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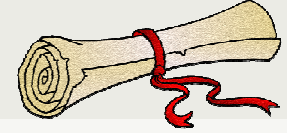
First Presbyterian Church (EPC) of Casper



## THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2015

### *Chew On This -- A Message from Our Pastor*



In the secular world of commercialism, we are entering the Christmas season. As Christians we should reject this. That may sound strange, but let me explain. Every church which celebrates Christmas is using, to some extent, what we refer to as the church calendar. The church calendar marks out time, not according to our normal calendar, but according to the redemptive events of God at work. This means the church calendar does not and cannot have national holidays such as the Fourth of July on its list. Instead, it has days like Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

When we come to Christmas there is some confusion. Advent as a season for the church is

not technically the Christmas season but a preparation for the Christmas season, which begins either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. What we are entering now is Advent. Too often, even if we consider Advent as separate from Christmas, we reduce Advent, as we do Christmas, to a simple remembering of past events. But here, Advent and Christmas are tied very closely together. Advent in fact has two parts – remembering and preparing. We remember the faithfulness of God in the past of preparing the way for his one and only Son, Jesus Christ. But, in remembering, we are moved to prepare, not simply to celebrate

(cont. on p. 3)

## An Advent Hymn

### Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
 Let earth receive her King;  
 Let every heart prepare him room,  
 And heav'n and nature sing,  
 And heav'n and nature sing,  
 And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;  
 Let men their songs employ;  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 Repeat the sounding joy,  
 Repeat the sounding joy,  
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
 Nor thorns infest the ground;  
 He comes to make his blessings flow  
 Far as the curse is found,  
 Far as the curse is found,  
 Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
 And makes the nations prove  
 The glories of his righteousness  
 And wonders of his love,  
 And wonders of his love,  
 And wonders, wonders of his love,

## Church Officers and Staff - 2015

### The Board of Deacons

Moderator: Grace Ward

Secretary: Jane Drake

#### Class of 2015

Bill Specht	2626 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> 82609 (Facilities)	234-6823	wspecht3@msn.com
Brad Ward	1974 S. Cedar St. 82601 (Facilities)	265-8660	brad@russellpumps.com
Jane Drake	4810 Squaw Cr. Rd. 82604 (Parish Life)	265-4539	drake5231@aol.com

#### Class of 2016

Carol McClure	2141 E. 21 <sup>st</sup> St. 82609 (Christian Growth/Worship)	258-5354	cmclure@bresnan.net
MH Hennagin	2033 W. 42 <sup>nd</sup> 82604 (Evangelism/Parish Life)	259-7101	mhhennagin@gmail.com

#### Class of 2017

Nita Christensen	1319 Yorkshire Ave. 82609 (Parish Life)	265-1955	dnchris57@gmail.com
Phyllis Karns	1340 Newport 82609 (Christians Growth/Evangelism)	315-7346	phyllis.karns@yahoo.com
Grace Ward	101 N. Kenwood (Worship)	265-9005	

### Church Staff (cont.)

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

*Church Officers and Staff - 2015*

**Session**

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

**Class of 2015**

Mike Fankhauser	12239 Ranchero Rd 82604	265-8259	mikef@rockymtnfire.com
	(Evangelism/Nominating/Facilities)		
Al Sanford	2851 Belmont Rd. 82604	234-0367	ajsanford@bresnan.net
	(Stewardship)		
Heidi Walker	3250 Ridgcrest Dr. 82604	265-5205	heidwalker@bresnan.net
	(Christian Growth)		

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

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

*Chew on This (cont.)*

Christmas as the remembrance of his first coming, but even more so Advent is a season to help us prepare for the second coming of Christ. Revelation 22:20 picks up on this theme, "surely I am coming soon,' Amen. Come Lord Jesus!" This is the verse that is quoted in our Advent calendar prepared for us by Parish Life. One of the ways we prepare for Christ's second coming is to call to mind God's faithfulness in his first coming. It is, of course, good for us to always be preparing for the return of our Lord, but it is also good for us to set specific times aside to aid us in this venture and, indeed, adventure, lest we become complacent in our walk with Christ.

I find that Christians struggle with many things pertaining to faithfulness. Perhaps one of the reasons for this is we think little of eternity. What I mean is that our days are consumed thinking about today or tomorrow, or if you are really intent you might think things years in advance. But how much of your life is framed around eternity? Do we really believe in it? Advent is a season to help us lift our eyes to heaven, to remember that our time here is brief. This will change the way we live in the here and now, so let's immerse ourselves in the season of Advent that we might be more formed into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.

