

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

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First Presbyterian Church of Casper

THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2014

Pastor Paul's Perambulation

To the Congregation
First Presbyterian Church
(EPC) Casper, WY

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace, from
God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

I am grateful to God for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving Christ and His Church in this place. It has been absolutely wonderful, and I believe much has been accomplished in a very short time, in renewing this church and re-establishing the rule of Scripture, especially in worship, but also to all the areas to which it speaks. I believe we have, by the grace of God, set the stage for something truly wonderful to happen here.

When I was being interviewed by the PNC, I was asked how long I thought I might be able to continue to minister in this place. My answer was a hope to continue

for 5 to 7 years. It now appears that it will be the former rather than the latter.

What with three surgeries, a bout with depression and the like, the medical folk I have spoken with advise that I retire from full-time ministry and spend some time healing. The way some of them put it is that I have no reserves left. All the reserves of energy and strength upon which one relies and draws upon in crisis have been exhausted. They advise me that to remain in a calling that is so stressful as parish ministry would be damaging to me and quite possibly to the church. Since I cannot consider this I am herewith announcing my intention to retire from parish ministry, effective January 1, 2015.

(Cont. on p. 2)



From the TREASURER and
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



JULY 2014 Treasurer's Report

JULY		YEAR TO DATE	
Balance on Hand	\$-4,667.61	January 1, 2014	\$ 2,316.03
July Income	14,266.11	Income to Date	133,414.25
July Expenses	<u>14,865.76</u>	Expenses to Date	<u>140,997.54</u>
Income/Expenses	-599.65	Income/Expenses	-7,583.29
July 31, 2014	\$-5,267.26	July 31, 2014	\$-5,267.26

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FIRSTPRESCASPER.COM

Pastor Paul's Perambulation *(cont. from p. 1)*

Until that time, with the consent of the congregation, I will continue to be pastor of this church, and moderator of your session.

Also, the Pastor Search committee will need to be formed and educated as to its very many and important responsibilities.

In this transitional period there is much to be done. The normal worship needs to continue to glorify God and edify His people. The Christian education program needs much additional effort. All the other "normal" activities need to continue and improve.

May God grant us His favor as we continue to seek His guidance and grace.

Yours in Christ,
Paul



Church Officers and Staff - 2014

The Board of Deacons

Moderator: Leith Culver

Secretary: Patti Christensen

Class of 2014

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

Class of 2015

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

Class of 2016

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



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	bevrees@centurylink.net
	(Worship/Evangelism)		

Class of 2015

Vacant
 Mike Fankhauser 12239 Ranchero Rd 82609 265-8259 mikef@rockymtnfire.com
 (Evangelism/Facilities)
 Vacant

Class of 2016

Debbie Hutchins 636 E. 12th St. 82601 237-3703 debbie.hutchins@ur-energy.com
 (Clerk)
 Zach Vreeman 4043 Kent 82609 (402)613-2094 zvreeman@gmail.com
 (Worship/Evangelism)
 Vacant

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
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

From the SESSION

The session was of course saddened by the news from Paul that he was retiring. We know that we will miss his leadership and teaching greatly, and that we now have the difficult task of replacing him. We thank God for the five years he gave us to have Paul, and he will always remain the pastor who led this congregation through a challenging period, but one that re-centered this church on the truth of scripture.

So what happens next? Every church faces transitions in leadership at various times, and looking forward we envision an easier pastor search process now that we are part of the EPC. Unlike in the PCUSA, we may begin the

search process immediately—we do not have to wait until we are vacant, and we are not required to have a period of interim. Because we are not hindered from beginning this work, the session has laid some groundwork already in the way of schedule so that we can begin this anticipated 4-6 month process.

We will meet as a congregation on September 14 following the worship service to review and revise the church’s mission statement, and to nominate and elect a search committee. Please pray for God’s blessing and wisdom on this next chapter in the life of our church.

STORIES EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

Have you ever been in a conversation or Bible study, or listening to a sermon, and someone says “You all know the story of so-and so,” and you don’t have a clue who they are talking about? Well, we will be trying to rectify that.

Starting Sunday, September 7^h, during the Sunday School hour, and repeated on Wednesday morning, September 10th, at 9:30

AM, we will begin our Old Testament Survey class, subtitled “Old Testament Stories Everyone Should Know.”

If you don’t know Melchizedek from Malachi, or Ezra from Ezekiel, come and join us to increase your Biblical knowledge, and maybe even have a little fun.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CASPER

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Casper, Wyoming 82601

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E-mail: firstpc@qwestoffice.net
www.firstprescasper.com
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church (EPC) Casper, WY

From the CHOIRMASTER

Fall is in the air, which means so is music! Choir and Bells will have their first rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3, and will be participating in worship beginning September 7. Choir meets at 7:00, and bells at 8:00. Everyone is welcome to participate!



