

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

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First Presbyterian Church of Casper

THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2014

Pastor Paul's Perambulation

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Over the months of August and September the sermons I put before you addressed the topic of what makes the church the Church. We looked at a wide variety of issues and how they might potentially be approached in and from the Scriptures. There was a stress placed on what it is to be "Reformed."

Some of us greatly enjoyed the Reformation Sunday potluck, program, and hymn sing on October 26th following worship. As God would have it the video presentation failed for technical reasons. But our inimitable Choir Master, Zach, treated us to a marvelous impromptu discourse on how the Reformation affected music in the church. He was truly enlightening regarding our heritage. Several of our friends from Christ Reformed Church joined us for the hymn sing.

Now, as I am keenly aware of the shortness of the time remaining in my ministry here in this place, it seems quite appropriate to take another approach to a related subject. That is to talk to you about Christ's expectations of His Church.

We find in the seven letters to the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 some direct and clear teaching from the

Exalted Lord Jesus directed to specific issues in the specific historical churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. I believe this teaching is important and relevant, not only to these historic churches of the first century, but also to the state of the Christian churches of our own day and time. We will, I believe, find these letters challenging to us and thought-provoking, to say the least. So for the next 7 weeks I will be preaching on these texts.

I urge you to read these texts ahead of the preaching in order to get the fullest measure of understanding of how Jesus might be looking at His Church and what His expectations are. November 2nd begins this series with Christ's expectations of the Church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7, with the rest to follow through November and up until Christmas.

Lastly, let me encourage each of us to consider, in this Thanksgiving season, all that we have for which we ought to be thankful to God our heavenly Father, and especially for Jesus Christ and Scripture's witness to His grace and glory.

Under the Mercy,
Paul

From the TREASURER and STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



September 2014 Treasurer's Report

SEPTEMBER		YEAR TO DATE	
Balance on Hand	\$-1,060.49	January 1, 2014	\$ 2,316.03
August Income	15,812.56	Income to Date	172,555.05
August Expenses	<u>15,884.58</u>	Expenses to Date	<u>176,003.59</u>
Income/Expenses	-72.02	Income/Expenses	-3,448.54
August 31, 2014	\$-1,132.51	July 31, 2014	\$-1,132.51

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

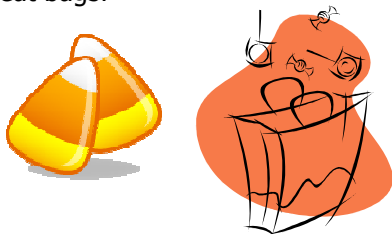
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Reformation-Day Treating



Volunteers will be handing out treats at the 8th St. entrance to the church on the evening of Oct. 31st. Along with the treats will be a card explaining Reformation Day and its significance to the church.

So, if any of you know any little treat-gatherers who will be out on that night, send them by to pick up some Reformation-Day treat bags!



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

Class of 2015

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

Class of 2016

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

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 Parish Life



Last March, we got our nice big Lord's Warehouse room set up next to the nursery with donations which had been previously stored both on the 2nd floor and basement of the education wing. Soon afterwards, for reasons unrelated to FPC, the Central Wyoming Rescue Mission began storing all their Bed Bath and Beyond donations at Rescued Treasures. As often happens when management changes, however, reasons for this change became lost, and as BB & B boxes piled higher and higher in the back of Rescued Treasures, new management and members of Parish Life met to discuss the situation when bedding options in the Lord's Warehouse became limited.

We are happy to report that FPC is once again receiving all Bed Bath & Beyond donations! Parish Life members (and their shorter assistants) have unpacked the pictured backlog of donations that Rescued Treas-

ures delivered three weeks ago, and empty boxes are ready for Don Goff to take to recycling. THANK YOU, Don! Shelves are once again full of some wonderful merchandise that will bless future women/children (AND now men as well!) who exit the Central Wyoming Rescue Mission as they build new lives. Anyone in need referred to FPC is able to "shop" in the Lord's Warehouse. We have had referrals from other churches and from Interfaith over the years. We are going to need volunteers from some of our men who have keys to the church, to meet the men and their case managers when they go to FPC to "shop!" Let a Parish Life member know if you are able to help, FPC men!

We are still in need of your donations of small appliances, apartment-sized furniture, and twin beds. Please contact anyone on Parish Life if you would like to help them unpack and shelve Bed Bath and Beyond donations! We unpack deliveries WEEKLY!!





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CASPER

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Facebook: First Presbyterian Church (EPC) Casper, WY

Harvestfest Dinner

The annual Parish Life Harvestfest catered dinner was held on October 22 in the church Fellowship Hall. Those in attendance enjoyed a delightful authentic Jambalaya dinner complete with our traditional choice of delicious cream pies! If you enjoyed the Jambalaya and cornbread, copies of those recipes are available in the magazine rack outside the church office.



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.



