



# FPC NEWS

First Presbyterian Church  
Miles City, MT



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February 2015

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### Secretary:

Mon.— Fri.  
8 a.m. - Noon

### Pastors:

Mon. – Thurs.  
9 a.m. – Noon  
Afternoons by  
appointment

It's February and the "season of love" is upon us once again. If we have learned the meaning of love from popular culture we might be tempted to believe that love is a simple emotion. In popular music we hear, "Money can't buy me love," and, "All you need is love," and, "I will always love you." Is love that simple? Many of us appear to accept this oversimplification on Valentine's Day when we give a box of chocolates, flowers, a card or some other gift, to the people we love most deeply in this world. Don't get me wrong. It's a good and renewing practice to exchange gifts with people we love but have you ever wondered whether this custom was adequate to the task? How well does a dime-sized, candy heart express this complicated and most important aspect of our lives? A dump truck load of candy hearts simply can't compete with a few well chosen, heartfelt words and an extended embrace.

If we look closely, we will find these ideas confirmed in scripture. Throughout the Old and New Testaments God shows us what love is through enduring faithfulness to his people. Over and again God keeps up his part of the covenant even when his people turn away, walk away, and even run away from him. The New Testament shows us that in Jesus Christ we see the splendor and fullness of God's love poured out for us. The apostle Paul summed it up well when he said there is nothing that can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ. If we learn the meaning of love from God's word rather than popular culture, and allow the richness of it to fill us and spill over to the people we love and everyone we meet, the world as we know it will change. As you think about what love means to you, may you be inspired by the words of an old hymn called, "The Love of God," written by Frederick M. Lehman.

*The love of God is greater far, than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell;  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled and pardoned from his sin.*

*Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure—  
The saints' and angels' song.*

When hoary time shall pass away and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,  
When men who here refuse to pray on rocks and hills and mountains call,  
God's love so sure, shall still endure all measureless and strong;  
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—the saints' and angels' song.

**Continued on next page**

## *Connecting With God*

Pastor's Letter, Continued

*Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure—  
The saints' and angels' song.*

*Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole though stretched from sky to sky.*

Can we love like that? Our God thinks so. What are you called to do to show it today and everyday?  
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

### The Season of Lent Sermon Series “Teach Me to Pray”

During the season of Lent our sermons will explore the Lord's Prayer. When Jesus was asked by the disciples how to pray, he taught them the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer continues to be an important part of our faith tradition and a great tool for guiding our prayer life. Each Sunday between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday, we will explore a portion of the prayer together, learning about its meaning and gleaning its insight for our prayer life. We hope that this series will help each of us experience a richer prayer life during the season of Lent that can continue beyond the season.

### New Members Class

If you are new to our congregation or have been worshipping with us for a while and are ready to make a commitment to the life of this congregation, we hope that you will attend our New Members Class on February 1st and 8th. The class will meet in the basement at 12:15. Lunch and childcare will be provided. The class will focus on what it means to be Presbyterian and the expectations of church members. At the end of the class you will be given an opportunity to join the church. Present church members are also encouraged to attend if they are interested in refreshing their knowledge in these areas. Please RSVP to one of the pastors so that we anticipate your participation.



We hope you will join us for a special service of worship on Ash Wednesday, February 18th at 6pm. The service will be a blend of multi-sensory worship and traditional worship focusing on prayer. It will be a wonderful way to begin the Lenten Season together.

#### **Weekly Bulletins available by request**

Are you unable to worship with us? Do you listen to the service broadcast and wish you could follow along better?

Contact the Church office and request a copy of the weekly bulletin be mailed, and please keep us updated of your address if it changes.

## *Growing in Your Faith & Relationship*

### Adult Religious Education Opportunities

#### **Adult Education Class**

Our Adult Education Sunday morning Bible Study will resume this month. We will meet in the East Room at 9:30 to explore in greater detail the scriptural text for the day. The pastor preaching that Sunday will be leading the class. We hope you will join us.

**Visit the Church Library** and borrow a book (or two, or three). Sharla Helland has shared some of the gems from the library on the East Room tables; you are welcome to grab one of these. Or spend some time down stairs in the library. It is located in Selle Hall just off the Fellowship Hall. There are many wonderful books that will get your spiritual juices flowing.

