

FPC NEWS

OFF THE INTERIM PASTOR'S DESK

The Final Interim Task

We have three months left in our two years together. A few members have asked me to stay beyond July 31 if you do not have a pastor in place. My response has been to each of those people that when I first came to Miles City, I made it clear that two one year contracts were the only arrangement I would consider. I have also said the same thing to people in the community who have remarked to me on the new health and life in the First Presbyterian Church.

I do enjoy being here very much, especially as a part of your church family. And I thank you particularly for your support since the start of the year in being by my side and encouraging me, helping me, in facing the physical problems that have handicapped me. During this time I have also learned that two of you, and maybe more, have to deal with the same back and leg pain, and you are each in my prayers every day. I am looking forward to the Bucking Horse weekend and being with Cowboy Pastor Pat Linger on the south side of the arena, to Presbytery nearby in Forsyth, and to my final retirement when I return to live with Peggy full-time in Benbrook, Texas (30 miles from Carolyn Zimmerman's home in Granbury. She has to drive through Benbrook to get there.)

So—we have the final interim task in front of us. That is the task of saying, “Goodbye,” and preparing for a new pastor's arrival. It is as important as any of the other tasks we have been through together. If we have done them well, we will also be able to do this final one well. Saying “Goodbye” for us will be unique because at the

same time your former pastor the Reverend Sherwood and Rhonda McKay will be coming back to town to start their retirement. We have to “do” all of this well and carefully and in Christian love and always have the best interests of the whole church in sight.

The Session and I have identified some things we need to accomplish. We will put a timeline on those things, possibly divide them into two lists: those tasks of first importance; those of secondary importance. Two top priorities include #1, getting the new church address list out and #2, teaching a short class on the Presbyterian Church for those who are thinking about joining. This class will be on Sunday morning, 9:30-10:30 AM for three Sundays in May: May 6, 13 and 20.

There are a few additional tasks I want to throw out to you all which I think would be good for the congregation. First, in our earlier visioning time at the all-church gatherings a year ago, one of them I still like very much is having a block church picnic in our parking lot, where we go around our neighborhood north of the church and invite all our neighbors to be our guests. A second task is to continue the excellent work that has been started of cleaning up the church. We had a good work session in the basement on April 23. Denise and Carolyn have been working on the second floor. And then, how about a nice dedication service for our restored stained glass windows? We would also invite Sherwood McKay to participate. The windows were very important to him. I will offer one more Monday afternoon study class in June. I

will lead you in three afternoon sessions reviewing “The Meaning of Jesus” by Marcus Borg and Father Nicholas Wright.

You have passed some major milestone in recent months, for which all of us deserve a pat on the back: #1, the restoration of the stained glass windows and raising more than enough to pay for the project in cash; #2, the hiring of Jessica Bradley, who is turning out to be a blessing and a very capable church secretary; #3, we have almost completed our Church Operations Manual with a sexual misconduct policy. We still need a written finance policy, a building use policy, and we will be approving the revised bylaws soon. #3, We are getting all the carpets cleaned upstairs and downstairs. #4, We finally have a good Finance Committee in place and will adopt a budget for 2012 and a finance policy. #5, It was a struggle, but we adopted a positive statement on welcoming back former pastors, including interims. #6, I am finalizing a voucher system for use in local mission assistance. #7, Did we not have a wonderful Easter celebration, beginning with Palm Sunday? We will talk some more about closure and saying, “Goodbye.”

P.S. #1 You all know I have no communication with our Pastor Nominating Committee. That is a hard and fast Presbytery requirement. But continue to keep this hard-working committee in your prayers every day. They are working hard and doing a good job: Karl Drga, Laura Bennett, Donalene McLeod, Eleanor Hartman, Sharla Helland.

P.S. #2 Many of you have asked about the status of my back problems and the visit to the specialist in Dallas. My back is “a mess” (words of the neurosurgeon) but it is operable and would be a major undertaking. We are not there yet, it is a final alternative. Dr. Patricia Grantham here in town is treating me with some low dose nerve medication to see if it will help. I am taking pool therapy and leg stretching exercises at home. I will not consider surgery until I am home in Texas and have built our greenhouse. Blessings on you all, dear friends. I love you all.

Pastor Dave

SESSION SUMMARY

April 23, 2012

We welcomed home our favorite Clerk of Session Verna Viall who plays snowbird every year. Our special thanks goes to Mary Lynn Taylor, Assistant Clerk, for her excellent recording of the minutes these last few months.

