

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

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Dated Material Enclosed

First Presbyterian Church (EPC) of Casper

# THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2016

## *Pastor Ali's Visit*

***Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ..."***

In the past, many in the US have believed that living out the Great Commission meant Americans "going into all the world to preach the gospel" by simply sending a check to a faceless recipient who did the rest for us. If Casper first had that idea before our recent visit from our long-time ministry partner, Ali, it is unlikely that is the belief now. How blessed we are that Ali was able to travel from France and spend an entire week in Wyoming between other meetings in the US. In WY, he shared with or formed real relationships with dozens of people ...



~ With Pastor Mark one-on-one at length at lunch one day and coffee another

~ With our congregation at dinners-for-10 in our homes

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*From the Treasurer*



*September 2016 Treasurer's Report*

SEPTEMBER

<b>Balance on Hand</b>	<b>\$ 2,948.75</b>
September Congregational Giving	8,162.10
September Income (Savings/Other)	2,687.04
September Expenses	<u>22,461.91</u>
Income/Expenses	\$-11,612.77

**September 30, 2016** **\$ -8,664.02**

YEAR TO DATE

<b>January 1, 2016</b>	<b>\$4,281.15</b>
Congregational Giving	116,584.31
Income (Savings/Other)	38,957.65
Expenses to Date	<u>168,487.13</u>
Income/Expense	\$-12,945.17

**September 30, 2016** **\$ -8,664.02**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

*Church Officers and Staff - 2016*

**The Board of Deacons**

Moderator: Grace Ward

Secretary:

**Class of 2016**

MH Hennagin	2033 W. 42 <sup>nd</sup> 82604	259-7101	mhhennagin@gmail.com
	(Evangelism/Parish Life)		
Carol McClure	2141 E. 21 <sup>st</sup> 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		
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 - 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

*Ali Arhab (cont.)*



~ With our congregations and visitors at dinner gatherings of 20-40 in the Fellowship Hall  
 ~ With congregation and visitors during Ali's slide presentation in Sunday School  
 ~ With our congregation during Worship where nearly 80 were in attendance  
 ~ With individuals who transported Ali to dinners or showed him the Casper area  
 ~ With our local ministry partners True Care (where he received a vision tour and prayed for the ministry) and CWRM (where he taught the 25 member discipleship class for men and women program guests and prayed for individually)  
 ~ With pastors and elders on the EPC West World Outreach committee through the group's monthly conference call (Ali also

connected with Ryan on the call, one of our EPC global workers)  
 ~ With the young people and staff of AWANA as he told stories of not knowing Jesus as a child and explained how we can tell others about Jesus.  
 Ali shared stories with most he visited ... stories of his life as a Muslim growing up in Islamic Algeria and stories of his powerful conversion to Christianity as an adult. He also gave an overview of how the Spirit is moving now in more than a DOZEN Islamic North African countries through CNA's satellite television ... Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, Mali, Niger, and Chad. If you look at those countries on a map or globe, you will see the huge footprint of CNA's broadcasts! We learned  
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**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF  
CASPER**

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www.firstprescasper.com

Facebook: First Presbyterian  
Church (EPC) Casper, WY



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



*In Remembrance...*

One of our dear and long-time church family members, Fern Shiermeyer Olsen, went home to the Lord on September 22, 2016.

We express our deepest condolences to her family and friends, and offer prayers for peace and comfort in this time of grief.



- 2nd Kate Aeschliman
- 12th Leith Culver
- 12th Janis Hall
- 20th Brad Christensen
- 20th Katie Gitthens
- 21st Isaac Vreeman
- 23rd Kim Brattis



*November Ministry/ Committee Meetings*

Parish Life	Nov. 7, 2:00 P.M.
Evangelism	Nov. 14, 5:30 P.M.
Stewardship	Nov. 14, 7:00 P.M.
Board of Deacons	Nov. 21, 6:15 P.M.
Session	Nov. 21, 7:00 P.M.
Facilities	Nov. 28, 5:30 P.M.

## Ali Arhab (cont.)

that CNA reaches, undetected, into 20,000 Muslim homes each day and that Ali's vision is to reach 30% of North Africans in 25 years, an area which had been devoid of Christianity for 1400 years!

