

FPC NEWS

OFF THE INTERIM PASTOR'S DESK Pastor Paul Neshangwe, the Presbytery of Zimbabwe Excerpts from his message on March 2 in Bozeman

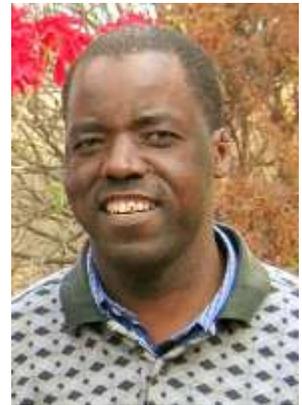
The Reverend Paul Neshangwe, a Moderator of the Presbytery of Zimbabwe, since 2008 serving in Denver Presbytery as a mission partner, was our special guest and keynote speaker at our recent Presbytery meeting. One of his strengths is in strengthening and developing congregations by focusing on peacemaking and racial issues. His Presbyterian Church in Zimbabwe works and witnesses in ecumenical and civic organizations “in a society where the only hope is in their faith and trust in a living God.” He spoke or preached to us for two hours running at the Friday afternoon session and was the preacher for the evening worship. He spoke with no notes, and apparently that is the pattern in Zimbabwe and elsewhere in Africa. The pastor depends on the Holy Spirit to lead him or her. Paul’s wife Lydia is at Denver Seminary (Methodist?) studying for the ministry.

“Who do you listen to?” That is the key question Jesus asks us at his Transfiguration. “Why do you call me, Lord, and do not do what I ask?” Reverend Paul Neshangwe told us; (He did speak for two hours without notes and without a break...) “Forgive me, I am from Africa; we believe in eternity!”

In the Creation, everything is so good! When God is walking around, moving in the Garden, what he loves so much is to be family with Adam and Eve: his passionate love for them! (In Zimbabwe we do not have this word, this pronoun, for male and female.) God says, “Where are you? I need to connect with you. I have this love, I need to give it away to you.” Naked? How did you find it out? All along I was having good fellowship with

you in your nakedness. I was having a precious relationship. Your small (naked) mind will lie to you.

You try to cover your nakedness in your own way. The rest of creation will expose you. For your benefit, I am going to cover you now, but at the expense of a fellow creature (the snake).”



God wants us to get back where we were in his love and incredible fellowship, before we were exposed. Now we use people and we relate to things. Instead, relate to people and use things. That fruit of the tree has become more precious than your love or your partner. Your sense of belonging? You belong to God, to each other.

Do you know why Americans go into therapy—because of their things. They have lost their belonging to God in that nakedness. If you eat one meal around a table with your family, you don’t need therapy. If I am wrong, then pray to the Lord (for me). But if not, it is really disturbing!

The level of illiteracy is shocking (Bible illiteracy in the USA). My mother cannot read or write, but she can quote the Scriptures (and tell you where to find the passage). It is one thing to read (the Bible). But do you know what it means? Maybe God is interested in emphasizing this today. The congregation in Zimbabwe grew a great deal

when I left. When I was there, I was stumbling through them.

We need to emphasize giving glory to our God. This is what we have seen God doing in our midst, in our lives through you. We are sending you with our blessing... we hope you will do a great deal more! Until you/we start loving one another, why go on to the next sermon? Why are you not hearing me? Of all things Jesus said to do— why make disciples? Why is it important? “Think of all the authority in heaven and on earth! It is given to me! Every authority you can think of...” He doesn’t say, “I am negotiating authority.

Have you ever thought why Jesus chose you? He can hold back, but he does not hold on to it (all authority) He says, “This is what I want you to do; go and make disciples.” The one task: to make disciples! We have authority to say: this is going to change now!

We think the task is not to die in sin, or not to be lost. Is that the answer?

Jesus used small things for the church: salt, mustard seed, yeast. We make a large movement (in the American church) Individualism in America is amazing. I come from a very big family (in Zimbabwe). Twenty of us! My dad had four wives. My (birth) mom is the queen. So great! I have had four moms. A family calls you back and says: brother, you are going in the wrong direction. I

now love all the children (of our family) with a passion, I love my father. I know the real Father and he loves me. If I (would) have to be with the Father in Heaven today, our whole family will be praying for you. Their praying extends across the borders. We belong to the Kingdom.

We have Methodist, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, Seventh Day Adventist in my family. We are very ecumenical. They know the Bible real well. This is what the Word of God says, “Let’s work it through together.” A way of saying what is the love of God saying today? We need to search together.

