



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

The Messenger

First Presbyterian Church (EPC) of Casper, WY 307/237-9509 April 2014
804 S. Wolcott at City Park firstpc@qwestoffice.net fax # 307/473-2833

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:

It always puzzles me why it is that the observation of Maundy Thursday is so neglected in the Church. I find it especially puzzling in the Reformed Church where we claim Scriptural warrant for our worship. Maundy Thursday is overshadowed by Good Friday. But it should probably not be.

Maundy Thursday is the observation of the institution by Jesus of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Jesus wanted very much to celebrate the Passover with His disciples. And in so doing, he transformed the Jewish Passover to the Christian sacrament of Communion.

Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin word for "mandate." What is mandated here is that Christians will celebrate this covenant meal together to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Advent, Lent, Good Friday and Christmas get far more attention but none of these observations are mandated.

From an historical point of view we are ignorant as to the real date of Christmas, but we know it was not December 25th. Advent and Lent are observations created by human beings. Neither has scriptural warrant. But Jesus says, at the Passover feast with His disciples, "Do this in remembrance of me."

In our observation of Maundy Thursday we participate in the Lord's Supper covenant meal, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. We are strengthened in faith and we are obedient to the will of Christ Jesus receiving from Him the grace we need for our walk of faith. It would seem that the sanctuary should be full to overflowing on this special occasion on which we are offered so great a blessing.

On another subject:

Deb, Nathaniel, and I would like to express our deep appreciation to those of you who have contributed to the fund related to my surgery. And thank you also to those of you who have been praying for us through this uncertain time. We thank God for all of you and for a congregation that is so generous and loving. Thanks be to God!

Under the mercy,
Paul

Updates

...from the Treasurer and Stewardship Ministry

February 2014 Treasurer's Report

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Balance on Hand | \$ -8,483.80 | January 1, 2014 | \$ 2,316.03 |
| February Income | 25,443.04 | Income to Date | 43,853.88 |
| February Expenses | 23,261.64 | Expenses to Date | <u>52,472.31</u> |
| Income/Expenses | 2,181.40 | Income/Expenses | -8,618.43 |
| February 28, 2014 | \$ -6,302.40 | February 28, 2014 | \$ -6,302.40 |

...from the Clerk of Session

It was with great joy and accomplishment that the elders and deacons along with Pastor Paul were installed into the EPC Sunday March 23rd. This was the final step of our transition from the PCUSA. Saturday night the elders and deacons gathered for supper along with the commission from Colorado to train, examine and then install us on Sunday morning. It was a time of sharing our testimonies and reviewing the Westminster Confession of Faith which is basically an outline for Scripture. We are now able to concentrate on being God's servants and sharing the Good News! *Debbie Hutchins*

... from the Administrative Assistant

The EPC is requiring that we have a record of each member's baptismal date which we do not currently have for most members. If you can provide the actual date (month, day & year), we are grateful. If you have incomplete information but know the church's name then we will fill in the blanks. Please call me at (307) 237-9509 with this information.



currently have for most members. If you can provide the actual date (month, day & year), we are grateful. If you have incomplete information but know the church's name then we will fill in the blanks. Please call me at (307) 237-9509 with this information.

I have updated the First Presbyterian Church (EPC) of Casper, WY phone book. I will have copies at the church if you would like one. If you are not local, I'd be happy to mail you one. Please review the information and make sure it is correct and please let me know if I need to change anything. For each member we would like to have: name (s), both cell and land line phone numbers, both mailing and physical addresses and an e-mail address if you have one.

Thank you!

Sheila

... from the Christian Growth Committee



Bible Study Opportunities

Tuesday 10 am

Colossians

**** Tuesday 4:15 pm**

Mere Christianity

**** Tuesday 6:15 pm**

Hebrews

Wednesday 9:30 am

Jeremiah

There is time in the week for more studies! Contact the church office if you have an idea for a new study at a different time!