#### **Daily Devotions**

Our church distributes a daily devotional booklet called "These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith". You can find the most recent edition on the sign up table in the East Room.

#### **Worship in Your Inbox**

A weekly email that reflects on God's presence in our daily lives. If you are on the email list for these readings take the time to reflect and spend time with God in the midst of the chaos of the week. If you aren't signed up to receive these emails it isn't too late. Just contact Pastor Kristin to be added to the list. You will also find these reflections posted to our Church's Facebook page or in the Friday Star newspaper.

### **Our Sermon Audio is Online**

We have been able to record and upload the sermon audio for our worship services. If you go to the church's website ([www.mc1stpres.org](http://www.mc1stpres.org)) and click on the "Sermon Audio" tab. You will find links for the sermons. If you missed church, or just liked the sermon and want to listen again, we hope this will be a blessing to our congregation and beyond.

#### **Thoughtful Christian Articles**

An article is chosen every month from the Thoughtful Christian website. The reading we will highlight areas of our faith explore deeper. The articles will be available to pick up at church in the East Room or to access via email. The February article explores Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent.

#### **Women's Devotional Group**

On the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm women gather to discuss how their faith influences and provides foundation for their roles as mothers, wives, working women, etc. In February Erin Taylor will be hosting the gathering in the Taylor home on 11th. Contact Pastor Kristin for more information.

**Women's Circle** The Presbyterian Women Circles are great opportunities to gather for study, fellowship and prayer. All women are welcome to join one of these groups. Deborah Circle will be meeting at 10am on Thursday the 12th and Elizabeth Circle will be meeting on Thursday the 26th at 1:30pm. Contact the church office for more information.

### **Worship Service Radio Broadcast**

We are looking to fill dates in 2015. Please consider sponsoring a Sunday in honor of someone you love or just to help fund this ministry that has been a vital part of our service to God over the last 64 years. The sponsor donation is \$120.

**All the Sunday's in February and beyond are still open!**

#### **Prayer Chain**

To have a prayer request added to the prayer chain, contact Nichole the Secretary at the church office.

234-4855

## *Growing in Your Faith & Relationships*

### New Elders and Deacons

On January 25th our new class of Elders and Deacons were ordained and/or installed. We are so blessed to have Ellen Terrett, Eleanor Hartmann and Harry Price joining us on Session to provide leadership and vision for the congregation. We are grateful that Donalene McLeod has agreed to stay on for a second term with session as well. We are also thrilled to have JoAnne Perkins, Gail Price, Laura Bennett and Pat Conley joining the Deacons board and providing care ministries for our congregation. Please keep our new leaders in your prayers as they begin this ministry.

### Little Angels Daycare

Our little Angels have been busy! During the month of January the kids learned all about winter and snow! They made several winter crafts, decorating the walls with penguins and snowmen. They are now up to 13 sight words and are continuing to practice telling time on the hour. Other academic concepts they continue to work on include: letter sounds and recognition, colors, shapes and understanding the calendar. The daycare has 30 children enrolled, with 9 of them being drop-in only. The daycare impacts about 20 families monthly. Please pray to keep sickness at a minimum this month!

### Children's Sunday School

In February our children in Sunday School will finish up exploring the parables of Jesus and then begin learning about the Season of Lent. Please keep our children in your prayers as they explore their faith in Sunday School.



Our teens will meet February 8th & 22nd. They will gather at City Brew from 7:00-8:00.

### Mission Committee Special Offerings 2015

January:	DEAP
February:	CNADA
March:	Suicide Prevention in Eastern Montana
April:	One Great Hour of Sharing
May:	Pentecost Offering
June:	Local Mission
July:	EMI
August:	ROCKS Program
September:	Theological Education Fund
October:	Peacemaking Offering
November:	Montana Rescue Mission
December:	Christmas Joy Offering

### Special Offerings Update

In December we collected \$278 for the Christmas Joy Offering. In January (as of the 22nd) we collected \$351 to be given to D.E.A.P. Thank you for supporting our special offerings.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 - Wayne Lathrop
- 5 - Sherwood McKay
- 11 - John & Eleanor Neurohr
- 18 - Ruth Schott
- 21 - Audrey Watts
- 28 - Brianna Gilbertson
- Micah Willet

If we missed someone, our sincere apologies. Please let us know so that you can be added to the list for next year!