The death of longtime popular member Chery Porten was noted (April 19). A letter of transfer for Todd Larson was approved to the Evangelical United Methodist Church in Billings. A graveside service for Leah Pace’s son Donald will be presided over by Rev. Bob Thaden on May 1. A request from Karie Regan for the family to do the funeral for her mother Barbara Jo Shannon who is gravely ill was approved by Pastor Dave. Stacy McKenzie and Fred Scheid’s wedding is scheduled for October 6, 2012. Tentatively, Rev. Neva Rathbun is approved as the officiating minister.

The Gideons will be filling the pulpit on May 27. Lay pastor Caroline Fleming will be our preacher on June 3. Building use requests included the Ghost Tour, Saturday, June 23rd, which will start here. It is sponsored by the Preservation Commission. Also, the Women’s Club Home Tour takes place September 9.

Pastor Dave reports he will offer an introduction to the Presbyterian Church for non-members who want to think about joining. Also, he will lead a three-week discussion of a book, “The Meaning of Jesus,” for the Monday afternoon group in June. He will attend the special class offered by the Presbytery on “Maintaining Borders” in Billings May 1; and a meeting of the Presbytery Mission Committee on May 4 in Billings. Presbytery meets May 14-15 in Forsyth. (If you are interested in any of Dave’s books in his office, come in before May

13 and claim them! He will give away most of his professional library at the Presbytery meeting. Some reference books have already been given to our church library.)

A bid for \$2,080 was approved to build new shelves and cupboards upstairs, and to refinish the corner of the building where the rain leak occurred. Carolyn Zimmerman and Denise Hartse shared their recent projects of trying to clean up the upstairs and put things away that may be stored. After Pastor Dave's children's sermon on having a tea party as a child, the children are going to have their own Mother's Day Tea on May 13. The newly appointed Finance Committee is meeting on Wednesday, May 9, at 12:30 pm. A budget for the current year needs to be done, and a written finance policy must be approved. Mission Committee is meeting Monday, April 30. It meets quarterly.

The Session calls a special congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, May 20. This is to elect two new members to the board of Deacons (one nominee will be Ellen Terrett and another will need to be elected to fill Mary Jo Younglund's chair, as she is moving to Gillette); also to approve the changes in the church Bylaws.

Personnel Committee reports that Jessica has now been on the job for three months. She is doing excellent work and everyone really likes her. The new policy on sexual misconduct policy needs to be approved. Worship Committee reports that summer worship will begin May 27 and run until the Sunday after Labor Day, or the second Sunday in September.

Our next regular Session meeting is Monday, May 21 at 7:00 pm. Pastor Dave will have the devotional time and introduce the new national Presbyterian evangelism program, "Engage," or "Engaging Jesus" over the next three months.

Respectfully Submitted, Pastor Dave



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. Cost is \$100 per broadcast.



Did you know that monthly newsletters as well as a current church calendar are available online on our website? Visit us online at mc1stpres.org.



A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages. "Momma, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: "I think it's Adam's suit!"



Mother's Day is a celebration honoring mothers and celebrating motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in society.



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.



Ladies "Mother/Daughter" Luncheon

May 5, 2012 11:30 a.m.

Miles City Wesleyan Church

916 Garland

Special Guest Speaker Kate Kinnan

**RSVP to Kerry Gudmunson 234-2867 or
951-0717**



MAY 27 IS PENTECOST SUNDAY!
WEAR YOUR RED

The Membership and Evangelism Committee invites you to wear red to worship on Sunday, May 27 in celebration of Pentecost. Pentecost is one of the prominent feasts in the Christian liturgical year and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ after the Resurrection. It is celebrated seven weeks, or fifty days, after Easter Sunday, hence its name. The main sign of Pentecost in the Christian churches of the west is the color red. It symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. We invite you "join in the Spirit" and display the fire of your faith by wearing red to worship on May 27.

**Presbyterian Womens
Salad Bar Luncheon**

May 10, 2012

12:00 p.m.

**Everyone attending is asked to bring
a salad of their choice to share.**

WILLET HAUSER RESTORES OUR BEAUTIFUL WINDOWS

Gaylin Eide is the foreman of the Willet Hauser Studios crew that restored our historic stained glass windows in one and a half weeks. Other crews from the same company take three weeks or longer for such a project. Each of the crew were friendly and hard workers, careful to clean up at the end of each work day. Vern Taylor suggested I might emulate their work habits, like not stopping for lunch. One morning on vacation, Pastor Dave received a phone call on his phone the first day they were here. He was in Fort Worth at an estate sale one morning (his wife wanted to go there) and he saw it was from Minnesota. Dave answered anyway; it was the crew chief who wanted to know where they could get a large garbage bin to discard the old protective covers. Gerhard Solein did show up at the church.