Happy Birthday

TrueCare Baby Shower

November Birthdays

- 2nd Kathleen Aeschliman
- 8th Leonard Gilleland
- 12th Leith Culver
- 12th Janis Hall
- 20th Brad Christensen
- 23rd Kim Brattis
- 28th Brian Barksdale
- 21st Isaac Vreeman



TrueCare will have a baby shower on Thursday, Nov. 13th at 6:30 P.M. at Highland Park Community Church, Room 1321. They are collecting gifts to give to their patients and their babies. You are welcome to join in the fun, or you may just donate a gift to send. Collection baskets are near all sanctuary entrances. Items needed include diapers (size 1, 2, NB), baby clothing (NB-12mo. for boys and girls), baby shampoo, and lotion.

November Ministry/Committee Meetings

Parish Life	Nov. 3, 2:00 P.M.
Evangelism	Nov. 10, 5:30 P.M.
Stewardship	Nov. 10, 7:00 P.M.
Board of Deacons	Nov. 17, 6:15 P.M.
Session	Nov. 17, 7:00 P.M.
Worship	Nov. 24, 8:45 A.M.
Facilities	Nov. 24, 5:30 P.M.

Butterfly Tree



Butterfly cut-outs like the one pictured here will be on this year's Butterfly Tree in

the parlor beginning the first Sunday of Advent, November 30th. The tags will identify the names, ages, and sizes of the children of current and some former guests 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
2. Jeans/slacks

*Girls should receive:

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



In other words, each child should receive a 2 or 3 piece outfit. 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 such as Veggie Tales DVDs, knit gloves, paper products, or cleaning needs. Other tags will have items for the upstairs discipleship program guests that they can share like a new appliance, Christian CDs, or good PG/PG13 movies.



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. Children will be told that the gifts are from their moms/ grandmothers.

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!

Worship Committee Update

The Worship Committee meets each month to discuss all aspects of the worship service. One of our duties is to select the hymns for the following month's services. This is done with thoughtful and prayerful consideration, always referring to the scriptures and sermon topic for each Sunday.



Because we have so many wonderful unfamiliar hymns in our new hymnals, we also choose a new introit to introduce to the congregation each month. The choir sings the first verse to help the congregation learn the tune, and then everyone sings the next verse. The same introit is sung for the entire month with the thought being that by the end of the month, the hymn will be familiar and comfortable.

The recent change in worship time to 11:00 A.M. was also a recommendation from the Worship Committee. This change includes a time of fellowship at 10:15 following Sunday School. It also allows the choir to rehearse, the bell choir to rehearse when it is playing on Sunday morning, and it gives Pastor Paul the opportunity to meet with the liturgist and choir for prayer before the service begins.

The members of the Worship Committee are Carol McClure, Beverly Reese, Zach Vreeman and Grace Ward. Please feel free to contact any of the members if you have questions or suggestions.



THANK YOU

to Don Goff for helping trim the bushes in September.

Thanks for your service, Don!

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

Follow this link to get started:

<http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com>

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EPC Presbytery of the West Meeting



The EPC's Presbytery of the West met October 3-4, 2014, at Springhill Church In-Town, Bozeman, Montana. Attending from FPC were Pastor Paul, Bev Reese, and MH Hennagin. We learned that the one-year-old "Springhill In-Town" facility has a wing with the same architectural design as the historic Springhill "Legacy" church in Belgrade (see the September '14 newsletter.) The new church is even oriented to face the older building located at the mountain's base; the same pastor serves both. Members shared that the old church was seen in "A River Runs Through It."

The time spent with commissioners from our 41 EPC West churches in meetings and in worship was, like the Presbyterian church, connectional and relational; we met new

friends and learned so much from them! It was a blessing to see committee chairs begin their reports with prayer and give God the glory for the accomplishments of the group. Breakout sessions for groups of 3-4 commissioners allowed us to share what God is doing in our churches and to pray for one another.

The examinations for ministerial candidates with a call or who desired to come under the care of the Presbytery were extremely enlightening. Questions asked by commissioners were straightforward yet not antagonistic ... penetrating yet compassionate. It was such a blessing to observe this process of Truth-seeking... discernment of the will of the Holy Spirit. The aspiring pastors and one lay pastor had diverse backgrounds ranging



New church



Historic church

EPC Presbytery of the West Meeting

from LDS to Catholic to Dutch Reformed to Baptist to Assembly of God, so questions allowed for quite a revelation of former theological beliefs. After each examination, there was a time of hands-on prayer for the candidate. Rev. Mark Heubl, our EPC West Stated Clerk, pointed out that as ordination standards change in seminaries, we will need to ask more hard questions such as were asked here. Rev. Jeff Jeremiah, EPC General Assembly Stated Clerk, praised the work of the commissioners after one especially difficult examination, and stressed the importance of continuing to uphold our standards in this way.

Rev. Jeremiah reported

543 EPC churches to date, 43 more than when we joined a year ago; 30 more are in the dismissal process. As expected, since the PCUSA's 2014 General Assembly, the EPC main office in Livonia, MI, has only received 10 church inquiries; the 12 Presbyteries only got 35 inquiries. He proposed that only 5-7 more PCUSA churches will move to the ECP. His reasoning for this is that churches leaving the PCUSA now will join ECO, which offers a less stringent re-affiliation process than the EPC. Dr. Jeremiah also gave an update about the new proposed EPC Vision Statement. You'll be reading more about that in the months to come.