Ali said, "Mission is the foundation laid to reach a Vision." His visit taught us firsthand how such Mission should benefit both members of a relationship, not just one, with a mutual goal of reaching the Vision. While Ali was with us, we not only reached out to him, but he reached out to us. We learned about his ministry; he learned about ours. Pastor Mark and the elders prayed for Ali and his ministry, and he prayed for us and for our ministries and those involved in them. In addition, he encouraged our church by sharing struggles his church had experienced.

He told of the importance of EVERY MEMBER OF OUR CONGREGATION: 1. Being in a discipleship class (a Bible Study and/or Sunday School class) so we grow in our faith 2. Bringing guests to Worship every Sunday to grow our church family 3. Sharing the Gospel outside our church walls to grow believers. Ali stressed that without #1 we are

not equipped for #3. God requires us to do #3!

The story of the church Ali began in France, *Evangelical Church of Roubaix, Light to the Nations* is an inspiration. Starting with 20 worshipers in a living room 15 years ago, they are now 100 strong, and 15 of them are confident lay church leaders who share preaching duties, now that Ali has moved to the south. This confidence comes from EVERY person attending a discipleship class, studying God's Word daily, and praying for God's boldness. In a short time, the church has planted a church in Normandy and one in Paris, where Roubaix's lay leaders also take turns preaching. They are working with Ali to plant yet another church in Meze where Ali lives now, and the church's new vision is to "reach out to France and beyond."

The congregation is not much bigger than ours, and yet God is using them in a mighty way, which can be a definite source of encouragement for us! After all, we share the same vision ... sharing the Gospel to all nations, including our own!

*MH and the  
Evangelism Committee*

## EPC Presbytery of the West Fall Meeting

The October 2016 EPC West Presbytery meeting was held at Cornerstone Community Church in Greeley. There are now 45 churches in the EPC West, even after a number of EPC West churches from states east of Colorado formed a Midwestern Presbytery last year.

A large part of every EPC West meeting is dedicated to examinations of pastoral candidates. The thoroughness of the questions shows the importance that our Presbytery (and denomination!) places on sound theological understandings and teachings. During the 2 days of this meeting, 5 candidates in different situations were examined thoroughly by commissioners in attendance. Also, reports were shared by representatives of Presbytery groups, including ...

- Aspen Grove Church Planting Network, a ministry which Casper 1<sup>st</sup> now supports through our tithe to mission. Watch for more about Aspen Grove next month!
- World Outreach Committee shared a video greeting from one of the EPC global workers for whom we pray, helping us see exactly how the Engage 2025 operation works. I was able to share about our ministry with CNA, complete with a video greeting from Ali.
- Finance committee shared that our "Per member asking" amount is 1% of our budget
- Chaplain Search Committee shared that the search has narrowed to 2 for a chaplain to our EPC West pastors; hiring should be by January; better support will then be available to help pastors who are struggling.

MH Hennagin, elder commissioner

## Deacons Emergency Fund

After much prayer and study, the Deacons felt it would be good to have an emergency fund that seeks to help those who have found themselves in a situation of needing immediate financial assistance. This fund seeks to provide financial assistance to members of First Presbyterian church and regular attenders of worship with us. Preference will be given to members and assistance will be based on both needs and availability of funds. All funds distributed will come from the Deacon's fund for this purpose. These funds will pri-

marily be gathered through donations from the congregation as needed.

Our first of two offerings will be on November 27, 2016, the first Sunday of Advent. You may use the envelopes in the pew pockets to designate your offering to the Deacon Emergency Fund.

Information regarding the policies and process for help is available. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Mark or Leith Culver.

Thank you for prayerfully considering supporting the Emergency Fund.

### 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.

### 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



### 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 October 19, Ali Arhab presented the large group activity to both groups. It was amazing to hear him discuss his missionary work with the students. 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. 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 \$7,390 toward our fundraising goal of \$10,000 for the repairs to the room, we are still \$1500 short on the new flooring. God is good!

Carol Michenzi,  
Awana Co-Director