



"Faith comes from hearing ..." *Romans 10:17 ESV*

# The Messenger

First Presbyterian Church (EPC) of Casper, WY 307/237-9509 December 2013  
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facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Presbyterian-Church-EPC-of-Casper-WY/394325622673>

website: <https://www.firstprescasper.com> You can now LISTEN TO our sermons online!

*PERAMBULATE: TO SURVEY, TO TOUR, TO WALK AROUND"*



## Pastor Paul's Perambulation

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing this the day before Thanksgiving. The scriptures tell us to give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. They also tell us to give thanks to Him and to bless His name. And again we are told to give thanks in all times and all seasons.

So although the Thanksgiving holiday is a secular holiday which in the Reformed Tradition has no special standing in the Church, still it is good to give thanks to the Lord for all His blessings.

I want to take this opportunity to give thanks to God for some of the good things I have come to know as blessings in my service in Casper First.

I thank God for the music ministry in this congregation: for the faithful choir members, old and new, and the bell choir players who add so much to our worship of God, and for the new Choirmaster, Zach Vreeman, and all he already means to this ministry, and for Beverly McAmis Reese our extraordinary organist, and for her faithful service over the years and her continuing quest for excellence in the music for worship. If worship of God is our highest priority then we are indeed blessed in these who give so very much to us all.

I also give thanks to God for the rest of our staff here at First Pres. Patti and Wendy do marvelous work. And I would include our Treasurer Leith Culver, who though not on staff, does great service and makes our "business" work here in support of our ministry.

I am thankful for the Sunday School teachers who at considerable cost to themselves in terms of time and energy, do so much to spread the Good News to each new class and generation. For all the volunteers who do so much and ask for so little, and for the Deacons and Elders who dedicate much time and effort and prayer to the ministry of our congregation. And for all who financially support this congregation so generously.

For those faithful in worship who are always here to support each other in worship. For Bible study leaders and participants, for newsletter assemblers, and all the others. There are some like MH who many of us recognize for much labor and service. And there are others, some non-members like Don Goff, who do much behind the scene.

I recognize that I am breaking a cardinal rule, naming some and leaving off others (like Edith). For that I apologize. But I want to thank God for all of you named and unnamed, who serve with gladness in this place.

With thanks to God,

Paul



## Updates

...from the Treasurer and Stewardship Ministry

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*"      2 Corinthians 9:8

Pledge cards were mailed out on 11/22/13 to current members, regular attendees, and friends of our church. Please prayerfully consider what you can pledge or tithe for the upcoming year and return your card on December 1<sup>st</sup> or December 8<sup>th</sup> during the church service or mail into the office. This will help us set a budget for expenses in 2014. As we remember with gratitude His past provision, we should also look to the future with confidence and hope!

Also, I would again ask you to consider an extra contribution before the end of this year to help defray the expense of our separation agreement with the Presbytery of Wyoming. We owe \$7975 on January 1, 2014. [see the chart in last month's Treasurer's Report for an explanation of this.] We have paid to date \$1355. Our Mission Outreach Committee has agreed to commit \$3900 from our tithe to Mission, since some of the total is related to mission. This leaves a balance of \$2720 for which we did not budget in 2013. Please contact me, Dave Christensen, or Henry Groenenberg if you have questions regarding this expense or regarding our budget for 2014.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity. Your continued support of the congregation and its ministry of spreading the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in Casper and beyond is appreciated!

Leith Culver, Treasurer

### October 2013 Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand	\$ 2,948.47	January 1, 2013	\$ 3,332.03
October Income	13,979.24	Income to Date	340,108.38
October Expenses	19,725.07	Expenses to Date	<u>346,237.96</u>
Income/Expenses	-5,745.83	Income/Expenses	-6,129.39
October 31, 2013	\$ -2,797.36	October 31, 2013	\$ -2797.36



### ... from the Prayer Band

I will be revamping the prayer band a little bit, hopefully before the end of the year. I am interested in making it more like a Prayer Chain. In other words, when I get a call, I would then call the next person and that person would call the next and so on down the line. For those of you that do not wish to participate in it this way, please let me know ASAP so I can remove your name from the list. For those of you who wish to continue praying and any of you not already on the list who wish to be, please call me to let me know. This is a very important ministry. We have had many answered prayers throughout 2013!

