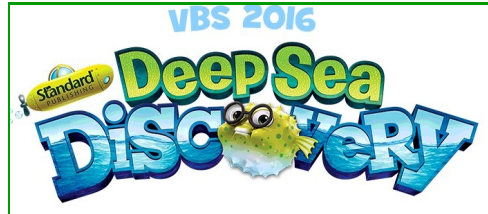




PresbEnews

June 22, 2016

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Thank you to VBS Volunteers

Every day this week, close to 300 children, youth, and adults are descending to the bottom of the **deep** blue **sea** to **discover** that "God is with us wherever we go!" It's the annual Downtown Ecumenical Vacation Bible School, and about half of that number are youth and adult volunteers. Many thanks to this year's volunteers from First Presbyterian Church:

Youth Assistants

Danielle Berg
Shelby Guenther
Wyatt Guenther
Laina Hall
McKinley Hall
Alyce Larsson
Mitch Larsson
Lenka Swenson

Adult Volunteers

Suzanne Bratsky
Kathy Braun
Judy Gregg
Martha Krebill
Mike Marjanen
Jody McDevitt
John Patterson
Nancy Williams

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!*





Rockhaven this Sunday

Rockhaven continues the summer potlucks at 5:30 pm. Please bring a main dish, a side dish, salad or dessert, and stay for the Vespers led by Camp director Scott Thrasher and the summer staff at 7 pm.

This summer we will explore the theme “All Things New,” from Isaiah 43:18–19. Rockhaven is located at milepost 67 on Highway 191, on the way to Big Sky. Please come and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

Meet our Rockhaven Summer Staff!

Andrew Vrieze hails from Rice Lake, Wisconsin. He is a student at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, where he is studying business management. This summer is his first time in Montana.

Xan Peters (that’s short for Alexander) is a student at MSU, but he comes from Clearwater, Florida. He has a double major at MSU—paleontology and fine arts—and he plays the guitar, too.

Jacklyn Deppmeier is also a student at MSU, and is one of our Presby Cats. She is majoring in physics. Her home is Lake Forest, California.

Riley Linihan recently graduated from high school in Las Vegas, and will enroll at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, this fall to study criminal justice. Her dad lives in Belgrade, so she’s been in Montana many times before.

Mackenzie Shevlin also recently graduated from high school in Las Vegas (yes, she and Riley are friends). She will attend the University of Nevada, Reno, where she hopes to discover a major. This is her first time in Montana.

Katrina Kinnan has worked at Rockhaven for EIGHT years now. When she first came, she was a Kansan looking for mountains. Now she lives in Winnett, Montana (east of Lewistown) where she teaches K-12 art, and some social studies, too. Katrina is the artist who decorated the piano at Rockhaven, and she has left her mark in many other ways, too.

Kim McNabb is our camp cook this summer. Kim lives in Bozeman, and has experience cooking for some of the sororities and fraternities. She and her family lived in California before moving to Montana a few years ago.

Scott Thrasher begins his 10th summer as Rockhaven Camp Director!



Andrew Vrieze



Xan Peters



Jacklyn Deppmeier



Riley Linihan



Mackenzie Shevlin



Katrina Kinnan



Kim McNabb



Scott Thrasher

Synod of Rocky Mountain Presbyterian Women Answer Call to Disaster Preparedness

A collaboration between Presbyterian Women (PW) and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA), provides specialized training that equips Presbyterian women to work with their congregations and churches in their presbytery to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis. Fifteen new trainers were commissioned as Disaster Preparedness Trainers in a ceremony held last week at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, WY. Part of their responsibility will be to go back to their local congregations and presbyteries and conduct disaster preparedness trainings for families, churches and community groups.



The new trainers, commissioned in Cheyenne on June 10, include: Presbytery of Plains and Peaks: Wendy Beals, Brenda Beliel, Sharon Cely, Joyce Glazier, Alison Hisam, and Kathy Moore; Presbytery of Denver: Vicki Terry and Theresa Varnado; Presbytery of Pueblo: Phyllis Adkins; Presbytery of Utah: Marilynn Collins and Carol Day; Presbytery of Wyoming: Gail Heimback and Kathleen Lundberg; **Presbytery of Yellowstone: Suzanne Bratsky and Merry Lee Hooks.** Kathy Morriss and Beth Snyder were the PDA Disaster Preparedness trainers.