## *Serving the Church & the World*

### Heating Project Update

In the East Room, offices and Sunday School Areas- The plumbing for the heating units is connected and the final electrical hook ups should be completed by the time you are reading this. We may even have independent heat on the east side of the building by then. Hooray! The next phase of this project will be to "hide" the exposed plumbing in offices. Since the heating contractors at Jerry's Refrigeration did not bid for this aspect of the project the Building and Grounds committee will hire another company to handle this. This will be the last step in this phase of the project.

In the Basement- The furnace and registers are installed and it's operational. The last step in this area will be to have a closet built around the heater to hide it and reduce the noise it makes. Jerry's Refrigeration did not bid on this part of the project so the Building and Grounds Committee will hire a different contractor for this.

In the Sanctuary- This area is almost complete. The ductwork that goes between the heating unit and the new return air intake has been installed in the space above the drop-ceiling in the kitchen. When it has been installed, you will see the new return air register next to the pulpit (behind the piano) on the right side of the sanctuary. The temperature will be more constant once this step is completed. (Note- The Building and Grounds Committee has talked with Jerry's Refrigeration about installing additional heating registers in the sanctuary to disperse the heat more evenly, at some point in the future, but at the moment, this is not a part of this project.

### **With God's Help: Capital Funds Campaign (for FPC heating/cooling project)**

We continue to raise funds to help cover a portion of the heating and cooling project. Session's initial plan was to draw half of the expenses from our investments, knowing that members had left those funds for such a time as this. Session's aim is to invite present members, worshipers, and friends of FPC to contribute to raise the other \$65,000 knowing that our reserves are essential for ensuring the longevity of the church and thus not wanting to deplete them further. So far \$40,000 of that goal is in hand. PRAISE GOD! We continue our efforts to raise the remaining \$25,000. If you are in a position to help please fill out a pledge card or contact the church office.

### **Please Consider Making a 2015 Pledge**

So far 23 pledge cards have been turned in for the 2015 ministry year. If you haven't returned a pledge card please consider doing so at your earliest convenience. You are asked to share what you anticipate to give during 2015 and how you would like to break down the contributions. There is also a space for you to designate what you plan to give to the monthly special offering. If you need a pledge card contact the church office.

Leaders of FPC's financial stewardship hope is that every household will make a commitment of some sort. Whether it's a \$1 a week or 10% of your income. The amount you should reflect what you believe God is inviting you to give and your gratitude to God for his blessings in your life. Please prayerfully consider giving in 2015.

## *Serving the Church & the World*

### News From The Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women are keeping busy making quilts to have on hand. Occasions they are used for are to donate when anyone has a fire, an accident or a real need arises. If anyone is interested in sewing and quilting, they are more than welcome to come to the Church Fellowship Hall on Thursday mornings from 9:00-11:30 am and work on these projects.

Since there are so many Harvest Dinners in the fall, PW is looking toward finding another fund raising idea to bring in money to support the many donations they make throughout the year, rather than holding the annual Harvest Dinner. We would welcome new suggestions to consider if anyone has any ideas. We donate to the Peacemaking Offering, Richardson Leprosy Hospital, Al Bedoo Transportation Fund, Rocky Mountain College, Ronald McDonald House, Lutheran Center, Intermountain Children's Home, Florence Crittenton Home, CNADA, Miles City Foster Care, Holy Rosary Healthcare Hospice, Meals on Wheels, Eastern Montana Industries, ROCKS and Radio Broadcasts as well as supply most of the paper products, coffee and miscellaneous supplies for after church coffee and other church functions. PW is available to organize funeral luncheons on request. We also hold a spring luncheon and a Christmas luncheon for all church ladies, their guests and the PW ladies from Hysham, Forsyth, and Terry. A Courtesy Committee takes flowers to shut-ins on Thanksgiving and Easter. Some of our members organize a cleaning day for the church as needed. This year a group of PW ladies baked cookies for the 100 year celebration of City Hall using recipes from a Presbyterian Cook Book from that era. A few members hold a Bingo party at Holy Rosary Extended Care for the patients and supply the prizes. PW ladies bring cakes and put on a birthday party at both rest homes during the year as well. Our main money raise at this time is the annual PW Rummage Sale which will be held again in March. That is a good time to clean out your closets and come to the church for a week of fellowship as well as work.