For His Glory,  
Pastor Mark



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

**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF  
CASPER**

804 S. Wolcott  
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Phone: 307-237-9509  
Fax: 307-473-2833  
E-mail: firstpc@qwestoffice.net  
www.firstprescasper.com  
Facebook: First Presbyterian  
Church (EPC) Casper, WY



*Be sure to join us for  
the following  
Advent Activities:*



Sat., Dec. 5th - 4:30 P.M.  
**Christmas Caroling and  
Chili Cook-off**

Sat., Dec. 19th - 5-7:30 P.M.  
**Parents' Night Out**

Thurs., Dec. 24th - 7:30 P.M.  
**"Down-Home Christmas"  
Christmas Eve Service**

*From the Treasurer*



*October 2015 Treasurer's Report*

October	YEAR TO DATE	
<b>Balance on Hand</b>	\$ 5,756.42	January 1, 2015 \$ -2,501.56
October Income	18,517.43	Income to Date 172,362.19
October Expenses	<u>29,745.41</u>	Expenses to Date <u>175,332.19</u>
Income/Expenses	-11,227.98	Income/Expenses -2,970.00
<b>October 31, 2015</b>	<b>\$ -5,471.56</b>	<b>October 31, 2015 \$ -5,471.56</b>

*December  
Birthdays*

- 5th Camille MacManus
- 6th Tim Schenk
- 16th Hayden Christensen
- 17th Mike Brattis
- 18th Kathy Martin
- 22nd Carol McClure
- 22nd Justen Christensen
- 25th Debbie Hutchins



*November Ministry/Committee Meetings*

Parish Life	Dec. 7, 2:00 P.M.
Christian Growth	Dec. 13, after worship
Evangelism	Dec. 14, 5:30 P.M.
Stewardship	Dec. 14, 7:00 P.M.
Board of Deacons	Dec. 21, 6:15 P.M.
Session	Dec. 21, 7:00 P.M.
Worship	Dec. 28, 8:45 A.M.
Facilities	Dec. 28, 5:30 P.M.

## Across the Generations...

Here's an adorable picture of the oldest member of our church family, Edith Hoffman (99 yrs. 3 mos.) and our youngest, Abigail Vreeman (2 mos.). The love of Jesus Christ is available to all, regardless of age!

Little Miss Abigail, daughter of our choirmaster Zach and his wife Meagan, was baptized during our worship service on October 11th of this year.



## Worship Committee Update

Many of the church committees, with the exception of Parish Life, are made up solely of Elders and Deacons. We feel it is important for members of the congregation to become involved in the various committees and would welcome members at large to join the Worship Committee. There are many elements to the wor-

ship service, and it can be an opportunity for learning to understand the purpose behind each element. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please feel free to speak to any member of the committee (Zach Vreeman, Carol McClure, or Grace Ward.)

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

## Stewardship News

The Stewardship Committee has been meeting regularly for the last three months to consider the budget for 2016. The expense side has been updated and completed, thanks to all of your input.

This brings us to the income side, for which we only have an estimate. Our committee will be sending out pledge cards the week after Thanksgiving. Please prayerfully consider what you can pledge for the next year and return the cards on either December 6th or December 13th. This will provide a more solid income number for us to work with. Also, our EPC Presbytery and General Assembly asks each congregation for a yearly donation per member for their operational expenses. This is \$48 for this year (2015). This was formerly called a "per capita" contribution.

Please consider making that contribution, or whatever you are able, by the end of the year if you have not already done so.

Finally, we have two payments left to the PC-USA as part of our break-up agreement. The next one is due on Jan. 16th, and I am happy to report that will be over next year!

Please call or talk to me or any of our committee members if you have questions. Stewardship thanks you for all your support, both financially and prayerfully.

Leith Culver, Treasurer





## Evangelism

December will be a special time of fun and fellowship with our church family as we work together to reach out to our community!

All of the gatherings listed here will help to lead the community to our 7:30 PM Christmas Eve service. One thousand full-color invitations have been designed and printed and will be distributed throughout the month by church members (and that could be YOU!) at these upcoming volunteer options. Clip boards are in the parlor for sign-up.

### December 5th:

- \* Meet Zach at FPC at 4:30 to practice singing Christmas Carols before dividing into groups and CAROLING in the FPC neighborhood...and distributing invites!



- \* After caroling...warm up in the church fellowship hall over CHILI. It's a CHILI COOKOFF! Sign up for the competition in the parlor as well! We already have at least FOUR pots of chili, so there will be lots for ALL to sample!



### December 19th:

- \* Parents' night out! Those 1000 invites (cont. on p. 7)

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**WWW.FIRSTPRESCASPER.COM**

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."  
Luke 2:10-11*

## Evangelism (cont.)

will also contain an invitation to parents in the community to drop off their kids at FPC 5-7:30 so they can have a date night or go shopping. Kiddos will sit down right away to pizza in the Fellowship Hall while watching Polar Express, and afterwards they will decorate cookies to take



home. Participation is limited to the first 100 children who register. We will need volunteers to help with crowd control, pizza serving, cookie decorating ... and clean up!!

## 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.