****beginning a new study soon!**

Sunday School Classes

Adults

"Westminster Larger Catechism"

Middle School/High School

"Bible Basics – is the Bible True?"

Kindergarten – First Grade

Old Testament Stories

Second – Forth Grade

Old Testament/Ten Commandments

**Sunday
School
9-10 AM**

"Thy Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path." Psalm 119:105

...from the Prayer Chain



Chairman, *Kim Brattis*, has announced the update of our PRAYER CHAIN. If you have a prayer request for yourself or another, please call Kim at 258-1118 or text her, the latter being the quickest way to contact her. She will then begin the process of passing the request through the chain. If you are unable to reach Kim, call Nita Christensen and she will begin the chain.

... from the EPC's World Outreach Ministry

Beginning this month, we will be sharing on occasion the stories of some of the EPC Presbytery of the West's many missionaries. For the protection of the missionary couples, we omit their last names. The first EPC missionaries we introduce to you are Ryan and Tara who are serving in Cambodia.



Ryan and Tara are from Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Englewood, CO. They were commissioned at the 33rd General Assembly of the EPC June 2013 and are focusing on teaching English to university students, member care, training and mentoring, and sharing the Good News with Southeast Asians. Ryan taught English in China and Cambodia, and while in Cambodia, he met Tara who was also teaching English.

In 2008, they returned to America to

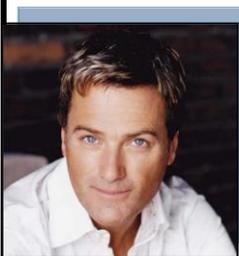
marry and for Ryan to attend seminary. He graduated from Denver Seminary with a Master's of Divinity in 2012. Ryan and Tara have been married almost six years and have one child, Britton, who is 2. They ask for our prayers as they minister in Southeast Asia. Please pray for continued financial support, for God to raise up a team to work with them, and for increased favor and divine appointments with the people they are working among. Please pray for Ryan and Tara and Britton!

... from the Facilities Committee

Back in the fall, we shared that we had extra pews for sale. All but 1½ pews were purchased! Now Facilities would like the education wing hallway cleared of the remaining pews and extra oak seats and backs by May 1st. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Patti. It's time for negotiations and free may be an option!



Upcoming



Michael W. Smith

In Concert!

April 13th, 2014 7:00 PM

Highland Park

Community Church

all proceeds benefit the
Central Wyoming
Rescue Mission

Tickets are on sale at the Galilean, Rescued Treasures, & CWRM online.

April Ministry/Committee

Meetings

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Parish Life | April 7 th , 2:00 PM |
| Christian Growth | April 7 th , 5:30 PM |
| Evangelism | April 14 th , 5:30 PM |
| Stewardship | April 14 th , 7:00 PM |
| Board of Deacons | April 21 st , 6:15 PM |
| Session | April 21 st , 7:00 PM |
| Worship | April 28 th , 8:45 AM |
| Facilities | April 28 th , 5:30 PM |

Palm Sunday April 13th

Calling all young people!!

Plan to meet in the Narthex before Worship to receive your palms. You'll go into the Sanctuary together waving the palms, much as those did who welcomed Jesus as He rode a donkey into Jerusalem! You will distribute the palms to the congregation.

"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" Mark 11:9



Maunder Thursday Communion

Service April 17th

7:00 PM IN THE
SANCTUARY



Recalling the night Jesus first observed The Lord's Supper with His Disciples

Easter Sunday Service

APRIL 20TH

10:30 AM

If you would like to donate a traditional spring potted plant for our Easter Sunday service, please bring it to the church office between 8:30 AM & 12:30 PM Monday 14th -Thursday 17th



April Birthdays



4/6 Rin Karns

4/7 Deb Kuhn

4/8 Daryl Amador

4/12 Kevin Cummins

4/20 Greg Irwin

4/22 Stephen Christensen

4/24 Kelsi Jeffers

4/30 Scott Sorenson, Mary Wetzel

Birthday blessings to all!!!

