

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

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First Presbyterian Church of Casper

THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2014

Pastor Paul's Perambulation

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is a little known fact, at least in Protestant circles, that the original purpose of Advent was to prepare, not for Christmas, but for the Second Coming of Jesus as the Exalted Lord. The contrast could hardly be more clear; the baby in a manger, coming in humility to die on a cross, versus the Lord coming in majesty and triumph to judge the world. Isaiah 59:20 says, "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD."

At this time of year, with all of its excess and conspicuous consumption, supposedly based, however loosely, on the gift of the Christ Child Christ, it is good to consider

what it might be like when Christ comes again in glory. If He came today, would He find a repentant people, living in obedience and hope, remembering that we are to be a pilgrim people passing through the world on the way to our ultimate home, with God in heaven? Or would he find a people obsessed with "things," power, wealth, and the values of this world?

As we enjoy the celebrations pointing to the coming of the Christ Child, let our holiday observances and our holiday "spirits" give witness to our belief that He is coming again, soon. Thanks be to God! Merry Christmas!

Under the Mercy



God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, remember
Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day, to save us all
from Satan's power when we were gone astray; Tidings of comfort
and joy, comfort and joy. Tidings of comfort and joy.

From the TREASURER and STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



November 2014 Treasurer's Report

| OCTOBER | | YEAR TO DATE | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Balance on Hand | \$-1,132.51 | January 1, 2014 | \$ 2,316.03 |
| August Income | 11,144.89 | Income to Date | 183,699.94 |
| August Expenses | <u>16,682.50</u> | Expenses to Date | <u>192,686.09</u> |
| Income/Expenses | -5,537.61 | Income/Expenses | -8,986.15 |
| October 31, 2014 | \$-6,670.12 | July 31, 2014 | \$-6,670.12 |

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FIRSTPRESCASPER.COM

Stewardship Committee News

We are finalizing plans to pay for the second installment of our tribute to the PCUSA. We owe \$5980 by the first of January. We have received about 50% of the per capita request for 2014. That amount for each member is \$40. Please consider donating this amount or more by the end of December to help us make this expenditure. The Evangelism Out-

reach has set aside \$2400 for the mission part of this installment. We will have two years left to pay on our separation from the PCUSA. The good news is that it is a declining balance -- only \$4000 next year.

Please contact Leith Culver, our treasurer, or other committee members if you have questions or suggestions.

Church Officers and Staff - 2014

The Board of Deacons

Moderator: Leith Culver

Secretary: Patti Christensen

Class of 2014

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Patti Christensen | P.O. Box 2294 82602 | 577-1192 | christkanspatti@aol.com |
| | (Facilities) | | |
| Phyllis Karns | 1340 Newport 82609 | 315-7346 | phyllis.karns@yahoo.com |
| | (Christians Growth/Evangelism) | | |
| Leith Culver | 1912 Rustic Dr. 82609 | 472-0369 | lculver52@msn.com |
| | (Evangelism/Stewardship) | | |

Class of 2015

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

Class of 2016

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

Church Staff (cont.)

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Choirmaster - Zach Vreeman | 4043 Kent 82609..... | (402) 613-2094 |
| Organist - Beverly Reese | 124 W. 15 th 82601..... | (307) 235-5709 |
| Maintenance - Patti Christensen | P.O. Box 2294 82602..... | (307) 577-1192 |
| Administrative Assistant - Barb Martin | 6961 Columbia River Road 82604..... | (307) 359-1571 |

Church Officers and Staff - 2014

Session

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

Class of 2014

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

Class of 2015

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Mike Fankhauser | 12239 Ranchero Rd 82609 | 265-8259 | mikef@rockymtnfire.com |
| (Evangelism/Facilities) | | | |
| Al Sanford | 2851 Belmont Rd. 82604 | 234-0367 | |
| (Stewardship) | | | |
| Heidi Walker | 3250 Ridgecrest Dr. 82604 | 265-5205 | heidi.walker@bresnan.net |
| (Christian Growth) | | | |

Class of 2016

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Debbie Hutchins | 636 E. 12 th St. 82601 | 259-9455 | debbie.hutchins@ur-energy.com |
| (Clerk) | | | |
| Zach Vreeman | 4043 Kent 82609 | (402)613-2094 | zvreeman@gmail.com |
| (Worship/Christian Growth) | | | |
| Henry Groenenberg | 3421 Valley Rd. 82604 | 237-3909 | hg3421@live.com |
| (Stewardship) | | | |

