



PresbEnews

December 7, 2016

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Special Services for Advent and Christmas

Advent is a time when people who don't have a church home often gravitate toward a church. Invite a friend who may be seeking, and remember to be a welcoming presence at any of these special services this month!

Sunday, Dec 11,	10:30 am	Mt. Ellis Academy Choir joins us in worship (see article below)
Saturday, Dec 17,	5 pm	Christmas at Rockhaven (see article on p. 3)
Sunday, Dec 18,	3 pm	15 th Annual Messiah Sing (see article p. 2)
Saturday, Dec 24,	5 pm	Christmas Eve Family Service, led by children and youth of our congregation
	8 pm	Christmas Eve Traditional Service, with Worship Choir and First Bells
	11 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
Sunday, Dec 25,	10:30 am	Christmas Day Blessing of the Animals (No 8:30 service)
Sunday, Jan 1,	10:30 am	Worship God as the New Year begins (No 8:30 service)

Mt. Ellis Academy Sings in Worship December 11

On Sunday, December 11, the choir of Mt. Ellis Academy will once again share their music of the season in our 10:30 am worship service. For several years, this youth choir led by Leisel Rogers has presented a cantata of Christmas music with us. This year, the music will be carols and hymns arranged by noted sacred music composer John Rutter. Our own Worship Choir will be joining them for some selections.

Mt. Ellis Academy is a Seventh Day Adventist high school located east of Bozeman. With both local and boarding options, the student body includes a significant number of international students. They enjoy singing in our church, and we enjoy having them share their music!

Plan to be in worship to welcome and share the joy.

"Enhancing Our Conversation With God"

"But I lift up this prayer to thee, O Lord: accept me now in thy great love, answer me with thy sure deliverance, O God. Psalm 69: 13

*First Presbyterian Church
Messiah Community Sing*

Sunday, December 18 at 3pm

Lukas Graf, Director , Carrie Krause, Concert Master

Featuring Second String Orchestra

Soloists: Catherine Savery, Claire McCahan,

Andrew Major, Darin Small

Organist: Joanna Ellison

*Community Choir rehearsal is
Saturday, December 17 at 1:00p.m.*

*Please notice change in rehearsal
time from previous years*



Thank You!

We just want to thank all our church family for the prayers, cards, emails, phone calls, flowers and food in the loss of Bernie's sister.

We felt your presence with us.

With love in Christ, Jim and Bernie Mitchell

What's special about Christmas at Rockhaven this year?

On Saturday, Dec 17, at 5 pm in the Rockhaven Chapel, the Christmas story will be told and Christmas carols will be sung. Dan Holland and Scott Thrasher will share the message in an original dual monologue (would that be a duologue?) And we'll have some wonderful musicians sharing their music of the season: Holly Aloise, Emily Thrasher, Maren Haynes, and Cheryl McNicholas. Come join us!

What's always special about Christmas at Rockhaven is the peace and rustic simplicity of being in the chapel when it's cold outside, with a wood stove warming the room and candlelight reminding us of the light of God coming into the world. What's always special is to hear the Christmas story once again, to share fellowship in the dining hall afterwards, and to be reminded of God's love given to the world. Plan to be there, for a peaceful reminder of what's most important about this season.

Birthdays this week

12/7 *Jan Peace*
 12/8 *Lenka Swenson*
 12/9 *Henry Erwin*
 12/10 *Bruce Pontius-Backman*
 Kris Hall
 12/11 *Marcia Jarrett*
 Jillian May
 Blake Babcock
 12/13 *April Spoerl*
 Logan Kleinhans

World Wide Candle Lighting

Please join us and Compassionate Friends from around the world to honor our children and loved ones who left us too soon and the World Wide Candle Lighting Sunday, December 11 at the Lindley Center at 1102 E. Curtiss.



Arrive at 6 – 6:30 pm with candle and paper lantern lighting at 7pm.

Bring an open heart and find comfort during this hard time of year. Candles and lanterns will be available.

For more information call Sandee Mills at 539-8090 or Kathy Braun at 539-3491

Items needed for Love INC Personal Care Pantry:

Baby Wash
 Pull Ups
 Band Aids
 Tampons
 Lotion
 Laundry Detergent
 Dish Soap
 Toilet Paper



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

The following first appeared in the Chronicle about ten years ago. It is set in an area in my hometown of Great Falls where no one likes to go.

Hill 57

The wind on that night was born in the Arctic. It whistled down through Alberta, glanced off the Rocky Mountain Front, and slammed with vengeance outside the wall of my bedroom. There the rusted-out siding and flimsy plastic window funneled it directly towards my bed and the two threadbare blankets I was huddled beneath. That was where the wind found me on the night they came by.

Nobody ever comes by our place. It's at the end of an old dirt road out by the dump. Half the time the lights are out cause mom keeps forgettin' to pay the bill. She had forgot again, so I lit some candles, most of which the wind kept snuffing out. My friends didn't like to come out here either. They made me walk the mile down to the truck-stop if I wanted to go with them. That walk ain't no fun, and that's why I was alone the night they came by.

My old man ain't been around for a couple of years. He had a job for a while - down at the refinery - but now he just drifts. He gets checks somehow and sends us some. My mother is around, but she's a gambler. Says she's gonna hit a big one soon. "Won't that be somethin'?" she says. That's how life was stacked up against me the night they came by.

Dad used to always shrug and say, "Life ain't always fair," like he was preparing me for hard times. Get me used to the injustice of the world. Accept my lot. And that's what I was thinkin' when I heard the cars pull up outside.

I got out of bed and went to the front room. It was two rigs. About eight or nine folks. They were bundled up, but happy - laughing as they approached the front step. I opened the door a crack, and saw they were all holding flashlights and hymnbooks. Then it hit me. This was Christmas week; these were carolers.

Boy that must have been some picture. Me standin' there with my scraggly hair and raggedy clothes in the doorway of a beat up trailer out in the middle of a bare dirt lot with one patch of brown snow the wind hadn't blown away and boulder-sized tumbleweeds screaming past at forty miles an hour. Not exactly the Christmas scene they display in the storefronts downtown.

But still they came by. Their pink, round faces gathered around the steps and broke into "Joy to the World." I knew it from the few times I had been to church, but I just mouthed the words.

They handed me a big basket of food, and said "Merry Christmas." There was lots of stuff in it. Cheese, salami, some fancy crackers, bunch of candy. Even a fruit cake. I thanked them.

"So is anybody else around...your mother?" one asked.

"Nah, she's out."

"How about your father?"

"Dunno."

"Can we sing you some more carols?"

"Beats listenin' to the wind." I shrugged. There was an awkward silence.

"Did you know that Jesus loves you?" one of them blurted out.

My old man used to answer that question by responding, "But Jesus don't know his way out to this part of town." I thought better of it, and just replied,

"Yeah, I heard that before."

(continued on next page)

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

Then one of them asked if they could read from the Bible, only it was a different version, by some guy named Peterson. It was from the first chapter of John:

*The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
God present to the Word.
The Word was God,
in readiness for God from day one.
Everything was created through him;
nothing – not one thing! –
came into being without him.
What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.*

They sang one more song and left, but I couldn't stop thinking about that Life-Light blazing out of the darkness. To me it made more sense when you talked about it that way. I sliced up some of the salami and cheese. I even said a prayer. Nothing in particular, nothing special. Just a prayer.

Later, mom came home. She didn't say nothin', but I knew she'd lost. Again. Then she saw the food basket and her eyes lit up. She opened a tin of chocolate, "Where'd this come from?"
"Jesus came by."

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!*