Please let the office know if we've omitted your birthday so we can update records!

April 17th

Central Wyoming Rescue Mission Program Graduation

12:00 Noon luncheon E. Free Church
Graduation to follow
Reservations through CWRM office

May 2nd - 3rd

Looking ahead: EPC Presbytery of the West Spring Meeting

Parker Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Parker, Colorado

...April's Potluck Plus: April 30th

Bring a main dish, salad, side dish, or dessert as well as friends and family, and come to April's Potluck Plus!! The plus THIS month, in April, will be a surprise as usual, but NEXT month, May, watch for a new kind of Potluck plus!!

Beginning in May, the new theme of our Wednesday night Potluck Plus Dinners will be "Ministry Recognition." The focus at these dinners will be the work of one of our six newly reorganized committees ... and the members of that committee won't have to cook that night! The Plus will be learning more about the work of the group-of-the-month!

The first group to be featured (in May) will be the Parish Life Ministry, known since 1999 as the Care of Members Ministry. Listed below are the duties of the group, including the "mercy ministries" formerly overseen by the Mission Outreach Ministry. The group continues to be under the Board of Deacons. Contact any member for more info, or just show up in the parlor for the next meeting April 7 at 2! By the way, the "Parish" in Scotland meant the manor and the area around it including the kirk! Look for the new Parish Life bulletin board and printed information about Parish Life ministries.

Current members, left to right: Deacons: Jane Drake & MH Hennagin; Pastor Paul Kuhn; members-at-large from the congregation: Edith Hoffman (chairman) Sheryl Barksdale, Nita Christensen (secretary), Meagan Vreeman, & Rin Karns



The work of the Parish Life Ministry Area includes:

- Helping with Potluck Plus dinners – usually the last Wednesday of the month
- Arranging for 1-2 catered dinners each year
- Organizing Funeral receptions – light lunches can be served after the funerals of members
- Overseeing the Fellowship Hour after Worship each Sunday
- Visiting or calling members who are in the hospital
- Dorcas Comfort Ministry – a prayer shawl ministry providing comforting gifts to members & FPC friends in need of encouragement but also gifts celebrating a time of great joy
- Prayer Chain – prayer requests are shared with members of the chain and in the bulletin
- Cards of Encouragement Ministry – cards are sent in sympathy or for encouragement
- Birthday Card Ministry – birthday cards are sent to members and friends of the church
- Elder ministry – keeping up with those who are home-bound or in care centers
- Communion visits to those in care centers or who are home-bound – call to request!!
- Helping oversee the Lord's Warehouse for women exiting homelessness or others in need
- Overseeing the VeggieDairian Ministry for the purchase of milk for CWRM
- Overseeing the TTC fleece blanket ministry ... part of the Dorcas Comfort Ministry
- Overseeing the Butterfly Tree – gifts at Christmas for the children of the women at TTC
- Working with the Sunday School to oversee Souper Bowl Sunday donations for CWRM
- Organizing our part of True Care's Baby Bottle Boomerang & Walk for Life fundraisers
- Providing donations for Interfaith

Is there an area in which YOU would like to become involved???

Thanksgivings

... for True Care's new 3D ultrasound machine!



Thanks to donations from the Casper community, all the funding has been provided to purchase equipment that will allow True Care Pregnancy Resource Center's patients to see 3D ultrasound images of their unborn babies! The non-profit, whose fundraisers are supported by First Presbyterian, is committed to providing timely, relevant, and free services for abortion-minded women in our community. Cutting edge life-saving technology like 3D ultrasound can help to erase the perceived need for abortion in Central Wyoming. This year, the 15 baby bottles Casper First members returned contained nearly \$300.00.