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

September Birthdays

10th	Clancy Hall
13th	Sue Rainey
13th	Bill Specht
18th	Russet Clasen
23rd	Walter Hoshaw
25th	Doris Huffaker
27th	Lynn Lange
29th	Heather Milliken



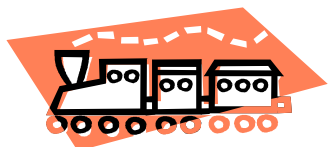
Schedule Change Beginning September 7th
9:15 Sunday School
10:15 Fellowship Time
11:00 Worship



Join us for
CHOIR and/or BELLS
Rehearsals are on
Wednesdays
beginning **Sept. 3rd**
Choir starts at **7:00 P.M.** and
Bells are at **8:00 P.M.**

Everyone is welcome!





Riders on the Orphan Train

At FPC
Sept. 25th at 7:30 P.M.

Homecoming Potluck

Sun., Sept. 21st
after worship
in the Social Hall

Hosted by Parish Life Ministry

**We'd like to invite all members of
our church family who are 80 years
or older to our
80+ Brunch
Saturday, Sept. 13th at 10:30 A.M.
in the Social Hall**

Ministry/Committee Meetings

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

Upcoming PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST Meeting

The next Presbytery of the West meeting will be held at Springhill Presbyterian Church in Bozeman, MT, October 3-4, 2014. Springhill was dismissed from the PC(USA) in November 2009 and is one of two EPC churches in Montana at this time (the other being in West Yellowstone.)



It is exciting to anticipate learning more about what God is doing in this most unique church and to meet Springhill's bold church leaders! The building pictured is actually in Belgrade, MT, and is the original Springhill Presbyterian Church, an historical landmark. As of last year, however, Springhill is one church that meets in two locations. The most recent "hub" building of Springhill is where Presbytery will meet, in the midst of Bozeman, the fastest growing city in Montana.

This church-with-two-sites intends to keep Christ at the center of all they do in order to achieve three goals by 2020:

- DOUBLE MINISTRY PARTNERS WORLDWIDE in order to spread the gospel.
- PLANT FIVE SITES REGIONALLY in addition to the two existing sites. New ones would be regional campuses in the Gallatin Valley or other locations in the tri-state area of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.
- BECOME EQUIPPED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL reaching out to others with the Truth

MH Hennagin (one of two 2014 FPC elder commissioners)



*From the EVANGELISM COMMITTEE --
Praying for Our EPC World Outreach
Missionaries*

Thank you from the Evangelism Committee to those of you who have already been called by God to pray for one of our EPC missionary couples or an individual missionary or their child! You learned last month that the Evangelism Committee has asked EACH OF US to peruse the missionary folders on the tall mission table outside the sanctuary and choose one person or one couple/family to pray for in our times of prayer each day! If you would like to receive your own newsletters from the missionary for whom you are praying, that can be arranged.

IN ADDITION, Evangelism asks that we place our names on the list of intercessors just added to the tall table in the mission area. This will help us ensure everyone is covered in prayer. We realize it is inconvenient not to be able to take the printed information on the tall table home, however we must follow the EPC's confidentiality guidelines. Feel free to take a folder to

the library or parlor to read and take notes, then return it to the table so others can read it.

An option for those who want to be more on top of the needs of our EPC missionaries and read prayer requests on personal computers or phones:

- e-mail Phil Thrash at phil.thrash@epwo.net telling him you would like to pray for our missionaries and to register with WOonthego. (WO = World Outreach)
- Use the invitation code he sends you to go to www.woonthego.com and sign in securely. Save the user name & password you create!
- Peruse the daily e-mails you receive from WOonthego to see if your missionary has a recent prayer request.
- Be blessed as you pray and become closer to our LORD in the process!



About the NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Service on the Nominating Committee has become increasingly frustrating for its members. It seems that congregation members are more and more reluctant to answer the call to serve. Perhaps this is due to a lack of understanding and awareness of the care with which the committee acts in seeking God's will in this matter.

The process the committee follows is one that is serious, scriptural, and prayerful. The committee begins with prayer, asking to be led by the Holy Spirit to the right person for the right task. After this time of prayer the committee moves through the scriptural descriptions of qualifications for each office, elder or deacon. After discussion of these qualifications, the committee members are asked to go home and prayerfully consider who might be the best fit. They are then asked to return to the next meeting with a prioritized list of people they believe would be the best candidates. Understanding the need for complete confidentiality, the members can then candidly discuss each candidate and his or her qualifications. After praying again over these people, the committee seeks consensus on their choices. If a clear consensus arises the committee assigns members to

approach the potential nominees to inquire as to their willingness to serve. If no consensus is clear, the committee members again go home to pray over the potential candidates again until the next meeting. So before you are asked to serve, the committee process has applied scripture, judgment and prayer.

In the Reformed tradition we understand that the call of the congregation, when dutifully pursued, is the call of God, given voice through the people on the nominating committee. While it is possible for the committee to err, we believe that it is far less likely to err than is any individual person who has not had the benefit of the time and diligence of a group of committed people seeking God's will.

At this critical juncture in the life of this congregation we need the service of those whom God has identified and whom God has called. Sometimes this may require the sacrificial giving of your time and effort for the church. Please consider that through this serious prayerful and scriptural process God may well be calling you even if doubt your capacity or availability to serve.