There are two Circles which meet once a month. The Deborah Circle meets the second Thursday at HRH Extended Care at 2:00pm and the Elizabeth Circle meets at individual homes the last Thursday of the month at 1:30pm.

All ladies of the church are welcome to join Presbyterian Women. Our meeting is held every second Monday at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The PW dues are \$10 per year and are to be paid in January. We would encourage all ladies of the church to join us, enjoy a cup of coffee and participate in PW activities. Hope to see you then.

Mary Lynn Taylor & Delores Lathrop, Co-Chairmen



**Presbyterian Women**  
*Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community*

## Serving the Church & the World



We are the church, God's people called together, equipped, and sent out to show and tell others that God loves them and to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. To do this faithfully and effectively, all of us must be actively involved in the financial stewardship of this church.

For those of you that attended the Annual Congregational Meeting in January, what follows will be a bit of a review as we explain how 2014 closed out financially.

The first table, called "GF Revenue," shows all 2014 income credited to the FPC general fund from offerings, pledges, and per capita. It gives a year end total of our actual income, the annual budget we approved, and the difference between them. Numbers that have parentheses around them indicate that the actual is less than the budgeted figure. **You will see that our year end income was significantly lower than our budget. Most of that shortfall was a choice of the finance committee in conjunction with Session. You will see that we budgeted for \$15,000 in income from our investments. When we invested our reserves part of the aim was to create funds to help support our General Fund. The investments have done well over the year, but the decision was made to not pull these funds due to the large withdrawal that was necessary for the heating and cooling expenses. If we don't take this line item into account we fell roughly \$3,500 below budget largely due to less money collected through offerings and pledges.**

The second table, called "GF Expenses," shows the actual expenses that have been charged to the church's general fund through the end of 2014. **The summary indicates that our actual expenses in the areas of personnel, property, and other are well below what we anticipated.**

The third table, called "Net General Fund," shows the net balance of revenue and expenses. **This summary indicates that our general operating fund did not meet the budget that we set forth. Yet, if we had pulled the funds from our investments as anticipated at the beginning of the year we would have met and exceeded our goal.**

The fourth table, called "Other Funds," shows change **The "other" line accounts for both the income and expenses associated with the capital heating project. This figure will continue to fluctuate greatly as gifts are received and bills are paid on this major endeavor.**

The fifth table, called "Net General Fund + Other Funds," gives an overall snapshot of the health of church finances by showing how solvent/balanced we are. **In past months the monies in "other funds" have helped close the deficit gap and resulted in a pretty balanced financial standing. Due to payments being made out our heating project those funds no longer provide the cushion they once did. Yet even with these large payments the Year End Actual vs Budget shows that we ended the year a little bit better than we anticipated, though still in a deficit as we budgeted.**

In summary, in 2014 the church has received less income from offerings than we budgeted. But the good news is that is that God provides. FPC staff and committee leaders have been working hard to keep the expenses of the church as low as possible, people are sponsoring the broadcast more than ever, and thanks to the faithful generosity of people who have given special gifts and bequests to FPC, and responsible managing and investing of these gifts by FPC leadership, we met budget this year. **We ended the year with a smaller deficit in our overall financial standing.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Session Summary Report  
12/31/2014**

