



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BOZEMAN



PresbEnews

May 17, 2017

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Special Coffee Fellowship Between Services on May 21



Please join us in the Fellowship Hall as we meet and greet friends both old and new. We will have coffee, tea, and donuts while we gather to share with our fellow worshipers.



A special presentation of NEW THINGS HAPPENING AT ROCKHAVEN – WISHES AND DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE will be presented from 10:00 to 10:15 by the Rockhaven Committee.

Please plan to either remain after the First Service or come early for the Second Service.

Annual Day at the Farm for Presby Kids

First Families and Presby Kids are invited to the Holland Farm (west of Belgrade) on Sunday afternoon, May 21, from 12:15 – 2:00 pm. Farmers Dan and Christine always enjoy introducing children to spring's baby animals. This year the goat kids and the chicks are joined by ducklings (who are growing up quickly!). In addition, the horse named Dexter is home from college—the Rocky Mountain College Equestrian Program, that is—and, weather permitting, could be available for pony rides! The group always enjoys lunch together at the farm, celebrating another year of Sunday school together. Those planning to attend can be in touch with Jody McDevitt to share in the lunch potluck.



Enhancing Our Conversation With God

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer."

1 Peter 3: 12a

Vacation Bible School Help Wanted!

Registrations for our Downtown Ecumenical Vacation Bible School are soaring—but help is needed to provide the quality program we promise. VBS is held in the mornings, June 19-23. Adult volunteers are needed in these areas:



Shepherds – Guide a group of students as they travel to learning stations. Be responsible for safety and group cohesion, encouraging students as they learn through music, drama, crafts, carpentry, games, and snack time.

Preschool – Join the volunteers who teach and supervise the 4-5 year old group.

Carpentry – Work with students as they hammer together this year's wood project.

Snack – Help prepare and serve snacks in our church kitchen.

If you can help, contact Suzanne Bratsky at 539-0211 or find under "Ministries" on our church website www.fpcbozeman.org or go to <http://bozemanumc.org/vacation-bible-school/>.

Birthdays this week

5/18 McCabe Overton

*5/20 Craig Miller
Ian Hoffman*

5/21 Betty Boxmeyer

*5/22 Madelyn Montgomery
Frank Schurz*

Abby Mickolio

5/23 Marjorie Hickman

Parking Lot Construction

Construction on the repaving of the parking lot at 24 South Willson will begin, weather permitting, Monday, May 22nd. It will take about 4 days and the entire lot will be roped off so please find parking elsewhere if you come to the church during this time.

Thank you!

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!*



Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

Over the course of the past few months this space has occasionally been devoted to sharing the faith stories of folks from our congregation. To date we have heard from three long time members, but this week we turn to relative newcomers. It has been said that every time someone new walks through the doors of the sanctuary our church is made new. So I think it is instructive to peer into our stained glass window through the eyes of someone new. Although our guests this week have only been attending First Presbyterian for a couple of years, they share something in common with our first three guests. None of them are related to each other, but they all have the same last name.

Atlanta, GA

Before moving to Bozeman, Carolyn Williams lived her entire life in the outskirts of metropolitan Atlanta. She grew up in a loving, Methodist household and attended church every Sunday at a stately, old church with a beautiful pipe organ. Even Carolyn's three siblings will agree she was a good kid, the only mar on her perfect Sunday School attendance record was the week she missed due to chicken pox. Reportedly God granted her special dispensation.

Carolyn went to college in the Atlanta area and later found a job and career with a global electrical manufacturing firm. It was while working at this huge company Carolyn met a man that would become her husband. Though not from the Atlanta area, Mark Williams was born and raised less than two hundred miles from there, just outside Birmingham, AL. Theirs was a mixed marriage because Mark was brought up in the Baptist faith, but it didn't take long for Mark to find the appeal of Carolyn's church since it wasn't permeated with fire and brimstone.

For the past decade or so, Mark and Carolyn have been firmly implanted in what is commonly referred to as the sandwich generation. While balancing careers and sending children off into the world, they were also caring for aging parents. Carolyn helped shepherd both of her parents into the afterlife, including spending seven precious days at her mother's bedside before she passed away.

Mark and Carolyn are both convinced it is their faith that allows them to weather these storms of transition. This was especially evident in the story they tell of Mark's parents. About ten years ago Mark's mother began to exhibit signs of Alzheimer's and this dreadful disease began to work its cruel magic quite quickly. Soon Mark was forced to convince his father to place his mother in an assisted living facility in Birmingham. It wasn't easy for Mark to come back and visit her, but his father was able to make the thirty mile round trip every day. Soon, though, the stress and strain of commuting to see his wife every day wore on Mark's father. Mark put his engineering training to work and designed a spreadsheet to map out the pros and cons of different strategies. That process led to the Presbyterian Village in Atlanta. The rest he and Carolyn left in God's hands — because the Village had a place for Mark's mother, but not his father.

On the day Mark's mother was to be transferred via ambulance from Birmingham to Atlanta, his father still did not have a place to live despite months of diligent prayer. As they loaded Mark's mother into the transport, Mark's phone rang. It was the Presbyterian Village and a room had just opened up for Mark's father. In tears he asked, "How did you ever get me in?" Mark and Carolyn's unison response, "It wasn't us; it was God."*continued next week*



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!