



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
BOZEMAN



# PresbEnews

*Good News Edition - January 2019*

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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*Co-Pastors' Corner...* How can we keep the Christmas spirit all year long?

How can hope, peace, joy, and love stay with us when the decorations are put away, the gifts are no longer new, and the last cookie is eaten?

January is the month that tests whether or not Christmas has made a difference in our lives. We can resume our "ordinary" lives with the same attitude we left off with in November. Or we can resolve to begin the new year with a new outlook and new behavior, influenced by what we heard and proclaimed in December. It's that simple, and that challenging. Consider these new years' resolutions, based on the transforming message of Christmas.

If we trust, with Mary, that with God all things are possible, we will resolve to challenge all cynicism, even our own.

If we accept, with Joseph, the calling God speaks to us, we will resolve to do the right thing no matter what criticism we may face.

If we hear, with the shepherds, the angels' song of Peace on Earth, we will resolve to create more peace in our corner of the world.

If we observe, with the magi, the signs and dreams God provides, we will resolve to become wiser for the sake of others.

And if we believe that God came in flesh in the Christ child, we will resolve to recognize God in the face of all God's children.

Which of these resolutions speaks loudest to you? Will you adopt it for yourself?

The Christmas spirit lives in the church Christ gave us: a school for love, a communion of saints, and a community of hope. May we together grow deeper in our commitment to the Christmas message of God's love.

### *Enhancing Our Conversation With God*

*"Almighty God, Creator of all life, for forgiving love, and guiding grace, we give you thanks. For the blessed hope for a new year dawning we praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. And Amen!"*

*Paul Krebill, Words and Thoughts*

## Session Notes December 20

- Charlie Mandeville led the devotion and opened the meeting in prayer.
- The congregation is encouraged to attend the excellent Sunday morning Adult Ed. Classes, which have continuity, though can be attended on an occasional basis.
- The Session Subcommittees on “Learning God’s Love” and “Living God’s Love” will be meeting in January to continue our church year theme of “Living and Learning God’s Love, Together.”
- For the next quarter, Holly Aloise will be the “Ombud” to the congregation.
- Deacon Mary Thompson presented a report of the many Board of Deacons activities and potential new church opportunities being considered by the Deacons.
- The Rockhaven Operational Board held a very useful annual Board Retreat on 12/9 facilitated by Elder Kelly Meredith. The “Christmas at Rockhaven” event on 12/15 was well attended and very enjoyable.
- Kris Hall was pleased to note the James & Barbara Breen Charitable Remainder Trust has presented the FPC Endowment Account a gift of \$70,295.
- The “24 S. Willson Task Force” report noted several deficiencies with the current property management company with the Session voting to terminate that contract in 60 days. After further review by the Task Force, a new management company will be considered and rents will likely be raised, anticipating this will provide some income to the church which can be applied to the 2019 budget.
- After further discussion, the Session approved a 2019 balanced budget which includes some additional income, in part from the “24 S. Willson” property. With the Session anticipating that the congregation will be receptive once it understands the current budget situation, Brent Turner and John Patterson will be working with the congregation in January to encourage \$7,212 more in 2019 pledged and unpledged giving to “Fill the Gap” in pledges.

John Patterson, Ruling Elder

**OMBUD:** *The person who will listen to your suggestions, concerns, complaints and compliments.*

*This quarter our **OMBUD** from the session is Holly Aloise she will be happy to answer your questions and listen to what you have to say. You can speak with her personally or contact her by phone (451-4630) or email [hollyaloise@gmail.com](mailto:hollyaloise@gmail.com) She will follow-up with Session.*

### 2 Corinthians 9:7

*“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

Thank you for giving your time, talents, and financial contributions.

Without your generous support we could not do all the great things we do to Glorify God.

Below is a table showing our financial status as of the end of November 2018

November Income	\$25,337	Year to Date Income	\$480,423
November Expenses	\$48,891	Year to Date Expenses	\$505,242
November Balance	\$-23,554	Year to Date Balance	\$-24,819

**FIRST FRIDAY - JANUARY 4, 2019**  
**FELLOWSHIP HALL – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**LILLIES OF THE FIELD**



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, **LILLIES OF THE FIELD**. The title is based on the Bible verse from the Sermon on the Mount: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin. And yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." It tells the story of an African American itinerant worker who encounters a group of East German nuns, who believe he has been sent to them by God to build them a new chapel for the townsfolk—who are Latino and impoverished—as the nearest church is miles away.

Sidney Poitier won the 1963 Academy Award for Best Actor, the first African-American to win a Best Actor award and the second African-American to win any Oscar. The film was also nominated for Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Lilia Skala), Best Cinematography, Black-and-White, Best Picture and Best Writing, Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium. The film was also nominated in 1965 for the United Nations Award at the BAFTA Awards

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.