Kim Brattis, chair

## ... from the Worship Ministry Area

### *Addressing Worship*

The members of the Worship Ministry Area have been evaluating how we worship and why, and they are seeking to identify ways to be more faithful to what God wants us to be and do in our worship. As you may have noticed in recent weeks, the choir has been involved in the service more often, and the ministry area is looking also at the importance of the participation of liturgists in the Worship service.



### *WHITE Poinsettias for Advent*

The Worship Ministry Area is asking for donations of WHITE Poinsettias to the Glory of God! Bring your plants to the church any weekday morning 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM ... but it would be best to call the church office first to be sure someone is there. You can also bring them with you on Sunday. Why WHITE?? They will be beautiful with our NEW sanctuary Advent colors!

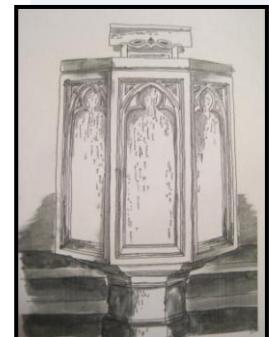
## ...from the Public Relations Work Group

Our Session has appointed a work group of mostly elders to address ways to reach out into the community and share our church's message to Casper and beyond. The new group is developing ads, pamphlets, and literature to use in various ways, and they continue to look for new creative methods. No doubt you have noticed the distinctive large banners mounted on the sanctuary railings on all sides of the church (thanks to the efforts of elder Mike Fankhauser) ... but have you seen them at night? They are lighted and really stand out to passersby!

The group is continuing to improve our website ([www.firstprescasper.com](http://www.firstprescasper.com)) and they are enthusiastic about the offer of our Choir Master, Zach Vreeman, to help with that endeavor. The goal

If you would like to be added to the list of liturgists, please contact Beverly Reese or Pastor Paul. All liturgists will be trained using the newly compiled liturgists' training manual approved recently by the Session.

Pastor Paul's sermons in December will focus on the Advent season. After New Years, we will return to the stories in the book of Acts, beginning where we left off before Thanksgiving with the ministry of Dorcas.



is to have an even better website up and running by the first of the year. The PR group is ensuring that all of our advertising, letterhead, and envelopes carry the same message. The familiar drawing of the pulpit (right, drawn by Carissa Christensen) will continue to be prominent.

Additionally, the church Facebook page is still reaching out to the Facebook savvy members of the community. The page has 129 fans at this writing and two administrators. A new EPC group e-mail list has been created so that our newsletter now goes to the churches in our new Presbytery of the West family.



### *...from the Historian*

Recently we've had a call from The History Channel to collect information about a former church member, Alton More, who, during WW2 while serving in Easy Company, supposedly found Hitler's photo album at Hitler's "Eagles Nest" in Germany. No one knows now what happened to the album after Alton's untimely death in '58 at the age of 38! THC is trying to locate Alton's wife, Erma, or any of his 3 children. If you can help, contact MH!



## Upcoming



### December Birthdays

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 12/2 Kaylee Jeffers      | 12/19 Marge Galles                         |
| 12/5 Camille McManus     | 12/22 Carol McClure,<br>Justen Christensen |
| 12/6 Tim Schenk          | 12/24 Eva Vreeman                          |
| 12/16 Hayden Christensen | 12/25 Debbie Hutchins                      |
| 12/17 Mike Brattis       |  |

12/26 Shirley White

**Birthday blessings to all!!!**

Please let the office know if you have a birthday & we miss it! It may be that we don't have yours in our records!

**Ladies of the church ... you're invited!!!**



*On December 29<sup>th</sup>, the Ladies of FPC  
Are invited to Tea and a  
Honeymoon Shower for  
Carissa Christensen  
in the Church Parlor, 3:00-5:00 PM*

Some months after their January 11<sup>th</sup> wedding, Carissa and her fiancé, Huberth, plan to visit his family in his hometown, Tura, India, where they will renew their marriage vows. While on that side of the world, they hope to take a week-long honeymoon to Bali, Indonesia (just 2100 km southwest of India!) Because this pair of architects desires to keep life simple and not accumulate too many things for now, they would most appreciate gifts to their Bali honeymoon fund. Carissa, who grew up at FPC, and Huberth met through EMI, the ministry in which Casper First supported her several years ago. Learn more about them at <http://www.honeyfund.com/wedding/carissaandhuberth>!