In America they give the impression that God is just an idea. If it doesn’t work, throw it away and choose another word. They are not passionate. Don’t call me “fundamentalist” or “evangelical”: I just want to be a follower of Jesus.

(When you wake up in the morning) God says, “I am glad you are up. I was already up. ‘Follow me.’” That’s all he says. He never says, “I am a conservative. Or I am a liberal God today, only, ‘Follow me.’” (I say): “Do you have an itinerary for me today—what?” He says, “Just follow me and find out.” It is so exciting. *(My note: I do not know whether this last sentence goes with what God says, or is Paul’s comment. Either way works for me.)*

Pastor Dave

SESSION SUMMARY

March 19 & 25, 2012

Our members in the news: The Gideons will be invited to occupy the pulpit in May or June. It was announced that Mary Jo Younglund is planning to move to Gillette, Wyoming, after she sells her home. This leaves two vacancies on the Deacons. Dwight Conley received a stint for his heart which restores full oxygen flow. He is in good health now.

Ruth Schott recently went to Seattle to have her eyes checked, and she will go back in May for eye surgery. She also visited her daughter. Alice Spear-Bankey finally was able to take her trip to central California. Our prayers are with Bill Mathers in North Dakota who is recovering from two falls.

Worship: On Palm Sunday we will send out our home Communion teams. The men of the church will again cook breakfast on Easter morning (9:00 AM). There will be no Adult class on Easter. An invitation by the First Methodist Church to share in a Christian Seder meal on Maunday Thursday was not approved. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on Palm Sunday and Easter morning.

New church policies: The Worship Committee description was approved. The following were approved for inclusion in the Church Operations

Manual: a new funeral policy, a job description for the wedding hostess (Lisa Helland), and a policy on welcoming back former pastors and those who return to live here after retirement. This was done after consultation with the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. The Guidelines for Local Mission (helping drop-ins and transients) was approved. A proposed Sexual Misconduct Policy was handed out for a first reading and for feedback. This policy has been prepared by Caroline Fleming who also was a member of the committee to draft a policy for the Presbytery of Yellowstone.

The Session again tabled a discussion on what constitutes an "inactive" member, but a letter to all members who have not been active was approved to be mailed out.

Pastor's trips to Texas: Pastor Dave's request to celebrate a delayed Easter with Peggy and family from April 9-16 was granted. Also ten days from May 24 to June 4 to attend a grandson's high school graduation and to accept the invitation of the Kerens, TX, Presbyterian Church to be their Homecoming Sunday guest preacher on June 3. This is Peggy's home church. Dave has donated a number of reference books from his collection to the church library. Caroline Fleming is our Presbytery lay commission to GA in Pittsburgh.

Budget & Finance Committee: Chair Wayne Helland and Vice-chair Sue Backland will be calling a meeting soon to continue work on the 2012 budget, which has been on hold. A proposed budget has been prepared by Roxy Carlson, which will be a starting point.

Latest News on our Stained-Glass Windows: Vern Taylor has been in contact with Willett-Hauser: Mike Hauser (crew coordinator) reported that they plan to be here from mid to late April, again depending on weather. They will call ahead of time to make sure we are on board with their plans.

A detailed bid from Stokes Brothers for \$2,080 has been received to finish the upstairs area, repair places where water has leaked from the roof, and for additional shelving. The project has been tabled until the windows restoration is finished.

Also the professional carpet cleaning in the sanctuary will also be postponed for the same reason. The rest of the church carpeting will be cleaned this spring. The PW Rummage Sale was a little smaller than last year, but all the cinnamon rolls were sold! More than \$800 was raised for mission projects. PW is also donating one of their quilts to the Donnelly family who lost their home to fire.

We need another adult to take over Wayne Lathrop's volunteer work on Sunday mornings with the electronics and special equipment. Kaylynn Danklefsen is helping him.

The next monthly meeting of Session has been postponed one week to Monday, April 23, 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Dave Schneider



Our Worship Services are broadcast every Sunday Morning on KATL, 770 AM. This makes it possible for those who cannot be at services to still worship with us. A wonderful way to honor someone special or a special date and to support a wonderful outreach of the Church, is to sponsor a broadcast. If you would like to Sponsor a Broadcast, please contact Jessica in the Church Office to schedule a date.

When a woman decided to send the old family Bible to her brother in another state, the postal worker asked her if there was anything breakable in the package. "Only the Ten Commandments," she replied.