**Adult Sunday School to study *The Verse After the Verse***

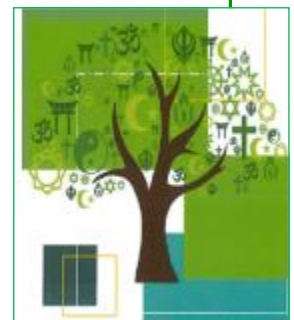
Beginning Sunday, January 6, the adult Sunday school class will be taking up a Bible study inspired by a book by Doc Shear entitled *The Verse After the Verse*. We will be looking at a number of familiar Bible verses and unpack their meaning in light of the verse that follows. In so doing, we'll discover that there is likely more to the meaning than has been attached to the focus verse. Pastor Dan Krebill will lead this class in a format that will encourage lively discussion. Please join us in the church library on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

**Interfaith Forum Wednesday, January 9 (2nd week)**

Literature and Religion with Marvin Lansverk, professor of English. His specialty is 18th century British literature, particularly William Blake. The Interfaith Forum began more than ten years ago, and has grown every year since its founding. Regular panelists are Jody McDevitt, Rabbi Ed Stafman (Congregation Beth Shalom), Father Leo Proxell (Holy Rosary Catholic Church) and Ruhul or Shadmani Amin (Islamic Center of Bozeman).

The forum is held on the first Wednesdays of the month at 12 noon, at Resurrection University Catholic Parish at 1725 S. 11th Ave.

A brochure listing the year's topics is available at the church.



**Have you ever wondered about Per Capita?  
Your Per Capita at Work from the Yellowstone Currents**  
submitted by Dan Holland

It's been called 'dues', a 'head tax', a 'membership fee', and no doubt some words that we shouldn't print in this gentle publication. We in the PCUSA, and more specifically the Presbytery of Yellowstone, call it *per capita* which is a Latin term meaning pay up or you won't get into heaven. Okay, that last part was a lame attempt at ecclesiastical humor. Per capita is actually an assessment levied by the Presbytery based on each congregation's membership at the end of the previous year. Not all of this assessment stays in the Presbytery, as roughly one-quarter of the total amount is passed through to the regional governing body (The Synod of the Rocky Mountains) and the national governing body (the General Assembly.)

So, once the amount of the assessment that stays within the Presbytery is determined, you may be asking, what do those dollars pay for? Well, certainly there is some overhead, as in the lights over the heads of the hard working staff of our Presbytery, whose modest office can be found in the basement of First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman. Most importantly, though, per capita pays for people — five people to be precise — none of whom are full-time employees.

If you have ever called the Presbytery office you have undoubtedly spoken with Susan Seibert, the Administrative Assistant, and if you have ever received an email from YellPres then Susan sent it. She is the engine room in our Presbytery and keeps everything running smoothly.

Sheryl Hallin is our Treasurer and she keeps track of a rather complicated set of books. She pays the bills, processes the payroll, and otherwise keeps our heads above water.

Our Stated Clerk is Jim Tarr, and he is capably assisted by Melissa Perrault-Baumann. It may be the case your only exposure to the Stated Clerk is at Presbytery meetings, however the Clerk's work never ends. They are expected to attend and document every meeting and official ceremony within our boundaries. In addition there is a host of other clerical, administrative, and correspondence related chores that fall under the Clerk's purview. The Stated Clerk's office is the only one required of a Presbytery in the Book of Order.

The last set of people your per capita dollars help pay for is our Co-General Presbyters. George and Kathy Goodrich have split this position (on a 90/10 basis) for the past thirteen years and about four years ago the position was reduced to half-time. Of course this is a laughable description, because they essentially do everything they were doing when working full-time, it's just that now they only get paid half as much. A General Presbyter's duties have been called being a Pastor to the Pastors, but there is much more involved. Much like the Clerk, their presence is expected at all official gatherings, but they must also assume the mantle of executive director and chief of staff.

There are also denominational responsibilities in addition to the wear and tear of administering to a Presbytery that stretches from Wisdom to Wolf Point.

In 2018 the cost of employing these people was just shy of \$122,000, while the Presbytery's portion of your per capita payments is only a tad more than half that amount. A decade ago the Synod funded that shortfall, however their support has slowly been dwindling, and starting next year we will not receive any monies from them. Many of you reading this have taken it upon yourselves to help bridge that gap and we are deeply appreciative of your support. In our next column we will look at additional ways you can help finance this vital ministry.