*(Hosted by MH and Sarah, Judy and Katie)*

**SUNDAY December 15<sup>th</sup> after Worship ... a Potluck Plus!!**

Make plans to attend First Presbyterian's Christmas program on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. We will share time together and a potluck meal in the fellowship hall after Worship. Bring a salad, main dish, or dessert and ask friends and family to join you. After the meal, a program will be offered, including a costumed presentation of the Christmas narrative by the Sunday school children!

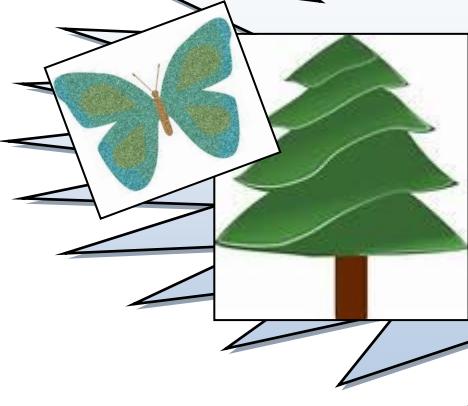


## Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols Service ...



You are invited to join us on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM for special music in the sanctuary of FPC, and at 7:30 for the annual service of Candlelight Lessons and Carols! This is a Christmas tradition for many families and also a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join us! Afterwards, wassail and Christmas treats will be served in the parlor ... our first Advent season in our newly renewed gathering place!

Butterfly Gifts should be returned to FPC by December 22<sup>nd</sup>!



When the Advent Decorations Task Force met recently to brainstorm new decorations for the parlor, it was determined that the Butterfly Tree needed an uplift also! Here is the NEW Butterfly tag you'll see on the tree in the parlor on December 1<sup>st</sup> when you choose a child to shop for who is connected to The Transformation Center! Directions are available by the tree or in last month's newsletter!



## Thanksgivings

For our FPC members from the



## NCHS class of '41!

Above, left to right, are class of '41 NCHS graduates June Ann McDaniels, Evelyn Sabec, Pete Anderson, and Fern Olsen at the 80+ brunch last month. Some have been friends for nearly 80 years, and all are turning 90 soon if not already!!!! Some can also be found in the picture of the 1931 children's choir!

## ...for Time and Talents Shared!

The week before Thanksgiving, a group of nine ladies gathered



in what will soon be the new resource room in the basement Sunday School wing for the purpose of giving our old Advent decorations a renewed look. Together they made nearly three dozen new professional looking bows for the sanctuary pews and for all of our wreaths, indoors and out. In addition, they



unpacked the wreaths, removed the smashed old red bows, and straightened and fluffed each of the branches to make them look more vibrant!

This gathering demonstrated, as Pastor Paul pointed out in his, November 24<sup>th</sup> sermon, the way that God equips people with everything needed to do what he calls them to do. Thank you ladies for being cheerful, willing givers of the TIME and TALENTS with which God has blessed you!

\* link to Pastor Paul's sermon <https://www.facebook.com/notes/first-presbyterian-church-epc-of-casper-wy/having-enough-of-everything-sermon-for-november-24-2013-2-corinthians-96-15-psal/704023929617254>

## ...for prayer for our community ... Casper and beyond!

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, both Companions in Christ Bible Study groups met together to hear Gayle Irwin



(from True Care Pregnancy Resource Center and wife of elder Greg Irwin) and FPC member Judy Schenk share what they learned at a conference in Denver recently. The presenter at the conference was a woman whom God had freed from a life as a stripper and prostitute. In gratitude for her new life in Christ, this woman has started an outreach to other women who find themselves living similar lifestyles.

Since the conference, Gayle has been led to begin a new Facebook page called "Casper Prays" to encourage people to pray not only for women in Casper in such situations, but to pray for all aspects of Casper, the people who live in our community in every walk of life, for the Church, for our country and for our world!!! Pray for the Spirit's movement in a mighty way!!!

