

First Presbyterian Church (EPC)  
804 South Wolcott Street  
Casper, WY 82601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
Dated Material Enclosed

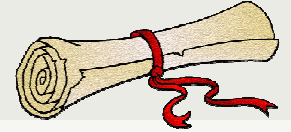
First Presbyterian Church (EPC) of Casper



## THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2015

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



*And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.*

Acts 2:44-45

The above passage from Acts comes from the pen of Luke, the same Luke who wrote the Gospel of Luke, which we have been studying for a year now. These verses are a partial description of how the early church lived together in unity. It is noteworthy that one of the characteristics of the early church was that it was a generous giving church. They sold some of their property to provide for brothers and sisters in need. Your Deacons have taken the bold step in moving toward a biblical model with the establishment of the Deacon's Emergency Fund. A big thank-you to all who have already given your contribution. Now that you have been generous, we now have a solid foundation through which to help brothers and sisters in Christ. The Fund is meant for any member who is in need, or any person who

regularly attends. The Funds are not currently available for people outside our community of faith. This is how the disciples started as well, so we are on firm grounding.

The Emergency Fund is meant to be used. If you have an emergency need, then please request help. We would be glad to provide it. Keep in mind that the Fund does not dispense cash, but only pays bills directly to vendors.

We are also thankful for all who have committed to the Awana Room renovation. We are at 92% percent of our goal and so far, have been able to cover all expenses. We have received funds from Casper to Holland! We are now waiting for the new flooring to be installed.

For His Glory,  
Pastor Mark

## From the Treasurer



### October 2016 Treasurer's Report

#### OCTOBER

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Balance on Hand</b>         | <b>\$ -8,664.02</b> |
| October Congregational Giving  | 12,441.00           |
| October Income (Savings/Other) | 1,142.13            |
| October Expenses               | <u>15,333.10</u>    |
| Income/Expenses                | \$-1,749.97         |

**October 31, 2016** **\$ -10,413.99**

#### YEAR TO DATE

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>January 1, 2016</b> | <b>\$4,281.15</b> |
| Congregational Giving  | 129,025.31        |
| Income (Savings/Other) | 40,099.78         |
| Expenses to Date       | <u>183,820.23</u> |
| Income/Expense         | \$-14,695.14      |

**October 31, 2016** **\$ -10,413.99**

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

#### Lord's Warehouse Needs

Small dressers and kitchen tables/  
chairs  
Twin and full sheets  
Blankets all sizes  
Twin mattresses/springs/frames  
Small easy chairs  
Pots and pans  
Dishes

## Church Officers and Staff - 2016

### The Board of Deacons

Moderator: Grace Ward

Secretary:

#### Class of 2016

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

#### Class of 2017

|                  |                                |          |                         |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Nita Christensen | 1319 Yorkshire Ave. 82609      | 265-1955 | dnchris57@gmail.com     |
|                  | (Parish Life)                  |          |                         |
| Phyllis Karns    | 1440 Kingsbury 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             |          |                        |
|                   | (Facilities)              |          |                        |
| Leith Culver      | 1912 Rustic Drive 82609   | 472-0369 | lculver52@msn.com      |
|                   | (Evangelism, Stewardship) |          |                        |
| 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 - Marilyn Fry     |                |
| 808 E. 13th St. 82601..... | (307) 259-3568 |

## Church Officers and Staff - 2016

### Session

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

#### Class of 2016

|                                       |                       |               |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Henry Groenenberg                     | 3421 Valley Rd. 82604 | 237-3909      | hg3421@live.com               |
| (Facilities/Personnel)                |                       |               |                               |
| 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) |                       |               |                               |

#### Class of 2017

|                          |                       |          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Tim Schenk               | 720 W. 51st St. 82601 | 259-6529 | tschenk@gsgarchitecture.com |
| (Facilities/Stewardship) |                       |          |                             |

#### Class of 2018

|                         |                         |          |                        |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| Mike Fankhauser         | 12239 Ranchero Rd 82604 | 265-8259 | mikef@rockymtnfire.com |
| (Evangelism/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 the Treasurer and Stewardship Ministry

Pledge cards were mailed out the first part of December to current members, regular attendees, and friends of the church. Please prayerfully consider what you can pledge or tithe for the upcoming year and return your card on Dec. 4th or Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> during the church service or mail into the office. This will help us set a budget for expenses in 2017. The church will be running at least a \$15,000 deficit by years end. We may be able to offset some of this with endowment earnings but will still be short. Please consider an extra contribution before the end of this year to help us balance the books. We will send a check this month to the EPC general assem-

bly for your "asking" contributions over the current year. Stewardship plans to keep this amount the same as last year--\$48 per member.