**Offering Envelopes and Per Capita for 2019**

Offering Envelopes are available at the church office during the week. Envelopes are available for weekly and monthly giving along with quarterly Deacons Benevolence Pledge envelopes. Please note that the Per Capita for 2019 is \$54 each member. The Per Capita goes to the Yellowstone Presbytery, Rocky Mountain Synod and the General Assembly help pay for expenses. If you have any questions call Linda at the office, 586-9194.



### Lunch at Bridger Bowl

Join us at Bridger Bowl Deer Park Lodge every Monday at 12 noon for lunch and fellowship throughout the season.

### Food Bank Sunday January 6



Gallatin Valley Food Bank Sunday is this Sunday. Please bring any non-perishable and non-expired items to the front of the sanctuary or in the baskets in the narthexes.

### Presby Cat Lunches

If you would like to provide a lunch for the Presby Cats please contact Linda at the office 586-9194 or [linda@fpbozeman.org](mailto:linda@fpbozeman.org). Check the dates below and see if one works for you. Thank you.

#### Presby Cats Lunch Sign Up – Winter 2019

March 3  
March 24  
March 31  
April 14  
April 28

### Birthdays this Month

1/5 Don Mathre  
Erica Hoffman  
Aidar Haynes  
1/8 Betsy Crabs  
Shelby Lumsden  
1/12 Christine Holland  
1/13 Ric Tieman  
1/14 Don Frye III  
1/15 Alison Todd  
McKinley Hall  
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  
1/23 Helen Craig  
1/24 Jim Gannon  
1/25 Bruce Wilson  
1/27 Stephanie Breen  
1/30 Margaret Heath  
1/31 Dan Archer

### Olga Macferran passes away

Olga Macferran, member of our church in the 1960s & 70s, and then wife of the Rev. Hervey Macferran, died at the age of 94 on December 31, 2018 in Bainbridge Island, Washington where she lived. Condolences can be sent to her family in care of her son David Macferran, 21936 Morley Ave., #204, Dearborn, MI 48124, [dmacferr@mac.com](mailto:dmacferr@mac.com), 313-409-3325. Thanks be to God for the gift of life and life eternal.

## Holland-days...

(by Dan Holland)

This past Sunday it was once again my privilege to take part in the Blessing of the Animals service. It was the eighth time our sanctuary has ‘gone to the dogs’, despite my announcement during the service that it was the ninth. Of course most people won’t recall my blunder due to what is now being called ‘the great chancel fire of ‘18’. For those of you not in attendance, some candle wax managed to ignite a plastic poinsettia during the sermon and a brief period of chaos ensued. Contrary to what some conspiracy theorists have speculated, this purely accidental event had nothing to do with the service’s scripture selection from the Gospel of John’s description of the light shining in the darkness.

During the aforementioned sermon the worship leader reminisced about a dog that had recently gone to wherever dogs go when they leave this mortal coil. Hopefully the leader left the congregants with a sliver of hope by declaring the hole left in our hearts by the departure of a beloved pet is often filled with new life. Sometimes this new life, he theorized, can take the form of a new puppy or even a particularly gregarious young goat. What the preacher didn’t disclose was that new life more importantly comes via human life.

After an appropriate period of secrecy to insure viability, the sermonizer in this tale (yours truly) is now free to disclose the expected June arrival of our very first grandchild. Our youngest daughter, Hannah, and her partner live in Las Vegas, so it won’t be the most convenient arrangement for doting purposes. Nevertheless our family will be anxiously awaiting the first member of the next chapter in our family’s story. I am equally certain that this space may well be devoted to future reflections on this new stage in our life.

I also realize that many of you dear readers are already well acquainted with the role of being a grandparent. We humbly welcome your wisdom and experience as we navigate these uncharted waters and look forward to an eventful 2019.



### **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](http://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!



Rockhaven Chapel

# First Presbyterian Church

## January 2019



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Closed 	2  7pm Choir	3 7am Men's Bible Study  6pm Deacons	4 2pm Memorial Service for Jim Babcock  5:30pm First Friday	5  10 am Take Down Decorations
6 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Sunday School	7	8  7pm Boy Scouts 7 pm First Bells	9  7pm Choir	10 7am Men's Bible Study	11	12  6:30 pm Presby Cats
13 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	14	15  7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm First Bells	16 12 pm Women's Book Group  7pm Choir	17 7am Men's Bible Study	18  6pm Merry Munchers 7pm Presby Cats Movie Night	19
20 Family Promise 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	21 Family Promise Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Office Closed	22 Family Promise  7 pm First Bells	23 Family Promise  7pm Choir	24 Family Promise 7am Men's Bible Study  7pm Session	25 Family Promise	26 Family Promise
27 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 Worship 10:45 Children's Sunday School 11:45 Presby Cats	28	29  7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm First Bells	30	31		