One of the glass panels was shipped to Winona, Minnesota, for repair, then to Julesberg, Colorado, for Gaylin to pick up. The glass in that upper panel was not missing; it had been pushed back through the years by the wind. As I write this, the Willet Hauser Architectural Glass crew is working on the windows at the Episcopal Church. Someone saw them doing our windows here and referred them to the other church which is in need of window repair. Gaylin told me his crew travels all over the country.

The leading of each of the sixteen windows was re-cemented and the windows cleaned. In several of the windows new bars had to be placed across the window. Each window has perimeter framing. There were two bottom panels on the large "Christ in Gethsemane" window which had developed a bulge. These were repaired by working on the edges of the windows. They no longer open but have small air vents ("plugs") on the outside which allow expansion and shrinking. This window has the name of the company which made the windows in 1930, Perry Studios, Issaquah, Washington. The same people restored the windows after a hail storm in 1979. A good share of the west side was

destroyed and had to be replaced. Unfortunately the workmanship in the replaced windows was not as good as the originals.

The most noticeable change is the new outside protective lexan polycarbonate sheets. We can now see the windows from the outside, and at night even catch a glimpse of the face of Jesus. The Lexan is custom-cut to fit the 5/8 inch remaining in the wooden frame. After the outside frame was cleaned and painted (with two or three coats), the Lexan protective layer was fixed in place with a 50% flexible cement. Previously the cement would harden and deteriorate. This new glue allows some give and take and lasts longer.

Did you know that the face of Jesus in the upstairs and downstairs windows (six different pictures) is painted on? Notice Jesus as a youth featured in two windows in the foyer. The two feet of Jesus in the downstairs north "Good Shepherd" window are different. That the back foot is a replacement. The sandal strap in the back foot was painted on by Leah Pace. That foot has no toenails.

A number of experienced stained glass studios were researched on the internet. Three were asked to submit bids. Two did an on-site study and prepared detailed bids. The company not selected was the Bovard Studio in Fairfield, Iowa.

We are planning a re-dedication of our windows later this summer. This will include a memorial board with the names of donors, memorials, the date of restoration and thanks to Willet Hauser Architectural Glass Studios in Winona, Minnesota, for an excellent job done!

Special Thanks to Gerhard Sorlien for being the contact person on this project.

by Vern Taylor and Dave Schneider





Your new officers of PW for the coming year are Mary Lynn Taylor & Delores Lathrop, Co-moderators; Mary Lynn Taylor, Secretary; Donalene McLeod, Treasurer, with Millie Valach & Pat Conley as assistants. Pastor Dave will Install these officers at our luncheon May 10th.

Our luncheon May 10th, is a salad bar. We also have a guest speaker from Terry. She and her husband adopted four or five children from Russia. Luncheon is at noon, so if you work maybe you can come eat with us. You are all welcome!

Thanks to Eleanor Neurohr and the rest of the Courtesy Committee for ordering, arranging and delivering our flowers to our shut-ins. Betty McCourt bought and donated the flowers.

We have one more coordinating meeting, May 10th at 9:30 am at the church. Everyone is always welcome. Then we won't meet again until August.

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

The Deborah Circle will meet on May 10th in Seele Hall at 10:30. Please bring a salad for the luncheon. The Elizabeth Circle will meet on May 29.



**PW are looking for hot iron transfers for dishtowels. If you have any and would like to donate them, please bring them to the church.
Thank you!**

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 fundraiser 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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Best Wishes to all who are celebrating this month!

- 2 – Katie Warmbrod
- 6 – Jack Fleming
- 9 – Eleanor Neurohr
- 10 – Jason Helland
- 11 – Wayne Helland
- 12 – Eleanor Bryant
Dennis Corbin
- 13 – Ethan Warmbrod
Jack & Caroline Fleming
- 17 – Myrtle Herzog
- 28 – Sharon Sorlien
- 29 – Irene Martin

(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.



MANY THANKS to all the ladies of the church who came and helped to cleanup the basement. We appreciate all your dedication and hard work. The carpet will soon be cleaned to finish the project.

Building & Grounds Committee

Thank you to the congregation for the wonderful prayer support for my Grandmother, Laurine. Miraculously, on Good Friday, she happily got to go home to the ranch which is where she definitely prefers to be! I just wanted to let everyone know how much I appreciate your kind thoughts and prayers!