*"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14*

link to Casper Prays: <https://www.facebook.com/casperprayswyoming>

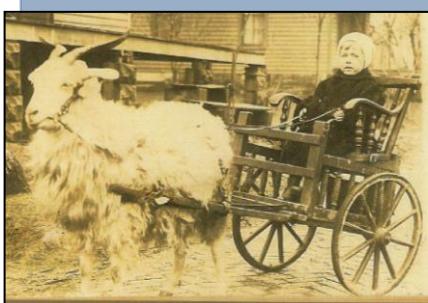
## ... for one more "Tell me the Old Old Story: In Our Church Family!"



Alice Palmer was one of our members whose story visit never worked out during the two years that stories of our "olderlies" were appearing in the newsletter. At Alice's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at Casper First on October 12th, however, her

children Dale, Ron, and Alice Ann, and her grandchildren, gave a wonderful presentation of her life to all those in attendance, so now we can share the story of our newest Centenarian, born the same year as Casper 1<sup>st</sup>!

*Alice Lynch (Palmer)* was born in Pana, Illinois on October 18, 1913, the youngest of five children – 3 brothers and one sister. When asked what she liked to do with her siblings, she said, "play house." Alice's grandson, Tim,



had dug into a little history and noted that the year Alice was born Woodrow Wilson was president, the 16<sup>th</sup> amendment was

passed to establish income taxes, the Governor of Wyoming was first allowed to collect taxes, and a car cost \$1300.00!! In Casper First's and Alice's 100 years, we have had 17 presidents.

Alice's dad, Lawrence, was a mining engineer. She graduated from high school in 1931 and went to nursing school. She never graduated,



however, because she met Clarence Palmer. They were married and went to the Chicago World's Fair on their honeymoon about 1933. Clarence had a feed store in Vandalia, Illinois, but

because of the Depression, they sold it, and he took a job that involved traveling all over the

US and Canada. Alice's sons can remember traveling from N.C. to Texas in a '35 Ford, and later, from LA to Calgary in the dead of winter in a '49 Ford pulling a 28' house trailer!

Alice Ann was born in Canada, and in 1958, the family moved to Casper where they once again lived in a house trailer. They bought the home where she still lives in 1960, and Alice and Clarence joined Casper First on October 22, 1961. For many years, Alice was involved in her children's lives, from PTA, to scouts, to cooking for FPC youth group gatherings. Alice made scarves for the Troopers and was also a part of that group's gift wrapping fundraiser.



Outside of the activities of her children, Alice enjoyed reading poetry, growing beautiful flowers, rock hunting, playing bridge, and making mints for special occasions. When Alice Ann was deployed to Japan for 6 months, Alice and Clarence cared for Alice Ann's young daughter. Besides her three children, Alice has twelve grandchildren, and "A BUNCH" of great grandchildren, many of whom were at her party doing what kids do in Casper 1<sup>st</sup>'s fellowship hall ...



having a lot of fun running on the stage and spinning around the poles. Alice was concerned about them, however, and said, "Get those children! We can't have them tearing up the church; they've been kind enough to let us use it!" At 100, she was still involved in the care of her kids ... and their kids ... and their kids!

When a granddaughter-in-law sang "Amazing Grace," Alice said, "That was good! That was real pretty!"

MH Hennagin, Care of Members

## ... for God's Provision for our Ministry Partner, Channel North Africa!

Portions of a recent CNA newsletter follow, sharing exciting reports of how God is using our friend Ali Arhab and the Christian broadcast ministry team in North Africa.

### *Thanksgivings from Ali!*

- ⊕ At the beginning of Summer, CNA partnered with UFM (Unreached Field Missions) to film a 13 episode youth series in the Tunisian Arabic language called Shabbah Xpress. There is a strong possibility that this series will be ongoing. It is expected to air in December 2013.
- ⊕ Recently CNA has entered into an exciting partnership with Joyce Meyer Ministries in the translation and voice-over of programming into Kabyle (the native language in Tadmaït, Algeria) to be aired early in the new year. In December 2013 (or earlier), CNA will be airing Every Day Life Programming with Joyce Meyer in French and Arabic.
- ⊕ In November, CNA hosted a training event in Dakar, Senegal. Many North African church leaders were in attendance to learn more about "DDK," the discipling curriculum you read about some months ago in the newsletter. It is a tool for local churches to solidly found their members with the ability to think and live Biblically, becoming disciples for Christ. Our Mission Outreach members prayed for this event!!!
- ⊕ Prayers have been answered to enable CNA to relocate to the South of France!!! This has gone well with the accommodation needed for two families being secured after quite a few initial obstacles. CNA has recently spotted a more than suitable location for its future studio needs and at a much lower price than previously envisaged.



