripture: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.'

Presby Cats to Lead Worship on November 20

Members of our Presby Cats collegiate ministry will be leading both of our Sunday morning worship services on Sunday, November 20. It has become a tradition for this group of inspired collegians to share their faith with the congregation on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The services will be informed by the Bible study that they have engaged this fall on God's justice. This theme was chosen as a way of preparing the group for its upcoming spring break mission trip to inner city Chicago in March. Two of our charter members of Presby Cats who are graduating and leaving Bozeman at the end of this fall semester, Monica Whitaker and Dani Repka, will be sharing in the sermon portion of these services. Please plan to join us in worship on November 20 as we celebrate the work of Christian faith in this wonderful group of young people.



Advent is Coming!

Mark your calendars for November 27, the first Sunday of Advent, when we will hold our second annual church family event culminating in the lighting of our outdoor Christmas tree.

Last year's theme was Narnia, the fantasy world created by C.S. Lewis with many parallels to the Advent world we live in. This year we will celebrate Christmas "around the world" by learning from Christians in other countries. The church family event (including all ages) will begin at 4 pm on November 27, with crafts and activities. Children will participate in "Las Posadas,"

the Mexican tradition of looking for a hospitable place as Mary and Joseph did. The welcoming place they discover will be the Fellowship Hall, where there will be a simple supper for all ages at 5:15 pm. At 6 pm, the theme of welcoming the stranger will carry through in our "lighting the way" service in the sanctuary. At the conclusion, the Christmas tree on the front lawn will be lit for the season.



Plan to be part of this joyous family event!

Downtown interfaith Thanksgiving service on November 23

Thanksgiving will be observed by several local faith communities in an interfaith service to be held at the Bozeman United Methodist Church, 121 S. Willson, on Wednesday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m. Our co-pastors will be joining with other local faith leaders in the leading of this service in which we as people of faith join together to celebrate God's blessings in our lives.



SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 20 HARVEST DINNER/PASTOR APPRECIATION

Please plan to attend our annual Harvest Dinner – Pastor Appreciation luncheon immediately following the 10:30 service on Sunday, November 20. Lunch will be served about 11:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for some delicious food for a \$6 donation, special entertainment, and a chance to say "Thank You" to all our pastors who so faithfully serve our church.

Morning Book Group Guests

On November 3, the Thursday morning book group hosted a discussion with author Paul Krebill during which he explained how he came to be a writer of fiction. "It begins in the imagination," he told us. When he was a child stories came to him in imaginative ways; many of them based on his daily activities of play and stored in his memory. His later books, set in places he visited or "would like to visit" captures the power of imagination that springs to life an event, a place, even a person of average familiarity, resulting in entertaining stories of seemingly ordinary situations. The focus of his presentation was that everyone has a story--you and I-- and there are many stories waiting to be told. Paul challenged us to search out our story(ies) and, through our imaginative processes, create memorable, readable fictions drawn from real-life events.



Thank you Paul and Doris for sharing the morning with us.

Birthdays this week

11/10 Julie Cunningham

11/11 Bob Staffanson

11/13 Jim Babcock

11/15 Diane Stone

Monthly Taizé service is this week

Please join us for an evening to quiet our minds and hearts, and intently *listen* to God on Sunday, November 13th at 7:00 PM at Resurrection University Catholic Church (at 1725 S. 11th Ave.). Hosting this service is a joint project of Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, and Presbyterian churches and church leaders in Bozeman. Each second Sunday of the month, all are welcome to join in prayer, simple chants, scripture reading, and silence. The service is less than one hour long, but your spirit will be renewed for weeks!



Church Facebook page a source of up-to-date info!

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!

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

Rocky Ford, CO (circa 1937)

The boy wandered into the kitchen as his parents spoke in hushed tones. Upon realizing the boy's presence they stopped talking altogether, but not before the boy gathered the gist of their conversation. The pastor of their wonderful church was divorcing his wife, and the boy's parents were trying to come to grips with this congregation shattering event.

The family loved their small church. It was part of the Christian Church denomination (think Grand Avenue Christian Church) and it was not an easy decision to up and leave it. The boy was especially fond of his Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Lynn, and changing churches would be painful in a small, agrarian community like Rocky Ford.

The parched steppe of southeast Colorado is a tough place to carve out a living. The area is renowned for its melons (the high school's team name is the Meloneers) but back then the cash crop was onions. It takes a lot of water to grow either crop and the Dust Bowl proved just how scarce water was in those parts. Farmers were primarily dependent on the Rocky Mountain snowmelt and the ability of the nearby Arkansas River to deliver it to the plains. The problem was that the larger metropolitan areas of the state were better equipped to capture the water before it made its journey out of the mountains. It was out of situations like this that the old western saw, "Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting" came. Places like Rocky Ford more often than not lost those fights.

This, then, was the backdrop as the family made its momentous decision to join Community Presbyterian Church in Rocky Ford. It is also when Ted Williams began his nearly eighty year love affair with the Presbyterian denomination.

Ted became a member of First Presbyterian in Bozeman in 1956 shortly after accepting a teaching position with the engineering department at what was then Montana State College. He met with Session in the lounge under what is now Jody's office to formalize his membership, but Ted was already well immersed in the Presbyterian form of government. This republican format, mirroring that of the United States had great appeal to Ted's keen, analytical mind. He considered the denomination's constitution, the Book of Order, to be a "uniquely inspired document." And he knew that document as well as anyone, as evidenced during his tenure as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Yellowstone.

Ted doesn't get around very well anymore, and he recently handed in his driver's license. I suppose that event is inevitable for all of us, but I was saddened to hear it in Ted's case, because one of my fondest memories was riding in his rig to a Presbytery meeting in Billings. He regaled me with stories as he navigated the slushy snow on the pass as if it was dry as a bone.

His driver's license isn't the only license Ted has handed in. Fourteen years ago when our church was completing construction of the bridge over the Gallatin River at Rockhaven, the Forest Service threw a last minute monkey wrench into the project. They needed assurance that the bridge would survive a hundred year flood. The only problem was a hundred years of data doesn't exist for that area. So Ted developed a model using the best available information along with sound, conservative assumptions to determine the hundred year flood would fall a foot short of the bridge. That was the last time Ted would employ his Public Engineering license — a lasting testament to the beauty of God's kingdom.