Jessica Bradley



Points of Interest from the Day of Pentecost Story (Acts 2:1-41):

- The apostles had chosen Mathias to replace Judas Iscariot, who had hanged himself. That brought their number back to 12.
- Before his ascension into heaven, Jesus had promised his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit to give them strength and wisdom to spread the gospel throughout the world. (Acts 1:8)
- The apostles' ability to address these foreign visitors in their own languages was a miracle from God. After they were filled with the Holy Spirit, the 12 did many other miracles and wondrous signs.
- Right from the start of the church, we see that God intended his offer of salvation to extend to all nations. Whoever calls on the name of Jesus, repents, and believes in him will be saved.
- Today, 2,000 years later, believers in Jesus are still filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot live the Christian life without his help. We are to call on him whenever we need strength or guidance.

Have you heard of Trails End Ranch? It is a wonderful Christian establishment in Ekalaka, MT that offers Christian based summer Sports & Adventure Camps for youth and families. Their 2012 Summer calendar is out and a brochure is on the back table in the East Room if you want to take a look. You can also visit them online at www.ter.org.



The church received the following from Custer County CISM
The note has been posted on the bulletin board in the East Room.

“Congregation of First Presbyterian Church:

Thank you ever so much for your very kind and generous donation recently to the Custer County CISM Group. Please know this donation is very helpful to our cause of supporting the front line responders dedicated to helping others during crisis and tragic times- law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, dispatchers, clergy, funeral directors and emergency healthcare professionals. These first responders are our true heroes, thus CISM works to support those who face tragedy and crisis as they serve and care for others.

Thank you Again...

And God Bless!

Lisa Dighans

CISM Treasurer on behalf of
Custer County CISM”



Dear members of First Presbyterian Church,

Litter and unkempt streets are far more than just unsightly, these are a wake-up call for persons who are concerned about their community's quality of life. Keep Miles City Beautiful needs your help in answering that call! The cleanup is a good outdoor springtime activity. Your group can make a visible difference in Miles City by joining us for the Great American Cleanup of Miles City. We are seeking volunteers for the May 12th cleanup, and there are several ways you can participate:

***Join other volunteer groups for the large-scale cleanup being planned for Saturday, May 12.**

***Call KMCB (Janelle Grant 234-5732) and select a site to clean up, beautify/improve prior to the scheduled cleanup day.**

*** Volunteer to assist with the Lend-A Helping-Hand program for seniors requiring assistance.**

***Donate to the Keep Miles City Beautiful organization to assist with local activities. Visit our website www.keeptombeautiful.com to learn of our activities.**

This year the local KMCB affiliate is providing garbage bags, drinks and treats, a limited supply of gloves, and safety brochures/training. On request, KMCB volunteers are available between now and May 12th to do a short program on safety training and cleanup information.

Registration will be at the Riverside Park from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 12 or at the Miles City Area Chamber of Commerce during their regular hours from May 7-11. However, if you contact us prior to those dates, it will assist us in our planning.

Partners for this year's cleanup are the city of Miles City, the Miles City Star, Keep Miles City Beautiful, Keep America Beautiful, the Miles City Sanitary Landfill, John and Michelle Muggli, and the Miles City Area Chamber of Commerce.

We look forward to hearing from you about joining this effort.

Sincerely,

Janelle Grant

Director Keep Miles City Beautiful

jjklgrant@midrivers.com

234-5732 or cell 951-1129



Chery S. Porten, 90
May 13, 1921 - April 19, 2012

Chery Elizabeth Schaffner Porten, age 90, of Miles City passed away on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at the Holy Rosary Extended Care in Miles City.

Chery was born on May 13, 1921 in Hebron, North Dakota Mercer County to Elizabeth Wang Schaffner and F. Gordon Schaffner. She attended rural schools in Dunn County for eight years and graduated from Dodge High School in Dodge, North Dakota in 1939 and Dickinson State College in 1944. Chery taught in North Dakota, Washington and California. She married Russ Porten on June 25, 1953 in Dickinson, North Dakota and they moved to Miles City where they lived since.

Chery was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Women in Miles City. She was active in the Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority, Republican Women and Chapter K P.E.O. She operated the Hammil Courts and she and her husband Russ established one of the first K.O.A.

Campgrounds in Montana. Chery had many enjoyments which included flowers, birds, light classical music, poetry, gardening and much more. She loved nature, writing, cooking, baking and entertaining friends. She enjoyed writing many articles for the Miles City Star and even published her own book called "Random Thoughts." She was known for having lovely tea's in her comfortable relaxing home setting. Chery was also fond of animals and their welfare was very important to her.