REPORT ON PASTOR DAVE

After a number of special tests and trips to Billings Clinic in Billings, his neurosurgeon is unable to find the source of his leg pain. The doctor says he will have to wait until something else goes wrong to pinpoint it. In the meantime he will have a series of three epidural injections in the back and physical therapy at the Holy Rosary Hospital for his spine. He has also been told to lose some weight.

Special thanks is extended to those of you who were so generous with your time and help in driving him to Billings: Pat and Dwight Conley, Eleanor Hartmann, & Wayne and Betty Lou Helland. He expects to be on vacation after Easter for a week in Texas with Peggy and family.



Thanks to all who helped with our Rummage Sale March 10th. Some of our women were there all six days. It's a lot of hard work for a sale that big.

Also, thanks to those who attended the World Day of Prayer. Donalene McLeod, Maxine Guidice and Delores Lathrop participated. Next year we are the hostess for it.

We helped with Bingo at the Holy Rosary Healthcare Extended Care March 15, 22 & 29th. Those helping were Donalene McLeod, Betty McCourt, Ilene Hough, Pauline Bigelow, Maxine Guidice, Eleanor Hartmann, Delores Lathrop, Mille Valach, Ina McRae, & Don Bidwell.

We are trying to get things ready for the next year and are asking the Circle's to check our budget and let us know if you want changes. Dues of \$10.00 are also due for the year. This includes all Circle members and members at large.

Our annual Spring Luncheon is May 10th at noon. We are planning a salad bar and if you plan to attend, would like you to bring a salad.

We are especially thankful for the great church family we have here. For the great help we enjoy year around. Bless all of you.

The next PW Coordinating Team meeting will be April 9 at 9:30 a.m.

PW Fellowship is weekly on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

The Deborah Circle will meet on April 12th and the Elizabeth Circle will meet on April 24th.



Wayne Lathrop is still looking for someone willing to take over as the Sound Technician for the Church. Please contact Wayne or the Church office for more information.

**Wishing U A
HAPPY SPRING!**





COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

Palm Sunday, April 1 – we will also celebrate Holy Communion.

A celebration of Palms! Pastor Dave's Message: "God Needs Me" is from Mark 11:1-11.

Maundy Thursday, April 5 – A simple Communion Service in the sanctuary

Dave will give the final sermon in our Lenten series from John 13:2b-12, 21-30. "The Last Ones Who Followed Jesus: the Disciples."

Easter Sunday, April 8: 9:00 AM - As we did last year, the men of the church will cook breakfast for everyone.

No Adult Discussion class this morning. We will also have the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering & a special time with the children today. The message is from the Easter story in John 20:1-18: "Stranger From Paradise."

Sacred Heart Parish is hosting an Ecumenical Lenten Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, April 3rd beginning at 6:45 AM at the Sacred Heart Parish Center Social Hall, 510 N. Montana Ave. In the tradition of the former Ministerial Association-sponsored breakfasts, everyone is invited to attend. Please join Sacred Heart parishioners as we come to the end of our Lenten journey at this Holy Week gathering. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact the Parish office at 234-1691.

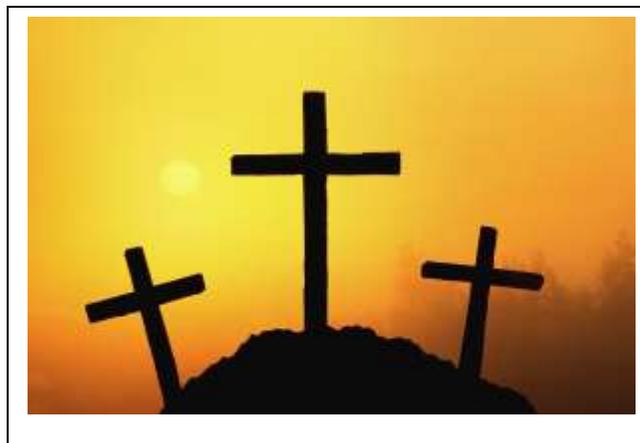
The Methodist Church will be hosting a Christian Seder meal at 6:00 pm on Maundy Thursday, April 5. For more information contact the Methodist Church at 874-3502.



Bring an Easter lily in bloom to place in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, or another lovely potted plant. Celebrate our Risen Lord among the lilies!



The church offices will be closed on Good Friday, April 6.