### *Prayer Requests:*

- ~ For provision for \$700,000 to secure the new studio property.

~ Protection for CNA's technology and equipment. Over the last year CNA has been subject to a large number of technological attacks. The satellite provider has been "jammed" on several



occasions. This particular type of attack is usually out of the range of small organizations. It is suspected that the source is governments seeking to stop information related to current events in the middle east being relayed by satellite channels which use the same provider as CNA .

~ In August 2013 a believer in contact with CNA's follow up partners in Morocco was stopped by police, arrested, beaten and judged rapidly in court to 30 months in prison. His crime: sharing his faith and possessing some Christian literature. One month later he was released. Now we have learned he will again be in court in December. Please pray for him.

~ CNA is actively trusting for two new full-time workers (financial and administrative manager and a program acquisitions manager) who would raise their own support; CNA does not pay for salaries.

~Please pray that CNA finds appropriate broadcast content made by potential partner organizations and puts in place partnerships enabling CNA to broadcast this material.

### *Update on the Website*

The CNA Website has a changed look, thanks to help from an American couple who spent hundreds of hours creating new functionality on the CNA website last summer. Check it out!!!

[www.cna-sat.org](http://www.cna-sat.org) .In addition to moving testimonies on each page of the site, you'll also find options to read even more stories of God's work in the lives of those hearing CNA broadcasts. Most series have been translated into English and French with Arabic and Kabyle to follow soon."



"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Col. 4:2



## THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH “GROW WHERE THE CHURCH ISN'T!”



*World Outreach* is the mission mobilizing and sending arm of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. From its birth 33 years ago, the EPC established its World Outreach emphasis to enable the EPC to be a mission church. The denomination's global vision is to glorify God through full-cycle church planting which firmly establishes the Church of Jesus Christ among the least-reached peoples, with a primary focus on the Muslim world. This vision leads EPC members to see our principal calling as working in those places where peoples have never heard, and cultures have not yet been trans-formed by the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and thus, there is no viable church established.

We believe the goal of missions is that God be glorified as Christ's Church is established, and worshippers are gathered from every tribe, language and nation. Our work focuses on the

planting of churches, equipping those churches and their leaders to grow to maturity, enabling them to reproduce themselves in their own culture, imparting a vision to them of sending out their own people as cross-cultural missionaries, and partnering with them to do so. Where possible, we seek to plant churches that are Reformed and covenantal, as we believe that is the clearest, though not the only, expression of biblical teaching.

To accomplish this purpose, we have committed ourselves to:

- ~ faithful proclamation of the gospel to the nations until the Lord returns
  - ~ fervent prayer for the evangelization of the world
  - ~ active participation in that glorious task through ministries of Word and deed
- (from the EPC World Outreach website  
<http://www.epc.org/ministries/world-outreach/about-wo/> )

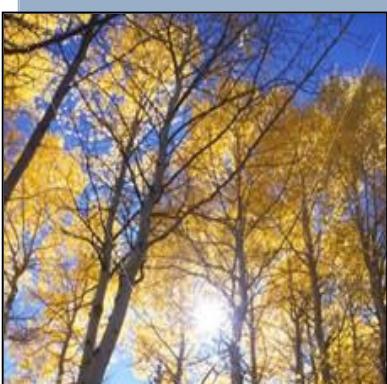
### **GOALS OF THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE ~ PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST**

(just UPDATED at a meeting in Colorado 10/23/2013)

1. Serve as the primary World Outreach network of Presbytery of the West churches.
2. Promote mission awareness at Presbytery meetings by featuring missionary households that are 'Sons and Daughters' of Presbytery of the West churches.
3. Promote and foster missions awareness and to exchange information of common interest, policy and strategy issues. Specifically,
  - a. Publish a periodic newsletter via e-mail to congregational missions committees;
  - b. Maintain personal contact with Presbytery mission teams;
  - c. Use the WOC web site to assist congregational missions committees.
4. Promote short-term /long-term mission opportunities, especially promote opportunities for small churches to do joint mission teams, or to join larger congregations in mission teams.
5. Promote mission conferences, training, seminars, courses and workshops.
6. Serve as a mission advisory group to church mission committees.
7. Provide a liaison with the EPC World Outreach Committee.
8. Promote and maintain the Presbytery of the West website for the World Outreach group.

