



PresbEnews

January 11, 2017

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
Willson at Babcock, PO Box 1150, Bozeman, MT 59771
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First Presbyterian Church Diversity Concert

Sunday, January 15 at 3pm

Celebrate diverse people making diverse music contributing to the joy of all. Young and old, varied culture and religious traditions with spiritual and secular vocal and instrumental pieces. The concert is co-sponsored by Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association.

Kate Bryan and Singing Souls Senior Chorus

Chief Joseph Middle School Choir

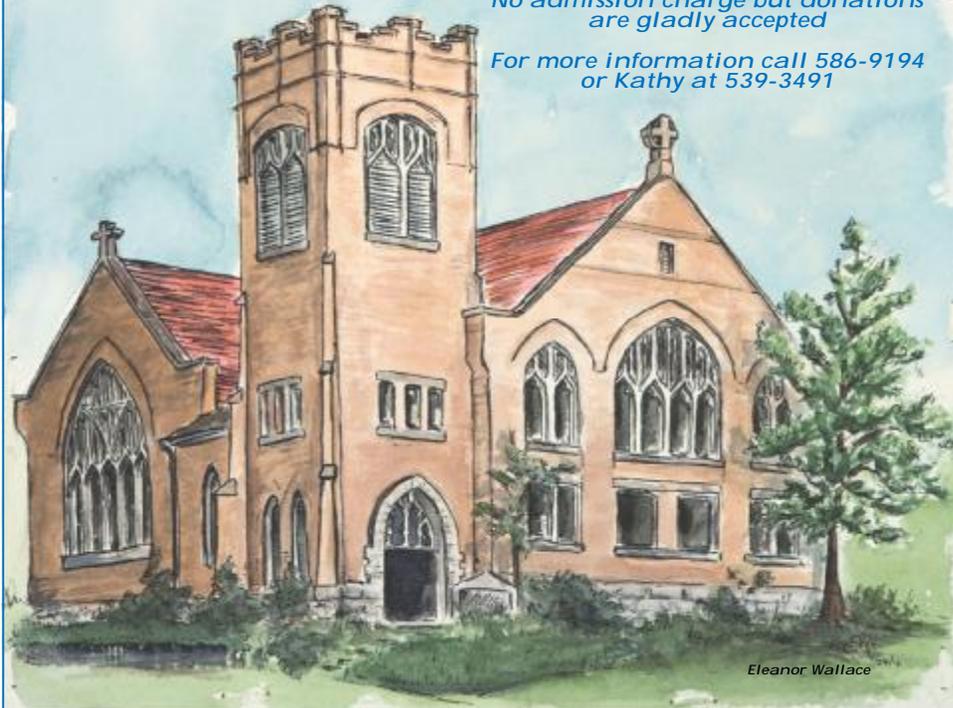
Organists : Matthew O'Sullivan Elder Adam Muhlestein

Soloists: Holly Aloise, Reggie Mead Edis Kittrell, Florence Guest

vocal quartet : Matthew O'Sullivan Lucas Graf, Jessica Graf, and Kathy Braun

*No admission charge but donations
are gladly accepted*

*For more information call 586-9194
or Kathy at 539-3491*



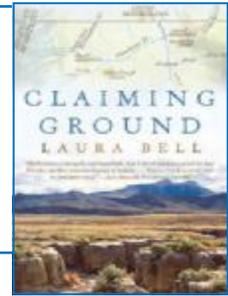
Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"Let us therefore boldly approach the throne of our gracious God, where we may receive mercy and in his grace find timely help."

Hebrews 4:16

Women's Thursday Morning Book Group

The Women's book group will start off the new year with the book *Claiming Ground* by Laura Bell. "In 1977 Laura Bell left her family home in Kentucky for a wild and unexpected adventure : herding sheep in Wyoming's Big Horn Basin". Come join us in this adventure on Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. with a light breakfast and coffee.



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

Birthdays this week

- 1/12 Christine Holland
- 1/13 Ric Tieman
- 1/14 Don Frye
- 1/15 Alison Todd
McKinley Hall
- 1/17 Lyle Biekert

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.

Women's Ecumenical Bible Study WEBS Winter 2017

Mission of Women's Ecumenical Bible/book Study:

The mission of WEBS is to offer women an open, engaging learning environment to nurture our faith through Bible or book study in community with others. WEBS also seeks to build connection by sharing our stories as we explore God's story.