Mission Committee Special Offerings
for 2012

- January: Critical Incident Stress Management
Team of Miles City
- February: CNADA (Custer Network Against
Domestic Abuse)
*February also includes the fund-
raiser luncheon for the Montana
Children's Home
- March: Suicide Intervention of Custer
County
- April: One Great Hour of Sharing**
- May: Pentecost Offering
- June: ROCKS (Affordable, low-income
child daycare program)
- July: Montana Rescue Mission
- August: Miles City Local Mission
- September: Theological Education Fund for
Seminary Students
- October: Peacemaking
- November: Empty Stockings
- December: Christmas Joy Offering

FYI: A national Do-Not-Call Registry exists to address unwelcome telemarketing calls. The Registry applies to all telemarketers, with the exception of businesses with whom you have an established relationship, certain non-profit and political organizations. You may register your residential phone number & your wireless (cell) number. You can register, at no cost, by phone or internet. If someone tries to charge you for this service it is a fraud, report immediately. To reregister by phone, call 1-888-382-1222 (For TTY, call 1-866-290-4236). To register on the internet go to www.donotcall.gov .



Best Wishes to all who are celebrating this month!

- 10 – Vern Taylor
- 11 – Pauline Bigelow
Sharla Helland
- 14 – Rosalie Ostendorf
Logan Warmbrod
- 19 – Aaron Helland
Ellen Terrett
- 20 – Tamara (Tammy) Cain
- 21 – Janet Jordan
- 26 – Emily Bennett
- 30 – Hughette Bengé
Jerry Backlund
Earl & Laura Bennett

(If I missed someone, my sincere apologies, please let me know so that you can be added to the list for next year!)



Sign-up sheets are located in the East Room to assist the Elder & Deacon of the Month in coordinating volunteers for various jobs. Please prayerfully consider where and when you may be able to help.



Correspondence

The church received the following letter from First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman. A copy of the letter and application has been posted on the bulletin board in the East Room. Please share with any students that may be attending MSU.

“Dear Fellow Montana Presbyterians,

First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman is seeking to increase our connections with Montana State University. Specifically, we wish to integrate more of those in the university-age group into our congregation, providing a “church home away from home” while also enriching the life of our church family.

We recognize that students at the university are, above all else, busy. Between class schedules, projects and exams, and part-time jobs, many students have little time for themselves. In order to achieve our objective then, we acknowledge our obligation to make involvement at FPC both materially and spiritually rewarding.

In 2009, we started a scholarship program for MSU students. Current scholarships are \$1,000 per year (paid one-half per semester and potentially renewable). These scholarships are intended to help students make the decision to continue involvement in church easier. Students interest in applying for these scholarships should complete the attached form, forwarding it as noted to Nancy Giddings. Students interested in discussing this before applying could visit with either:

Pastor Dan Krebill; Phone: 406-586-9194 Email: dan@fpcbozeman.org

Nancy Giddings; Phone: 406-585-1387 Email:

ngiddings@bridgeband.com

We believe it is important to encourage individual initiative, therefore student applicants will be asked to describe how they see themselves becoming a leader in outreach to university students or ways in which they will actively participate in our congregation. It’s entirely possible that a student will have ideas even better than those we have in mind, and we want to honor that. The application form has examples of possible activities.

In addition to the scholarship, our church can offer other opportunities and hospitality to fellow Presbyterians and others. Students may apply for camp counselor positions at our Rockhaven summer camp, which offers Christian day and overnight camp experiences just south of Bozeman at our Gallatin Canyon camp. Students who wish to pursue other specific internships or summer job opportunities can receive help to network through our congregation.

Students can, at their option, be matched with a hospitality family. How this relationship evolves would depend on the desires of the partnership, but might include dinners, football games, a quiet place to study, mentoring, and advice, assistance, or housing to parents during visits to Bozeman. We are hopeful and optimistic that these efforts to reach out to MSU students and their families represent opportunities to grow spiritually for all concerned.

A final note: Please consider yourselves welcome at First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman whether you are a college student or not, and whether you wish to pursue the scholarship possibility or not. Sincerely,

Nancy Giddings, Representing

The Session at First Presbyterian Church Bozeman

The church received the following note from Libby Gardner. The card has been posted on the bulletin board in the East Room.

“Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church,

Some time ago the Bill and Charlotte Mathers Family Foundation pledged \$10,000 to the Stained Glass Window Restoration Project. I have the pleasure of writing the check to you.

As my sisiters and I gathered one more time in Miles City, we stopped at dusk to photograph the church in the late afternoon light. Our beginnings will always be with us. We are grateful to be able to help with the ongoing needs at First Presbyterian.

Libby Gardner and the Mathers Family

A Conversation with God

Author unknown

Me: (in a tizzy): God, can I ask you something?

GOD: Sure.

Me: Promise you won't get mad?

GOD: I promise.

Me: (frustrated): Why did you let so much stuff happen to me today?