Chery was preceded in death by her parents, husband Russ Porten in 1998; sisters Hope Schaffner Lund and Truth Schaffner Moger and a nephew Michael Moger. Chery is survived by a niece Randi Gustafson and her husband Bruce; Grandniece Tara G. Peltier and family; grandnephew Tom Gustafson and his wife Holly and their daughter; nephew Barton Booth his wife Kim and their children; nieces; Cathy Porten Matthirsen, Carol Porten Snow, Leah Grossmar and Beth Nicholls and their families; nephew Joe Porten III; niece Janet Porten Boughton and her husband Keith; brothers-in-law: Joe Porten and Ron Porten and his wife Linda; special friends Laverne and Bill Stokes, Glinda Hunter, P.E.O. Sisters and treasured friends Debbi Smith and Karen Stevenson.

Visitation will be held on Monday, April 23, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Stevenson & Sons Funeral Home in Miles City. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Miles City. Interment will be held in the Kyseth Cemetery in Marshall, ND. Condolences may be made to the family by visiting: www.stevensonandsons.com.

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6 9:30 AM Adult Discussion - New Membership Class 11:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion & Children's Sunday School Food Bank Sunday	7 2:00 PM Communion at Eagles Manor 3:00 PM Building & Grounds	8 9:30 AM Bible Study at 2114 Comstock 1:45 PM TLC Communion 2:30 PM Friendship Villa Communion 7:00 PM Discos	9 12:30 PM Finance Committee	10 9:00 AM PW Fellowship 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team 10:30 AM Deborah Crde 12:00 PM PW Luncheon 1:30 PM Alzheimer's Support at Friendship Villa	11	12 MMCS City Wide Cleanup Day																																																	
13 9:30 AM Adult Discussion - New Membership Class 11:00 AM Worship & Children's Sunday School <i>Mother's Day</i>	14 <i>Days out of Office</i> Yellowstone Presbytery Meetings in Forsyth	15 9:30 AM Bible Study at 2114 Comstock <i>Days Out of Office</i> Yellowstone Presbytery Meetings in Forsyth	16 12:00 PM CISM Executive Committee Session Packet Deadline	17 9:00 AM PW Fellowship <i>Ascension Day</i>	18	19 <i>Annual Finances Day</i>																																																	
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27 9:30 AM Worship Led by Gabsons of Miles City 12:00 PM Worship Committee <i>Begin Summer Worship Schedule</i> <i>Day of Pentecost</i> <i>Pastor Dave on Vacation</i>	28 <i>Memorial Day (Observed)</i> <i>Pastor Dave on Vacation</i>	29 9:30 AM Bible Study at 2114 Comstock 7:00 PM Elizabeth Crde <i>Pastor Dave on Vacation</i>	30 <i>Pastor Dave on Vacation</i>	31 9:00 AM PW Fellowship <i>Pastor Dave on Vacation</i>	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE																																																		
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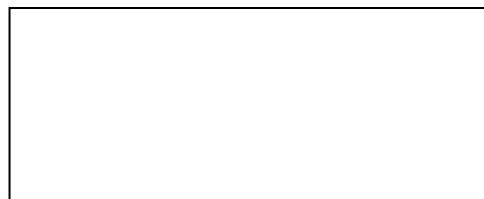
mcfpc@midrivers.com



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Phone: 406-234-4855
Office Hours: 9 AM - Noon, Mon-Fri

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



MAY SPECIAL OFFERING : PENTECOST OFFERING

Your dollars really do make a difference

When you give to the Pentecost Offering during Sunday morning worship, you help bring God's transforming, redeeming love to children at risk, guide and nurture young people's growing faith and provide opportunities for young adults to become spiritual leaders—all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Through your gifts to last year's Offering, you helped people like Amari and Althea Dryden, a mother and daughter who attended the Pathways youth conference at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Big Tent event in 2011.

You also helped people like Marie Kessler discern a passion for social justice while serving as a Young Adult Volunteer, first in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and then in Tucson, Arizona, where she volunteered with the organization 'No More Deaths', a coalition of people of faith and human rights groups addressing the increasing number of deaths of migrants in southern Arizona.

And you made it possible for children at risk of dropping out of school in Charlotte, North Carolina, to participate in the Freedom School program at C.N. Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church. Freedom Schools are literacy-based summer learning experiences for inner-city children from low-income families. The school provides summer enrichment that helps children with reading, increasing their self-esteem and generating a positive attitude toward learning.

Ten percent of the Pentecost Offering goes to child advocacy. Twenty-five percent goes to ministries with youth. Another 25 percent goes to Young Adult Volunteers, and 40 percent can be kept by your congregation for ministries that help children at risk in your community.

Please give generously to the Pentecost Offering.