307/237-9509

Church Staff

fax 307/473-2833

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Pastor - Paul R. Kuhn | 540 Thelma Dr. 82609 | (307) 333-1139 |
| Treasurer - Leith Culver | 1912 Rustic Dr. 82609 | (307) 472-0369 |
| Bookkeeper - Wendy Campbell | 1201 Beaumont Dr. 82601..... | (307) 472-2069 |

News from Evangelism



Evangelism Committee members Janis, Zach, Pastor Paul, Bev, and MH, along with the entire Vreeman clan, had a grand time wishing Trick-or-Treaters covering Wolcott Street a Happy Reformation Day on October 31st, the day that Martin Luther nailed his infamous 95 Theses to the church doors on campus in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517!

From a roaring fire in Bev's fire pit set up on the north landing to the sanctuary, Evangelism members and Martin himself

(AKA Zach) greeted close to 300 short, costumed people with pieces of chocolate. Many thanks to all who donated to our purchase of chocolate!

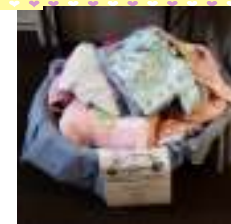
Martin was quick to explain himself and answer all the most-interesting questions that were flying, while staying totally in character all evening. All doors to the sanctuary were open, lights were on, and Bev had the organ on "recorded playback," sending strains of Bach out into the streets while she greeted revelers down below -- most effective!

You can see and hear Martin reading from the 95 Theses if you go to the church's Facebook page. All on Evangelism ... and Martin ... agreed that we will be repeating this outreach next year!!



Thanks to all who donated to the

True Care Baby Shower!





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CASPER

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www.firstprescasper.com
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church (EPC) Casper, WY

Presented by ArtCore
"Colcannon: A Celtic Christmas with Orchestra"

December 13th at 7:30 P.M.

Here at FPC

This is a concert that will bring you into the holiday season with humor, joy, and goodwill to men!



Is God challenging you to read through the Bible in one year?

Follow this link to get started:

<http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com>

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.



December Birthdays

- 4th Kaylee Jeffers
- 5th Camille MacManus
- 6th Tim Schenk
- 16th Hayden Christensen
- 17th Mike Brattis
- 22nd Justen Christensen
- 22nd Carol McClure
- 24th Eva Vreeman
- 25th Debbie Hutchins



You are invited to our
Christmas Potluck and Music Program

On December 14th following worship.

We hope you'll plan to join us!

December Ministry/Committee Meetings

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Parish Life | Dec. 1, 2:00 P.M. |
| Evangelism | Dec. 8, 5:30 P.M. |
| Stewardship | Dec. 8, 7:00 P.M. |
| Board of Deacons | Dec. 15, 6:15 P.M. |
| Session | Dec. 15, 7:00 P.M. |
| Worship | Dec. 22, 8:45 A.M. |
| Facilities | Dec. 22, 5:30 P.M. |

Butterfly Tree

On November 29th at 10 AM, the Butterfly Tree will be set up and decorated in the Parlor. Each of the butterfly tags on the tree identifies the name, age, and size of a child of current or former guest of The Transformation Center (the Central WY Rescue Mission's shelter for women and children) who could use a bit of help in providing gifts for their children or grandchildren.

Parish Life invites everyone to choose one or more Butterfly Tags from the tree. Just record the child's name from the tag and your name on the clipboard by the tree, and then be blessed while shopping for your gifts!



*Boys should receive:

1. A hoody/sweater/shirt and
2. Jeans/slacks

*Girls should receive:

1. A hoody/sweater/blouse and
2. Jeans/skirt/dress



Gifts should be somewhat comparable since some children may be opening gifts together. Some of the tags will also note much needed items for TTC itself or for ALL the emergency shelter guests to use. Other tags will have items for the upstairs discipleship program guests that they can share.

By December 21st, please wrap and return your gifts to the tree in the parlor, attaching the butterfly tag to the package. Do NOT put your name on the gift or tag.

Sorting and delivery of the gifts will take place on Sunday the 21st. If you would like to help sort gifts and deliver them to TTC on the 21st, please meet in the parlor after Worship that day!



Your Facilities Committee

Your Facilities Committee includes Mike Fankhauser, Patti Christensen, Henry Groenberg, Bill Specht, Brad Ward, and Tim Schenk. This group of committed individuals takes care of many big and small jobs behind the scenes, with little thanks or recognition.



In the past few months, among other things, they have...