...for the life of Bernadine Reed



At the time of her death on March 15, 2014, at the age of 101 ³/₄, Bernadine Reed was our oldest member, joining the Church Triumphant less than one month after 102 year old Merl Randall. She was born June 6, 1912, and joined Casper First in 1923 at the age of 11, probably in the Tarpaper Tabernacle attached to The Cottage Church on 6th Street! Bernadine's story was told in the March 2011 Messenger, along with others who at that time were older than Casper First. She was ordained an elder at the age of 82 in 1994.

... for our

Elite 90 and More Club

in 2014

Repeated due to some inadvertent omissions last month!

Alice Palmer 10/18/1913
 Edith Hoffman 8/4/1916
 Mary Wetzel 4/30/1917
 Barbara Scifers 3/17/1919
 Bobbie Waldram 6/20/1919
 Howard Krans 8/23/1919
 Sue McLennan 8/2/1920
 Claire Crone 2/17/1921
 Margaret Bainter 3/6/1921
 Marielle Bondurant 5/1/1921
 Jean E. Davis 5/13/1921

Kay Aeschliman 11/11/1921
 Jean Swirczynski 1/12/1922
 Ernie Sabec 2/25/1922
 Fern Olsen 2/13/1923
 Sue Robertson 7/25/1923
 Doris Huffaker 9/25/1923
 June Ann McDaniel 10/6/1923
 Pete Anderson 10/12/1923
 Vi Truchot 10/19/1923
 Tom Schumann 2/22/1924
 Evelyn Sabec 3/25/1924

You are special in our church family!

...for the life of Harold Moore



Harold was born July 11, 1922. He joined the Church Triumphant on March 9, 2014, and Pastor Paul Kuhn officiated at a memorial service on March 15th, 2014, in the church sanctuary. Harold's story was shared in the April 2012 newsletter. He was ordained an elder at the Worland church in 1958. He was a long-time active member of Casper First, joining later in 1958 after he and his wife Shirley and their four children were transferred to Casper.

... for new opportunities to be involved actively in the life of the church!

Sunday morning GREETERS ...



The new Evangelism Committee is seeking friendly folks to greet all the new visitors we have been having on Sunday mornings! Look for the sign-up sheet in the parlor and commit to a Sunday that you can be in the Narthex prior to worship to welcome visitors and share introductions and printed information about the church if they seem interested.

BREAD MAKERS ...

As part of the new Ministry to Visitors, the Evangelism Committee is seeking individuals who are willing to provide bread for the Bread Ministry! If you would like to be contacted to take a turn when notified, please visit with Janis (chair,) Phyllis, Rin, or Bev. Volunteers can

either bake the bread or purchase a nice loaf of specialty bread. Certain breads like zucchini, banana, and pumpkin will store well in the freezer, allowing us to have the bread on hand for immediate delivery Sunday or Monday.



Sunday/Monday Bread DELIVERERS

Volunteers to DELIVER bread are needed as well! Delivery would be just that ... take the name and address of a visitor after Worship on Sunday and deliver the bread to them Sunday or Monday, letting the person know you are pleased that they joined us and hope they will come again ... that's all! Call the church office or visit with Janis (chair,) Phyllis, Rin, or Bev if you would like to be involved in this way.

... from the family of Harold Moore

Dear FPC Family,

The Harold Moore Family would like to thank you for all the love you extended to us through your prayers and help before, during and after Harold's last days with us. We are blessed beyond words by all of you.

In Christ,

The Harold Moore Family

...for our bakers!!!!

Parish Life GREATLY APPRECIATES all those who baked cookies, scones, or made dishes for SO many needs over the last month. We were able to serve two funeral receptions, two church dinners, and two concerts! Presbyterian cooks are the BEST!!!



... for our African brothers in Christ ... partners in spreading the Gospel

News from Kenya ...