Thanks to the commitment of these women, the congregations and presbyteries that they serve will have basic plans and preparations in place in the event of a church emergency or a disaster in their area.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Presents an album release performance by pianist:

Heidi Osgood-Metcalf

Friday July 1, 2016
7:00pm-8:00pm

ADMISSION is by donation to the church

"Heidi Osgood-Metcalf draws upon the inspiration of the dramatic and varied landscape of Montana to create her latest album, **Montañas**. Her music boasts brilliant skills as a composer and pianist, but it is the power of the emotion that she brings to her pieces that resonates most deeply with us. One of the greatest compliments I can offer any musician is that they remind me of no one else, and this is certainly the case with Heidi. Featuring world-class musicians on many of the pieces, the album moves gracefully from intimacy to exuberance as only Heidi could express it"

- Will Ackerman
Grammy Award winner and Windham Hill Records founder

***** CDs will be available for \$12.00 each*****
www.musicbyhom.com

LOCATION: 26 W Babcock St, Bozeman, MT 59715

In Memoriam of Bob Mathis who passed away April 27. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, June 29th at 1:30 in the sanctuary. Bob was a member since 2001. Our prayers go out to his family.

Birthdays this Week
6/22 Sarah Thrasher
6/24 Myrtle Leuschen
6/26 Jonas Overton
6/27 Nathan Milburn
Brenna Babcock

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

For the past month and a half I have been thinking about the parable of the lost sheep. Initially I had jotted it down as a possible subject of discussion for this space. But then it seemed to surface every time I turned around, just like when you learn a new word and that new word seems to appear in every book and article you happen to read for a while. The parable of the lost sheep popped up in devotionals, in sermons, and in group studies. I couldn't turn around without bumping into the parable of the lost sheep.

This parable appears in both Luke 15:4 and Matthew 18:12, and Jesus uses this story to illustrate the joy God feels when a lost soul is recovered. The story begins with the assumption that the reader is familiar with the dilemma a shepherd faces when one member of the flock of a hundred goes missing. The implication is that the shepherd will always leave the ninety-nine faithful, obedient sheep unattended and go in search of the one that is lost.

I may have mentioned to you, dear reader, that I raise goats. I don't have a hundred in my flock, but in the spring I usually have about a dozen. They are not my livelihood as I am just a hobbyist, but I do allow them out to graze in the pasture every day. Typically they are free to roam for about an hour before I start the process of herding them back into their pen. Invariably there is a straggler. The other eleven faithful, obedient goats head back to the pen while one (normally a petulant kid) will continue to gorge itself at the far end of the pasture. It is at this point that the dilemma kicks in: if I chase after the lost soul, then I need to leave the gate open so the lost soul will run back into the pen, but if I leave the gate open, then the obedient goats will be tempted to head back out to the pasture and I'll be right back where I started. Many times I close the gate, leave the lost goat to fend for itself and in my mind teach it a lesson. I wouldn't make a very good joyful God.

If you are reading this, chances are pretty good that you can be characterized as one of the faithful, obedient ninety-nine. I would speculate that lost souls don't normally read midweek church e-mails. As a result I am, in a sense, preaching to the choir. But sometimes the choir needs tending to, and that's where this story takes a turn. Earlier this week I had to make the difficult decision to put one of the faithful, obedient goats down.

Tina was my oldest doe, and as such was the queen of the herd. She wasn't a great milker, but she protected the others from danger. She wasn't a great breeder, either, and that was her downfall, as she had a fetus die in her this winter that she wasn't able to cleanse herself of. The Vets did all they could, but in the end the infections had just spread too far.

I have put animals down before, but there is always a hesitancy on my part to do so. In this case Tina would have her good and bad days, and after a good day I would fool myself into thinking I was doing her a favor by giving her one more day, and one more after that. As it turned out I waited at least one day too long, and that will weigh on me for a while.

This is by no means intended to be commentary on end of life issues for humans; I'm not sure I have even developed an opinion about it at this point. Rather, I would just hope to reiterate how enduring the parables that Jesus told are, and how utterly pointless it is to try and put ourselves in God's shoes. The only shoes we should try to fill are our own, as we point them in the direction Jesus leads us.