We have been able to fund some major and minor building repairs, started the AWANA program, and kept our commitment to our mission outreach partners. Thank you all for your prayers and generosity. Our committee also includes Dave Christensen, Henry Groenenberg, and Tim Schenk. Please ask me or any of our members if you have questions on the budget or any of our financial issues.

Leith Culver, Treasurer

### 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.

**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF  
CASPER**

804 S. Wolcott  
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Phone: 307-237-9509

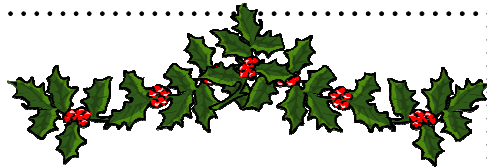
Fax: 307-473-2833

E-mail:

firstpc@qwestoffice.net

www.firstprescasper.com

Facebook: First Presbyterian  
Church (EPC) Casper, WY



*Please join us for our  
**Christmas Potluck  
And Carol Sing***

*Sunday, Dec. 18th  
after worship  
Watch the bulletin for details!*

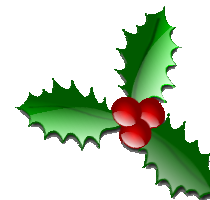
*And be sure to join us for these other Advent Activities:*



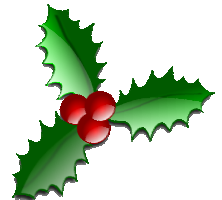
Sat., Dec. 10th - 5-7 P.M.  
**Parents' Night Out**

Sat., Dec. 24th - 7 P.M.  
**Christmas Eve Service**

Sun., Dec. 25th - 9:30 A.M.  
**Christmas Day Service**



5th Camille MacManus  
6th Tim Schenk  
16th Hayden Christensen  
17th Mike Brattis  
18th Kathy Martin  
22nd Carol McClure  
22nd Justen Christensen  
24th Eva Vreeman  
25th Debbie Hutchins



***December Ministry/ Committee Meetings***

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Parish Life      | Dec. 5 , 2:00 P.M. |
| Evangelism       | Dec. 12, 5:30 P.M. |
| Stewardship      | Dec. 12, 7:00 P.M. |
| Board of Deacons | Dec. 19, 6:15 P.M. |
| Session          | Dec. 19, 7:00 P.M. |
| Facilities       | Dec. 26, 5:30 P.M. |

## Awana Update

Our Awana program is off to an amazing start. Awana is continuing to flourish with around 23 boys and girls each Wednesday. On November 16, our clubs held "Line it Up Night" to collect canned goods for a local food drive. It was amazing to have a special guest at our meeting that night. Awana will continue each Wednesday from 4:35-6:10 pm, following the same calendar as Natrona County Schools. Due to the bus arrivals, the time has been adjusted by about ten minutes. The program is open



to students in grades Kindergarten through sixth grade, and guests are always welcome. A huge thank-you to all of the wonderful, committed team members, as well as all who have put so much work into our Awana Room project. Also, we are at \$9,232 toward our fundraising goal of \$10,000 for the repairs to the room. God is good!

Carol Michenzi,  
Awana Co-Director

### December Awana Schedule

|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| Dec. 7th  | Awana 4:35-6:10  |
| Dec. 14th | Awana 4:35-6:10  |
| Dec. 21st | NO Awana         |
| Dec. 28th | NO Awana         |
| (Jan. 1st | Awana 4:35-6:10) |

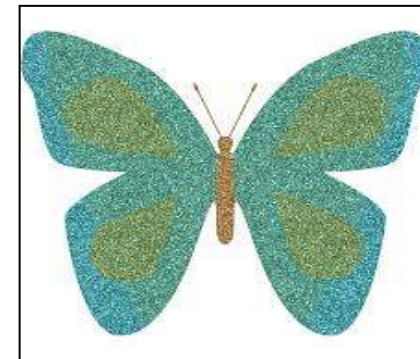
## Butterfly Tree

This year, our parlor tree has a record 36 butterflies with the names of kids/grandkids of current and former guests of The Transformation Center, the Mission's shelter for women and children. Parish Life invites you to choose one or more Butterfly Tags from the tree. PLEASE RECORD the child's name and your name on the clipboard by the tree, then be blessed while you shop for your gifts! Each child should receive a 2 or 3 piece outfit... NO toys ... other groups provide toys, pajamas, books, etc.