Below is an e-mail we received from **Rev. Mpengu**, clerk of the Central Chogoria Presbytery. He wrote:

"Receive warm greetings and appreciation for what you have done to us as a presbytery. We have now a pastor to coordinate our activities in Kamwangu Mission (Nendini) area. We are now able to pay the pastor comfortably and we are filled with joy to see the work he is doing. We thank the Lord for you. We have requested the Head office to help us with a motorcycle to help him cover the expansive area comfortably. We hope that at one point some people from Casper Church will be able to visit Kamwangu. You are very much welcome to Kamwangu. You are always in our prayers. God bless you all."

We also heard from that pastor, **Mackylas Mutegi Linus**, whom we began supporting in December with our tithe to mission. We are committed to walk with Pastor Mackylas in ministry for four years.

"I am writing this short note to convey a word of appreciation to you for the gracious act you have awarded us, the people of the mission area. I as the pastor in charge I am comfortable as I continue to serve God's people. We are praying for you every day as we continue to serve the Lord. The support you gave us is overwhelming to us. May our heavenly father bless your servants of God. Your brother in Christ ..."

David Mbae, our liaison in Kenya, was SO gracious to travel to Kamwangu on a recent Saturday to take these pictures for us. We've learned that Pastor Mackylas is actually serving THREE churches in the Kamwangu Nendini. David plans to return on a Sunday to visit the churches and meet the members. Here you see two of the three churches; the third was a distance away and David was on a motorcycle! David also visited the construction sites of the 2 churches' new buildings. Both Mumbuni and Murambani members ran out of funding before the buildings were completed, however. The girl (pictured, the caretaker) at Mumbuni church and a man at the Murambani church knew about "Casper Church" when David asked. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Kamwangu Nendini!



Mumbuni Church, a rented shop in the Market Place



Inside the Mumbuni Church



new stone Mumbuni Church - construction has stalled



current wooden Murambani church



new stone Murambani Church, also stalled

News of Channel North Africa ...

Below is part of an e-mail received from **Ali Arhab** updating news of CNA's move to Southern France!

"I trust this finds you well and in peace. On March 5 CNA signed and made a down payment of 10% of the total of 1 million dollars for the purchase of the building in the southern part of France. [for the new expanded Christian Broadcasting Station] We have until May 31st to close the purchase. I would love to request your prayers for the Lord to provide us with the funds to purchase the building. We are currently half way of the cost, and we will need to raise the other half. Thank you, and may the Lord bless you! Ali"

Please pray for God's continued Provision for CNA and for Ali! There is an increased presence of CNA across North Africa as the DDK discipleship pastor training program expands and more pastors plant more home churches. The move of the Holy Spirit continues in a mighty way!!!

... for the Sacrament of Baptism

One year old Naomi Vreeman, youngest child of Meagan and Zach, was baptized on March 2, 2014. We rejoice at the new life in our midst and ask God for the Grace to fulfill our commitment to her.



... for a time of fellowship with our Administrative Commission 3/22 and for the very special EPC Installation service on March 23rd!



On March 22nd, our elders, deacons, Pastor Paul, and four members of the Presbytery's Administrative Commission assigned to Casper First, gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a soup and sandwich dinner prepared by our deacons.

Members of the Administrative Commission included, Rev. Rob McClelland from Faith Church in Loveland, CO, ruling elder Ken Roberts from Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Denver, Rev. Sharon Beekmann of Sharon Beekmann Ministries, Highlands Ranch, CO., and ruling elder Mike Wollert from the new Christ Reformed Presbyterian Church in Lingle.

After dinner Saturday the 22nd, our current ruling elders and deacons (listed on page 11) shared stories of how they came to faith in Jesus Christ, and they were asked questions about the Westminster Standard, all part of their examinations. In the future, as new elders and deacons are elected by our congregation and examined by our Session, they too will become officers in the EPC when they are

ordained/installed.

On Sunday the 23rd, the Congregation was asked official questions corporately to which they replied affirmatively. First Presbyterian Church (EPC) of Casper, WY, then moved from being a transitional member to an official member of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the EPC Presbytery of the West!!!