GOD: What do you mean?

Me: Well I woke up late,

GOD: Yes

Me: My car took forever to start,

GOD: Okay....

Me: (growling): At lunch, they made my sandwich wrong and I had to wait.

GOD: Hmmmm..

Me: On the way home, my phone went dead, just as I picked up a call

GOD: All right

Me: (loudly): And to top it all off, when I got home,

I just wanted to soak my feet in my foot massager and relax, but it wouldn't work. Nothing went right today! Why did you do that?

GOD: Well let me see..... the death angel was at your bed this morning and I had to send one of the other angels to battle him for your life. I let you sleep through that.

Me: (humbled): Oh...

GOD: I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route that might have hit you if you were on the road

Me: (ashamed):

GOD: The first person who made your sandwich today was sick and I didn't want you to catch what they have, I knew you couldn't afford to miss work

Me: (embarrassed): Oh.....

GOD: Your phone went dead because the person that was calling was going to give a false witness about what you said on that call, I didn't even let you talk to them so you would be covered

Me: (softly): I see God

GOD: Oh and that foot massager, it had a short that was going to throw out all of the power in your house tonight. I didn't think you wanted to be in the dark.

Me: I'm sorry God.

GOD: Don't be sorry, just learn to trust me.....in all things, the good and the bad

Me: I WILL trust you God

GOD: And don't doubt that my plan for your day is always better than your plan

Me: I won't God. And let me just tell you God, thank you for everything today.

GOD: You're welcome child. It was just another day being your God and I love looking after my children.

Scriptural References: II Samuel 22:31, Proverbs 3:5, Hebrews 2:13

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 AM Adult Discussion - Esther 11:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion & Children's Sunday School 2:30 PM Home Communion Teams April Fools Day Food Bank Sunday PASTORIAL M. M. SUNDAY 	2 2:00 PM Communion at Eagles Manor 7:00 PM Building & Grounds	3 8:45 AM Ecumenical Lenten Prayer Breakfast @ Sacred Heart 9:30 AM Bible Study at 2114 Cornstock	4 BDay - Pauline Bigelow Pastor Dave on Vacation	5 9:00 AM PW Fellowship 6:00 PM Christian Sister Meal @ First Methodist Church 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service w/ Holy Communion MALINDY THURSDAY	6 Church office closed GOOD FRIDAY	7
8 9:00 AM Easter Breakfast, hosted by men of the church 11:00 AM Worship & Children's Sunday School EASTER	9 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team Pastor Dave on Vacation	10 8:30 AM Bible Study at 2114 Cornstock 1:45 PM TLC Open House 2:30 PM Fellowship via Communion 7:00 PM Open House BDay - Viki Taylor Pastor Dave on Vacation	11 Pastor Dave on Vacation Sharla Helland	12 9:00 AM PW Fellowship 10:00 AM Detroit Circle - Lisa McKee 1:30 PM Alzheimer's Support at Villa Pastor Dave on Vacation	13 Pastor Dave on Vacation	14 BDay - Roastie Oetendorf Logan Warmbrod Pastor Dave on Vacation
15 9:30 AM Adult Discussion - Esther 11:00 AM Worship & Children's Sunday School Pastor Dave on Vacation	16 Pastor Dave on Vacation	17 9:30 AM Bible Study at 2114 Cornstock	18 8:00 AM Membership Committee Meeting 12:00 PM CISM Executive Committee 12:00 PM Decides for Session Packet Information	19 9:00 AM PW Fellowship BDay - Aaron Helland Ellen Terrett	20 BDay - Tamara Cain NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 BDay - Janet Jordan
22 9:30 AM Adult Discussion - Esther 11:00 AM Worship & Children's Sunday School Earth Day	23 7:00 PM Session Meeting	24 9:30 AM Bible Study at 2114 Cornstock 7:00 PM Elizabeth Circle	25 4:00 PM HRH Extended Care Communion	26 9:00 AM PW Fellowship BDay - Emily Bennett	27	28
29 9:30 AM Adult Discussion - Esther 11:00 AM Worship & Children's Sunday School 12:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting	30 Ann - Earl & Laura Bennett BDay - Hughette Searge Jerry Becklund	Special Offering - One Great Hour of Sharing				

April 2012

Mar 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

<http://mc1stpres.org>

mcfpc@midrivers.com



First Presbyterian Church
1401 Main Street
Miles City, Montana 59301
Phone: 406-234-4855
Office Hours: 9 AM - Noon, Mon-Fri

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1
Miles City, Montana
59301

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