In WEBS Winter 2017 book study we will read and discuss two books that invite us to be present to our present suggesting ways we might be grounded in God's eternal changlessness amidst the changes and changes of this life. Books are available between 9-4, Monday – Thursday, at Bozeman United Methodist Church for \$14 each. We will have a supply of them at the January 9th meeting.

The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See, Richard Rohr © 2009

Present over Perfect: Leaving Behind Frantic for a Simpler, More Soulful Way of Living, Shauna Niequist © 2016

NOTE: NO WEBS 01/23/2017. All are invited to MAC Day at the Legislature, Monday, January 23rd. For information contact Rev. Valerie Webster (vwebster587@gmail.com & 406-579-3980).

The Naked Now January – February 2017 *Present over Perfect* February-March 2017

Chapters 1-5 January 9th 10-11:30 AM Pages 9-66 February 13th 10-11:30 AM

Chapters 6-11 January 16th 10-11:30 AM Pages 67-134 February 20th 10-11:30 AM

Chapters 12-17 January 30th 10-11:30 AM Pages 135-194 February 27th 10-11:30 AM

Chapters 18-22 February 6th 10-11:30 AM Pages 195-235 March 6th 10-11:30 AM

Please notify Nancy Hopkins at nancyhopkins14@yahoo.com to be included in the distribution list for information as well as discussion questions. Feel free to share this message with others that are not on our list.

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

Monforton School (circa 1960)

The Board of Deacons at First Presbyterian has been providing coats to the children attending Monforton School for a long time. This tradition, this ministry, has been carried on for at least fifty years, perhaps even longer. I am sure there is a record of the exact date somewhere, but I have been unable to find it. What I have found is one of the Deacons involved in those early days of outreach.

Marj Storey grew up on a ranch along the West Gallatin River just south of present day Four Corners. Her father established the unique line of Storey Herefords, a bloodline that to this day is highly renowned in the ranching world. But the Storey name should not be confused with the Story name, another famous lineage in Bozeman area lore. They are different families and they have different stories.

Back in the 30's Monforton was just a two room schoolhouse. It served the children on the east side of the river, while Pine Butte School, a one room schoolhouse, served the children on the other side of Shed's Bridge. Marj remembers playing on the tall, metal swing-set and teeter-totter on Monforton's playground, as well as playing pum-pum pullaway, anti-over, and other childhood games. Back in those days the snow plows pushed all of the snow into the barrow pits alongside the road, where she and her friends would dig tunnels that provided hours of safe, comfortable entertainment.

There was only one church in the Four Corners area back then and Marj's folks had some sort of falling out with it. So when a Presbyterian woman started offering Sunday School at Monforton, Marj eagerly began to attend. The Sunday School program occasionally offered music and one Christmas season Marj listened to the song *Star of the East* played on the piano. It was the most beautiful song she had ever heard. From that moment on Marj became a lifelong Presbyterian and a lover of music.

After graduating from Gallatin County High School and a couple of years attending Montana State College, one of Marj's cousins convinced her to work on Senator Eckton's staff and move to Washington DC. It didn't take Marj long to become disillusioned with the inner workings of Congress, so she found a regular job in the world of finance. It was during this time that she met a young man from Pennsylvania named Bill Williams and she soon became Marj Williams when they were wed at Gunton Memorial Presbyterian.

Not long afterwards Marj's father called the young couple and said when he died they would get part of the ranch, so they might as well move back and learn how to run it. They did as they were instructed and were soon immersed in the ranching life. They also started raising a family and became involved in the life of First Presbyterian in Bozeman.

Marj and Bill became Deacons, and it was only natural when a location for a clothing ministry was being planned that Monforton was suggested as a recipient. Back then the Deacons provided socks, shoes, and overshoes in addition to the gift of coats we are familiar with today. Marj still vividly remembers one of the first times a young boy at the school was provided with this full set of clothing. His teacher soon had a problem with it, though. The boy refused to take off his overshoes even when he was inside the classroom. The shoes he had received from the Deacons was the first pair of new shoes he had ever owned and he wasn't about to let them get ruined by removing the overshoes and exposing them to the elements.