Following the installation of our six elders and eight of our 9 deacons, Pastor Paul was questioned, installed and given a charge by Rev. McClelland. Afterwards, all officers joined hands, others came forward for a laying on of hands, and Rev. McClelland prayed for the officers and for the church. All Glory to God for His faithful guidance through this journey!

...for our time of celebration on March 23rd after our final step in becoming an EPC Congregation!!!!



"And all who believed were together and had all things in common." Acts 2:44

... for the outreach potential of our 6th Annual Celtic Music Fest: 3/23



Church Officers and Staff- 2014

ELDERS

Moderator: Pastor Paul Kuhn prkuhn53@gmail.com Clerk of Session: Debbie Hutchins Treasurer: Leith Culver

Class of 2014

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|----------|--------------------|--|
| 1. David Christensen | P O Box 50188, 82602 | 265-1955 | Stewardship | dchris@tribcsp.com |
| 2. Greg Irwin | 1622 S. Oak, 82601 | 259-7078 | Evangelism | greg1@legalvideowyo.com |
| 3. Beverly Reese | 124 W 15 th 82601 | 235-5709 | Worship/Evangelism | bevreesee@centurylink.net |

Class of 2015

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Vacant | | | | |
| 2. Mike Fankhauser | 12239 Ranchero Rd 82609 | 265-8259 | Evangelism/Facilities | mikef@rockymtnfire.com |
| 3. Vacant | | | | |

Class of 2016

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| 1. Debbie Hutchins | 636 E. 12 th St. 82601 | 237-3703 | Clerk | debbie.hutchins@UR-Energy.com |
| 2. Zach Vreeman | 4043 Kent 82609 | (402) 613-2094 | Worship, Evangelism | zvreeman@gmail.com |
| 3. Vacant | | | | |

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator: Leith Culver

Secretary: Patti Christensen

Class of 2014

| | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Patti Christensen | P O Box 2294 82602 | 577-1192 | Facilities | chriskanspatti@aol.com |
| 2. Phyllis Karns | 1340 Newport 82609 | 315-7346 | Christian Growth, Evangelism | phyllis.karns@yahoo.com |
| 3. Leith Culver | 1912 Rustic Dr 82609 | 472-0369 | Evangelism/Stewardship | lculver52@msn.com |

Class of 2015

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------|-------------|--|
| 1. Bill Specht | 2626 E 7 th 82601 | 234-6823 | Facilities | wspecht3@msn.com |
| 2. Brad Ward | 1974 S. Cedar St. 82601 | 265-8660 | Facilities | brad@waterworksinc.com |
| 3. Jane Drake | 16550 W. Hwy. 220, 82604 | 265-4539 | Parish Life | drake5231@aol.com |

Class of 2016

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Janis Hall | 3030 Meadow Dr 82604 | 235-8504 | Evangelism | janis.hall@mrcpvf.com |
| 2. Carol McClure | 2141 E. 21 st St. 82609 | 258-5354 | Christian Growth/Worship | cmclure@bresnan.net |
| 3. MH Hennagin | 2033 W. 42 nd 82604 | 266-5613 | Evangelism/Parish Life | icebug@vcn.com |

307/237-9509 **CHURCH STAFF** fax # 307/473-2833

Pastor - Paul R. Kuhn

540 Thelma Dr 82609- - - - - (307) 333-1139

Bookkeeper – Wendy Campbell

1201 Beaumont Dr 82601- - - - - (307)472-2069

Choirmaster – Zach Vreeman

4043 Kent 82609 - - - - - (402) 613-2094

Organist – Beverly Reese

124 W 15th 82601 - - - - - (307) 235-5709

Maintenance – Patti Christensen

P O Box 2294 82602 - - - - - (307) 577-1192

Administrative Assistant – Sheila Feedback

5310 Pawnee Circle, Bar Nunn, WY 82601- - - - - (307) 277-8296

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.

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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