- repaired toilets
- trimmed bushes
- overseen the issuing and return of several building keys
- battled armies of bees and ants
- arranged for the removal of problem tree limbs
- purchased and set up a new voice messaging system
- ground down the uneven sidewalk along 8th street
- assessed concrete deterioration
- overseen the repair of the boiler for the education wing

- arranged for winterization of the sprinkler system
- repaired a leak in the kitchen sink
- repaired a loose handrail in the choir loft
- considered for revision the building use form and rules
- arranged for the repair of the nonfunctional lock on the west entrance door
- discussed the locking and labeling the north entrance to the Narthex for safety purposes
- adjusted the timers on the worship recorder and thermostats to allow for the time change
- dealt with a clogged kitchen drain

The next time you see any of these folks, please thank them for their commitment and dedication, and for the fantastic job they do of keeping this beautiful, old building safe and in good repair for you!



CWRM Family Rescue Initiative (FRI)



A Call to Casper Faith Communities: Meet the Challenge!

At our recent Parish Life Ministry meeting, Ellen Mennell, from the Central Wyoming Rescue Mission, shared an exciting new opportunity for Casper churches, the FAMILY RESCUE INITIATIVE. For the last year, Ellen volunteered her time to lead monthly workshops on mentoring INDIVIDUAL Mission Program guests. This fall, Ellen was hired part-time to develop a mentoring program for homeless FAMILIES. The Initiative is modeled after a successful program used at the Denver Rescue Mission. The chaplain there is a friend of Brad Hopkins, CWRM director, and is also an EPC pastor. FPC commissioners have met at Presbytery of the West meetings.

DESIRE OF FAMILY RESCUE INITIATIVE: having "a community effort to end homelessness for families in the city of Casper

[and] envisioning "faith-based communities fulfilling the great commission of servicing those in desperate need." Interfaith and Community Action are among those consulted to identify candidates in the community. NCSA believes 150 families are presently homeless in Casper; they now live in their cars, campers, hotels, or at Life Steps.

ELLEN'S TASK: creating media materials and curriculum for CHURCH MENTORING TEAMS OF 2-6 to use with families identified and screened by the Mission. She has contacted all 87 churches in Casper to ask them to pray about coming onboard the FAMILY RESCUE INITIATIVE. To date, 2 churches have committed.

NECESSARY COMMITMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:

- > Each CHURCH commits to create a CHURCH MENTORING TEAM of 2-6 from our midst
- > Each TEAM commits to participate in a 90-minute training at the Mission with Ellen. Included is time to ask questions and clear up any concerns. Next the team meets with the family seven times over a 4-6 month period, preferably at the TEAM'S church. It is desired, but not required, for the

CWRM Family Rescue Initiative (cont.)

family to begin attending that church. With God's guidance, the team uses the curriculum to guide the family towards self-sufficiency.

> Each FAMILY commits to attend the 7 meetings. They must have at least 1 job income for a minimum of 3 months, have no felonies, and be married.

> CWRM'S FAMILY RESCUE INITIATIVE commits to provide the TEAM'S 90 minute training session, to provide an outline for each Mentoring Team/ Family meeting, to supply the mentoring tools (financial, goal-setting, and parenting guidebooks), to follow up monthly with the TEAM, and to have a quarterly Mentor's Roundtable training with all TEAMS. No TEAM is left to wonder what to do next ... help is always available. Finally, CWRM commits to provide each homeless family with \$1000 towards 1st month's rent and deposit and guide them as they search for housing in Casper's pitiful low income housing market.

CASPER FIRST'S PART IN THE FAMILY RESCUE INITIATIVE:
After Ellen's visit, Parish Life

members recommended to Session that First Pres should become one of the faith-based communities helping to end homelessness for families in our community. Session approved Parish Life's request. Parish Life also received the blessings of the Board of Deacons and the Evangelism Committee.

WHAT'S NEXT?? FPC MENTORS ARE NEEDED! Take time to pray about these questions!!!

- * Do you desire to teach, inspire, and empower someone else?
- * Do you long to be a living expression of God's kindness to those less fortunate?
- * Do you have gifts waiting to be unearthed through acts of service?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, contact a Parish Life member (Edith, Nita, Meagan, Jean, Jane, Sheryl, MH). The Holy Spirit and CWRM will equip you, so experience is NOT a prerequisite. Both men and women are needed. Think of the difference less than 24 hours of your time and your love could make in a family's future!

RESCUE... RECONCILE... RESTORE...