<b>GF REVENUE</b>	<b>12/31/14 YTD Actual</b>	<b>12/31/14 YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual vs Budget</b>	<b>12/31/13 YTD Actual</b>	<b>Difference 2014 / 2013</b>
Offering	98,676.45	102,000.00	(3,323.55)	104,268.48	(5,592.01)
Per Capita	2,414.50	2,700.00	(285.50)	2,712.90	(298.40)
Broadcast Sponsorship	5,610.00	5,500.00	110.00	4,580.00	1,030.00
Income from Investments	0.00	15,000.00	(15,000.00)	0.00	0.00
Other	1,917.48	1,800.00	117.48	24,616.38	(22,698.90)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>108,618.43</b>	<b>127,000.00</b>	<b>(18,381.57)</b>	<b>136,177.74</b>	<b>(27,559.31)</b>
<b>GF EXPENSES</b>	<b>12/31/14 YTD Actual</b>	<b>12/31/14 YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual vs Budget</b>	<b>12/31/13 YTD Actual</b>	<b>Difference 2014 / 2013</b>
Personnel	(92,906.02)	(96,435.00)	3,528.98	(91,572.12)	(1,333.90)
Property	(25,006.16)	(29,445.00)	4,438.84	(27,684.44)	2,678.28
Other	(33,246.01)	(36,135.00)	2,888.99	(32,317.71)	(928.30)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(151,158.19)</b>	<b>(162,015.00)</b>	<b>10,856.81</b>	<b>(151,574.27)</b>	<b>416.08</b>
<b>NET GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>12/31/14 YTD Actual</b>	<b>12/31/14 YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual vs Budget</b>	<b>12/31/13 YTD Actual</b>	<b>Difference 2014 / 2013</b>
	(42,539.76)	(35,015.00)	(7,524.76)	(15,396.53)	(27,143.23)
<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>12/31/14 YTD Actual</b>	<b>12/31/14 YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual vs Budget</b>		
Transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Reserve Fund	11,305.27	10,020.00	1,285.27		
Building Fund	1,525.37	1,800.00	(274.63)		
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Temporarily Restricted	8,451.32	120.00	8,331.32		
Permanently Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00		
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>21,281.96</b>	<b>11,940.00</b>	<b>9,341.96</b>		
<b>NET GENERAL FUND + OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>12/31/14 YTD Actual</b>	<b>12/31/14 YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual vs Budget</b>		
Change in net assets	(21,257.80)	(23,075.00)	1,817.20		

# FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:30AM Adult Ed</p> <p>11:00AM Worship w/ Holy Communion Sunday School</p> <p>12:15PM New Membership Class</p>	<p>2 2:00PM Eagle's Manor Communion</p> <p>3:30PM Building &amp; Grounds</p>	3	4	<p>5 9:00AM PW Fellowship</p>	6	7
<p>8 9:30AM Adult Ed</p> <p>11:00AM Worship w/ Minute 4 Mission Sunday School</p> <p>12:15PM New Membership Class</p> <p>7:00PM Youth Group</p>	<p>9 9:30AM PW Coordinating</p>	10	11	<p>12 9:00AM PW Fellowship</p> <p>10:00AM Deborah Circle</p>	13	14 Valentine's Day
<p>15 9:30AM Adult Ed</p> <p>11:00AM Worship Sunday School</p> <p>12:15PM Worship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>16 President's Day</p> <p>7:00PM Session Meeting</p>	17	18 Ash Wednesday	<p>19 9:00AM PW Fellowship</p>	20	21
<p>22 1st Sunday of Lent</p> <p>9:30AM Adult Ed</p> <p>11:00AM Worship Sunday School</p> <p>7:00PM Youth Group</p>	23	24	25	<p>26 9:00AM PW Fellowship</p> <p>1:30PM Elizabeth's Circle</p>	27	28



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## February Special Offering: CNADA

Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault (CNADA) is our church's special offering for February. CNADA has served people victimized by domestic and sexual violence and stalking since 1996. The program's first and primary goal is to help victims of abuse find safety. Offering crisis response, safe housing, transportation and more, we walk with our clients through the trauma of their lives. We offer a support group for women and children and one for teens and college students who have been sexually assaulted.

February is nationally celebrated as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. In Montana 9.2% of our high school students report they were forced or coerced into having sex when they didn't want to, while 9.6% report being hit, slapped or otherwise physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend. Those figures are unacceptable and we work to reduce them with awareness activities and education events. We will work hard to reach the youth in the five counties we serve and help them understand

that healthy relationships do not include control or violence.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, CNADA is funded by grants from the Department of Health and Human Services, MT Board of Crime Control and the U.S. Department of Justice Violence Against Women Office, but not all our clients needs can be met with grant funds. We rely on donations to meet the needs of our families as they arise. Funds from donations help CNADA purchase items like food, diapers, school items, transportation to safety, support group supplies and awareness materials.

First Presbyterian Church has been a wonderful supporter of CNADA for many years and we thank you so much for all you have given in past years. Please prayerfully consider giving a generous donation to CNADA this month to help us continue in our work. It truly does take a village to help not only children, but to say no to violence in our community.