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First Presbyterian Church (EPC)
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Casper, WY 82601

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First Presbyterian Church (EPC) of Casper

THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2016

Chew On This --

A Message from Our Pastor

In II Timothy we are commanded to rightly handle the Word of Truth. You can't handle what you don't know well. When I was a young Christian I began to hunger and thirst for the Word of God. But I was a young Christian and when I read the Bible I always felt like I was missing too much of what it meant.

I asked my pastor several times to start a Bible study and his final response was to suggest that I lead a Sunday School class. This not only was not what I was hoping for, but it was not what I or that class needed.

Later I was on a retreat and got a book there by R.C. Sproul entitled "Knowing Scripture." This was very helpful, but I still longed to study the Bible with others. This finally happened when I was invited to a Bible study where they actually studied the Bible. Let me explain; I had been to classes called "Bible studies," but really they were more like, "What Does Max Lucado Think?" We would have study guides which had some vague connection to a scripture passage, but I would leave never feeling like I really knew anything more about the Bible.

(cont. on p. 6)

From the Treasurer

November 2015 Treasurer's Report

November		YEAR TO DATE	
Balance on Hand	**$ -5,471.29***	**January 1, 2015**	**$ -2,501.56**
November Income	13,623.18	Income to Date	185,985.64
November Expenses	5,230.10	Expenses to Date	180,562.29
Income/Expenses	8,393.08	Income/Expenses	5,423.35
November 31, 2015	**$ 2,921.79**	**October 31, 2015**	**$ 2,921.79**

***Adjusted beginning balance**

Home for Christmas

The "downhome" Christmast Eve celebration was well attended by about 100 members of the community. All were treated to a joy-filed evening of traditional Christmas carols, festive cookies and fellowship, and a heartwarming message of peace. Here, the congregation sings *Silent Night! Holy Night!* by candlelight

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FIRSTPRESCASPER.COM

Church Officers and Staff - 2016

The Board of Deacons

Moderator: Grace Ward Secretary: MH Hennagin

Class of 2016

Carol McClure 2141 E. 21st St. 82609 258-5354 cmcclure@bresnan.net
(Christian Growth/Worship)

MH Hennagin 2033 W. 42nd 82604 259-7101 mhhennagin@gmail.com
(Evangelism/Parish Life)

Class of 2017

Nita Christensen 1319 Yorkshire Ave. 82609 265-1955 dnchris57@gmail.com
(Parish Life)

Phyllis Karns 1340 Newport 82609 315-7346 phyllis.karns@yahoo.com
(Christians Growth/Evangelism)

Grace Ward 101 N. Kenwood 265-9005
(Worship)

Class of 2018

Patti Christensen 3900 E. 19th 82602 577-1192 chriskanspatti@aol.com
P.O. Box 2294

Leith Culver 1912 Rustic Drive 82609 472-0369 lculver52@msn.com

Judy Schenk 720 W. 51st St. 82601 237-5295 tschenk@bresnan.net

Church Staff (cont.)

Choirmaster - Zach Vreeman
4043 Kent 82609…….…… (402) 613-2094

Organist -

Maintenance -

Church Officers and Staff - 2016

Session

Moderator: Rev. Mark Tippin Clerk of Session: Debbie Hutchins Treasurer: Leith Culver

Class of 2016

Debbie Hutchins 636 E. 12th St. 82601 259-9455 debbie.hutchins@ur-energy.com
(Clerk)
Zach Vreeman 4043 Kent 82609 (402)613-2094 zvreeman@gmail.com
(Worship/Christian Growth/Nominating)
Henry Groenenberg 3421 Valley Rd. 82604 237-3909 hg3421@live.com
(Facilities/Personnel)

Class of 2017

Tim Schenk 720 W. 51st St. 82601 259-6529 tschenk@gsgarchitecture.com
(Facilities/Stewardship)
Sue Rainey 1105 E. 10th St. 82601 232-8860 srainey@wyomingmedicalcenter.org
(Christian Growth/Parish Life)

Class of 2018

Mike Fankhauser 12239 Ranchero Rd 82604 265-8259 mikef@rockymtnfire.com
(Evangelism/Nominating/Facilities)

307-237-9509 **Church Staff** **fax 307-473-2833**

Pastor - Rev. Mark Tippin
172 Forget-Me-Not 82604…… (724) 651-7960
Bookkeeper - Wendy Campbell
1201 Beaumont Dr. 82601……..…. (307) 472-2069
Administrative Assistant - Barb Martin
6961 Columbia River Road 82604…….….. (307) 359-1571

From Parish Life - Butterfly Tree

Huge thanks to all who provided Christmas gifts for the children/grandchildren of the moms and g'mas who are present or past guests of The Transformation Center! Thirty-three children were blessed by the congregation's generosity! There is one more request...please pray for the child for whom you shopped!

Some of the children are at TTC with their moms, but more are in foster care or with family members and are missing Mom as she works to make a better life for herself and her family and as she works her way through DFS steps to be with her children again. Some of these children have been through great emotional pain, some through physical abuse, some are getting used to a structured lifestyle for the first time, and some have not heard that Jesus loves them. Our prayers for them mean more than we might be able to imagine. In addition, the congregation gifted TTC with a whole van-load of needed items (pictured) from paper products and DVDs for the ladies to share, to the much needed CD player on their wish list! Our fantastic young people from age two to teens jumped into action after worship, sorting the gifts and taking them to the alley entrance to load into vans. Special thanks to Tim and Judy, Jacque, and Misty for helping to unload everything at TTC!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CASPER

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Casper, Wyoming 82601

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www.firstprescasper.com
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church (EPC) Casper, WY

EPC
A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

This will be the last bulk mailing of the newsletter. After this, those who attend worship will be asked to pick up their copy at church.