Presbytery WO meetings occur monthly in Colorado. MH is excited to be part of this group & is already “attending” the meetings online by the app ‘GoToMeeting’!

# The Aspen Grove Church Planting Network



Church planting is a major part of the mission of the EPC. We are called to be a people working together to share the seed of Hope, Jesus Christ. The Aspen Grove Church Planting Network is an agency of the [Presbytery of the West](#) of the [Evangelical Presbyterian Church](#) and is headquartered in Denver. The EPC's Presbytery of the West vision is to plant churches in the west's major cultural centers. Emphasized throughout was that this desire

could take place without the work of the Holy Spirit. At the October Presbytery of the West meeting, Dr. Eugene Scott, Director of Aspen Grove Church Planting Network, presented a video explaining the parable of the Aspen Grove, specifically telling about the Pando Aspen Grove in Utah.

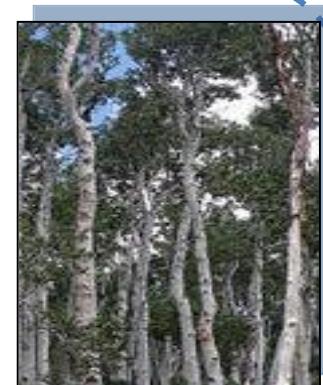
When churches, like some in central Colorado, form a cluster to reach out around them with a desire to pray and plant the seeds for new communities of faith, they begin to share their "nutrients" ... like the Aspen Grove ... with a community in need, giving it strength. The Aspen Grove Network's website explains best the amazing story which follows that we saw and heard on the video...

**"Jesus asked, 'What parable shall we use to describe the kingdom of God?'  
We've answered that question with the parable of the aspen grove.**

**Aspen groves** are among the earth's largest living organisms. In an aspen grove each individual tree shares DNA through its powerful and intricate root system. They are one and many. Aspen trees grow best in this connectional system. Further, they never grow alone and always reproduce. They are the first to spring up in a burnt-out landscape and provide a diverse and sheltering canopy for many kinds of flora and fauna.

**The church** too is one large living organism ... maybe the largest. We are one and many. God does his best work in us when we are connected and working together. Churches are like aspen trees. They grow best when started by and connected to mature churches. Churches provide life-giving Gospel to people living in dry, burnt-out soil.

**Our vision** at Aspen Grove is to connect Gospel-centered, like-minded and kingdom-minded churches through partnerships that will allow them to channel the resources and energy toward church planting through-out the west. Churches connected to Aspen Grove will have greater ability, through working together, to join God in bringing his kingdom about here and now."



## In Memoriam

We have learned that both Jim Kirby and Rev. Jack Williams have passed away in the last month, though we do not yet have many details. Both were residing in Arizona at the time of their deaths. Jim joined Casper First in 1945 and was the son of Rev. William W. Kirby, our pastor from 1945 to 1957. Rev. Williams was our pastor from 1970 – 1989, and he and his wife, Ellie, were able to join us for our Centennial Celebration in March and to share memories with us at the dinner. The April 2013 newsletter included Jim's reflections on a century of worship at Casper First, along with a picture of Jim.





## Mission Statement

Approved by Session 1-19-09

Recognizing that we are a broken and sinful people in a fallen world in need of a Savior and a transforming, everlasting relationship with the one triune God ... Father, Son and Holy Spirit, our mission is to glorify God as a theologically reformed Presbyterian congregation through

- † Christ-centered liturgical worship to strengthen our faith,
- † biblically-grounded teaching and preaching to equip disciples,
- † family focused fellowship to nurture and encourage each other,
- † and gospel-based ministry to share God's grace and love in Casper and beyond.

Have you ever read the Bible through in one year? Follow this link to learn more!

<http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com/>

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