



PresbEnews

September 14, 2016

A mid-week newsletter of First Presbyterian Church - Jody McDevitt & Dan Krebill, co-pastors
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Come Fellowship with Singers from India Monday Night

Many of you who were members in the 1980's will remember [Patang Makdoh](#), our Youth and Campus Minister. He is now ministering in Laurel and will be coming through Bozeman with a group from a Presbyterian Church in India. They will be here on Monday, [September 19th at 7:00 p.m.](#) for dessert and singing in the fellowship hall. The group, Gospel Triumph Choir comprises of 10 women and men with the motto of Serving and Sharing the Gospel. They decided to band together as a group because they all love to sing traditional hymns, particularly singing in a church where Patang and his wife served. Please come to welcome and support these visitors from a far and to again greet Patang who served our church so many years ago. A little known fact is that Patang installed the cross on the hill at Rockhaven.

Adult Sunday School events coming up

Adult Sunday School class time this Sunday, September 18, will be devoted to a listening session regarding the options for the church's parking property at 24 South Willson. This will be the first of 3 such sessions when input is being sought to guide the session as it moves forward with this issue. If you have not yet read the background information outlining the various options, you can access it at the "Current Newsletter" link on the church's website at <http://www.fpcbozeman.org/fpcnewsletter.htm>.

On Sunday, September 25, Wilson McMakin will be sharing his experience as an international student in Chile earlier this year during the adult Sunday school class. Come and hear his reflections on attending school and participating in family life in a very different part of the world.

The adult Sunday school class meets every Sunday from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the church library.

Peace and Global Witness Offering:
A Season of Peace
World Communion Sunday, October 2

The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be collected Sunday October 2 during World Communion Sunday. Half of the donation will be sent to Presbyterian Mission Agency to support ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation. We keep 25% of the offering which is used for food for Family Promise the weeks they are in our church and 25% goes to Presbytery.



You may sign up to receive a daily reflection during *A Season of Peace* at www.pcusa.org/subscribe. Check "Path of Peace" under the category "Advocacy and Social Justice".

Thank you!

Thank you for all of the thoughtful expressions of kindness during my surgery and recovery! All is well!

Special thanks to the Board of Deacons, and everyone involved with Caring Meals which are a part of their ministry. Thank you especially to Kay May who co-ordinates that effort! Special thanks to Linda and Richard Reilly, Rob and Rachel Minter, and Betty Knutson, and Dave and Judy Arkwright!

Bruce and I are grateful for the wonderful meals that were provided to us!

Thank you to Dan and Jody, and to our church family for the visits, the phone calls, and the many cards that we received!

We are blessed to have you all in our lives!

Jay Pontius-Backman



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/fpchozeman 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!

Presby Cats Seeking Support for Suicide Awareness and Prevention

A team of students from our Presby Cats collegiate ministry are participating in an awareness raising and fund raising event called Out of the Darkness, organized by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. It is this coming Saturday, September 17, at the regional park. To donate online, go to www.bozemanwalk.org, click on the "Donate to the Event" and then find the Presby Cats team in the search bar. If you'd rather donate by check, please make it payable to "American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)" with Presby Cats in the memo line and drop it by the church. Thank you for your support.



Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop October 1

Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry which provides Christ-centered care to those in the congregation. Training for this ministry is intensive and thorough, and usually held somewhere far from Montana. But on Saturday, October 1, an introductory workshop for this highly respected nondenominational program will be held at the E-Free Church of Bozeman from 9 am - 1 pm.

Four members of the current board of deacons, along with co-pastor Jody McDevitt, will be attending. Thank you to the Board of Deacons for paying the church's \$50 registration fee. Others are welcome to attend as well, but must register with the group.

The half-day workshop will include three sessions:

- 1) Ministering to those experiencing grief
- 2) An introduction to Stephen Ministry
- 3) How to care in a distinctly Christian way

If you are interested in attending, or knowing more, contact Jody McDevitt (jody@fpcbozeman.org) by Monday, September 21.

The Love INC pantry getting low or completely out of the following items in the personal care pantry: women's deodorant, feminine pads, tampons, hand/body lotion, razors, and tissues.

They are also totally out of queen size sheet sets and twin size sheet sets. Also could also use some bath towel sets (with washrags, etc).

Holland-days...

by Dan Holland

Last Sunday was the fifteenth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Five years ago, on the tenth anniversary, this space included an observation I had originally made in the aftermath of the attacks. The piece is included here again not necessarily to relive those tumultuous times, but to be reminded that our help is in the Lord.

The Children Were Naked

Satan peeled away the exoskeleton
of the children of freedom
hoping to expose their soft underbelly
of greed
and fear
and infidelity

but he peeled too far

the children
were naked

they saw their own resolve
and strength
and love
and faith

and then Jesus
stood among the children
and announced
that he was the son
of the one true God

he looked out with vigilance through the eyes
of a firefighter
who had three hours sleep
in the last forty-eight

and he steadied the hands of the nurse
who was drawing her
two hundredth pint

and he reassured the voice of an Anglo
who called the mosque
and offered to stand guard outside

and he thought and prayed with the anchor
who, after saying "Thoughts and prayers"
for the thousandth time,
actually thought and prayed

and he put his arm around the widow
who had put her arm around so many before
her
until, at last, in agony
she zipped up
her own orange bag

and then Jesus bent down into the rubble
of the children of freedom
and found a small dark coin
lying in the dust
the coin proclaimed its trust in God
which pleased the son of this one true God
and as he flipped the coin over,
revealing the portrait
of a long dead child of freedom,
he was reminded of a hymn
that he began to sing
as he picked up a broom
and swept away
the dust