If you would like the newsletter to be mailed to you, please contact the office by phone (307-237-9509) or email (firstpc@qwestoffice.net) THANK YOU!

From Evangelism - Christmas Parade

Sixteen or more hardy, warmly-dressed church members met at the church November 28th before the annual Casper Christmas Parade and divided up into teams of two or three. In 5 degree temps, teams walked to 2nd and Center from the church, each covering a different prearranged area of downtown Casper. In all, they distributed a total of 1000 candy cane-embellished invitations to parade-goers who were very receptive to learning about FPC's December 19th "Parent's Night Out" and the annual FPC Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol worship service. (See pictures on p. 5)

January Birthdays

3rd	Kathryn Clark
11th	Patti Christensen
12th	Jean Swirczynski
13th	Bernice Schumann
13th	Alice Elaine Blatt
15th	Don Goff
17th	Al Sanford
18th	Mike Bila
27th	Lanette Christensen

January Ministry/Committee Meetings

Parish Life	Jan. 4, 2:00 P.M.
Christian Growth	Jan. 10, after worship
Evangelism	Jan. 11, 5:30 P.M.
Stewardship	Jan. 11, 7:00 P.M.
Board of Deacons	Jan. 18, 6:15 P.M.
Session	Jan. 18, 7:00 P.M.
Worship	Jan. 25, 8:45 A.M.
Facilities	Jan. 25, 5:30 P.M.

Evangelism - Parents' Night Out

Nearly a dozen parents from the community were recently blessed by the opportunity to have a child-free evening out, courtesy of Casper First! On Saturday, Dec. 19th, a large number of FPC members volunteered to supervise and entertain the children of those lucky parents. One parent even won a $50 gift certificate for a dinner out in Casper, just for signing up! The kids were treated to a showing of *The Polar Express* and a chance to decorate Christmas cookies. It would appear that a good time was had by all!

CWRM Family Rescue Initiative News

First Pres is SO proud of our Central Wyoming Rescue Mission Family Rescue Initiative mom, Elisha, who just completed the five-month mentoring process with our team...and with flying colors! Elisha and son Eli have been in their home 3 months now, she has a great job, and God is opening some exciting doors for them!

The church's mentoring team celebrated with them at Pizza Ranch!

Anytime Pastor Mark is not at the church, he can be reached at 724-651-7960.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Office Hours

Tuesday: 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
Wednesday: 9:00 A.M.-noon
Thursday: 9:00 A.M.-noon

From Evangelism - Christmas Caroling

Twenty-one FPC carolers gathered on December 5th to make a joyful noise in the church neighborhood. Led by choirmaster Zach Vreeman, the songsters were well received by neighbors, including one lady who invited the entire group into her living room to see her huge lit Bethlehem village…and of course, the group sang *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem* for her!

After caroling, the group returned to the church to enjoy a chili cook-off. Three outstanding choices awaited them, and all in attendance voted on the anonymous selections. Chefs included the Vreemans, Kristen Youmans, and Pastor Mark … and the Chili King of Casper First is Pastor Mark!

Christmas Parade

The Christmas Parade was enjoyed by all! (Right)

Invitations are prayerfully prepared to be handed out at the parade. (Left)

Chew on This (cont.)

Ever since attending that Bible study where we actually studied the Bible, it has been my aim to bring that type of study into my ministry practice. So, we will start such a study on Tuesdays beginning on January 12th, one at 9:00 a.m. and one at 7:00 p.m. This study will consist of 12 weeks of looking at the first few chapters of Romans. The plan, over time, is to have every member go through this study. The current study, "Romans A" is part one of a three-semesters series which will, in time, cover the entire book. This is a multi-year project. When you come to this Bible study, the only thing you need to bring is your Bible, because that's what we will be looking at. Part of the goal of this study, beyond learning the content of Romans, is to learn simple ways to study the Bible. Please take advantage of this offering and sign up, as space is limited. We limit the space to safeguard the learning environment. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there. What better way is there to start the New Year?

For His Glory,
Pastor Mark

Join a 12-week **Bible study on "Romans A"** on either Tuesday mornings at 9:00 at the Hennagin's or on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in the home of the Vreeman's. The studies will begin on **January 12**. If you would like to attend, you can register by signing up on one of the sheets in the parlor. Space is limited, so register early!

Is God challenging you to read through the Bible in one year?
Follow this link to find out how:
http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE!*

After the first of the year, **we will no longer be mailing the newsletter** to everyone who currently receives it. We do, however, want everyone who desires to receive one to do so! Those who are active members of the church will be asked to pick up their copy when they attend worship. **If you are unable to attend church and would still like to receive the newsletter monthly, we ask that you contact the office to let us know that.** You can make that request by calling 307-237-9509, or by sending us an email at firstpc@qwestoffice.net. Either way, we'll do our best to be sure you receive your copy of *The Messenger*!

MISSION STATEMENT

Out of humble gratitude for the free and undeserved gift of grace we have received through Christ, the mission of First Presbyterian Church (EPC) is:

To proclaim, with boldness, God's glory, truth, and love revealed to us in his Word through the Holy Spirit. We seek to worship him with our entire lives, being continually reformed to Scripture, our only guide in faith and practice.