\*Boys should receive: a hoody or sweater or shirt AND jeans or slacks.

\*Girls should receive: a hoody, sweater or blouse AND jeans, skirt or slacks.

A second large group of butterflies available for adoption notes items TTC needs as a whole such as knit gloves, paper products (especially toilet paper!), and cleaning needs. Each year, we try to grant one large wish for TTC ... this year's is a **quality,**



**high-back, sturdy, swivel, rolling office desk chair.**

Staff covers desk duties 24/7 so the chair is heavily used! The current chair came from Rescued Treasures and was on its last legs when TTC got it.

By December 18<sup>th</sup>, please return your gifts to the tree in the parlor, attaching the Butterfly tag to the package. Please wrap the kids' gifts ... wrapping isn't necessary for other gifts. Do not put YOUR name on the gift or tag. Children will be told that the gifts are from their moms/g'mas. Sorting and delivery of the gifts will take place on Sunday the 18th. If you would like to help that day, just meet in the parlor after worship!



## Aspen Grove Church Planting Network

The Mission of the EPC Presbytery of the West's Aspen Grove Church Planting Network is to plant gospel-centered, relationally based, theologically reformed, outwardly-focused churches in the major cultural centers of the mountain west such as \*Denver, Colorado Springs, \*Phoenix, Bozeman, Santa Fe, \*Albuquerque, Salt Lake City and beyond. (*Barna lists the churches with an asterisk as some of the most unchurched cities in the US!*) In 2016, Casper First was blessed to be financially-able to provide support to God's work through Aspen Grove. Aspen Grove says, "the more churches we plant here [in the EPC West and the US], the more reach we can have there" [in unreached areas outside the US.] The 5 ministries FPC Casper's Evangelism group has been called to support are all guided by Matthew 28:16-20, The Great Commission.

Why the name? A grove of aspen trees starts from one tree. An aspen grove in Utah, "Pando, The Trembling Giant,"

has been metabolically alive for 80,000 years & covers 106 acres. Aspen trees spread by underground roots. Trees support each other through the root system so that nutrients are shared by all. In comparison, honey mushrooms also come from a giant root system, but the fungus attacks and steals the nutrients of another plant rather than sharing. With an aspen, 47,000 trees can grow from one seed! The Aspen Grove Church Planting Network invites churches to come together and pray in cluster relationships like the aspen, sharing nutrients with a community in need. It is said that churches fail because the planter burns out; with clusters, others will be there for them. In addition, Aspen Grove has discovered that 93% of churches planted within a network become established churches because networks can offer essential resources.

Aspen Grove's goal is to give most church plants \$40,000 a year for 3 years to  
(cont. on p. 7)

## Aspen Grove (cont.)

help them get on their feet; plants also receive prayer and cluster support. Current plants in the EPC West ...  
> Saint Patrick Presbyterian Church, Denver; Rev. Shane & Jean Sunn; downtown Denver  
> Clear Creek Neighborhood Church, Idaho Springs, CO.; Rev. Bill & Mary Robertson; rural

> The Sacred Grace, Englewood, CO; Rev. Nathan & Julie Hoag; street outreach at bus hub

> Desert Hills Project; Anthem, AZ; project of Aspen Grove and Desert Hills Pres

> The Winter Park Project; Mission study by members of Saint Patrick's

> The Little Rock Project; Rev. Michael and Michala Gallup from Denver area; moved to Little Rock October 2016 to team with EPC Presbytery of the Central South & plant in Little Rock



**ASPEN GROVE**  
church planting network

Did you know ...

> that the US is a missionary field, receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest # of missionaries after Brazil? (32,400 missionaries were sent to the US in 2013!)

> that of 300,000 Protestant churches in the US, approximately 4000 close each year ... and that of 300,000 churches, 180,000 have 7-99 members & 105,000 have 100 – 499 members?

> that of 319 million people in the US, only 56 million attend Worship, meaning 263 million Americans have no church home and may not know Christ?

> AND that in contrast, approximately 4000 NEW churches are PLANTED in the US each year? Of those planted since 2008, 42% of the attendees never attended church before or had not in many years! May we join Aspen Grove in praying that the seed of the gospel