

FPC NEWS

First Presbyterian Church
Miles City, MT



Volume 13, Issue 1

January 2015

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Secretary:

Mon.— Fri.
8 a.m. - Noon

Pastors:

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

Seeing God in the New Year

As we take our first steps into 2015 it is natural to reflect on the year that is wrapping up. That reflection may take the form of joy and thanksgiving as we celebrate the blessings that filled 2014 and the triumphs. It may take the form of disappointment as we see hopes and dreams that were left unrealized, resolutions that fell to the wayside, or friends and family members that we lost sometime during the last 356 days. Our relationship with God is not always one of the areas of reflection, yet it is so beneficial to do so. Often it is only in hindsight that we recognize what God has been doing in our midst over the last days, weeks, and months.

If you haven't had the opportunity yet, take time now to reflect: What was the best part of 2014 in your own life? Was God a part of it? What was your low point in 2014? Did you feel God's presence with you? What person did you not thank or pay enough attention to? Are there any transgressions you need to apologize for, someone you need to make up with? How or when did you feel most connected to God? When did you feel most separated from God?

As you brainstorm resolutions for the year ahead (diet, exercise, reading more....) take time to think about what little practices you can adopt that will help you grow in your relationship with God- perhaps taking time to journal daily, reading more, praying consistently, participate in church offerings. Invite God into your life in a real way in the year ahead.

In our Thoughtful Christian Article for January, a prayer written by John Wesley is shared. It is a great prayer to remind us to rely on God in the year ahead. As you venture into 2015 consider this prayer and use it as a way to stay mindful of God's involvement and presence in your life.

Lord, make me what you will.
I put myself fully into your hands:
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and with a willing heart
Give it all to your pleasure and disposal.
Amen.



Connecting With God

Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for our Annual Congregational Meeting that will be held immediately following worship on January 18th. The Annual Report will be provided, we will review the financial outcomes of 2014, we will vote on the pastors' compensation package as required by our Book of Order to be done annually, elect a member to the Deacons board, and we will receive the 2015 budget.

New Members Class

Mark your calendars! 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 12:30. 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.

New Elders and Deacons Training

In December a Special Congregational Meeting was held to elect our new class of Ruling Elders and Deacons. We are so blessed to have Ellen Terret, 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, and Pat Conley joining the Deacons board and providing care ministries for our congregation. As of the special meeting we were short one Deacon, but since then Laura Bennet has volunteered and will be voted on at the congregational meeting. These new Elders and Deacons will be ordained and/or installed in worship on January 25th. They will join their prospective boards at the combined Session & Deacons meet on January 12th to be examined and then seated as members at the February meetings. Please keep our new leaders in your prayers.

Training for these new leaders will take place before worship on **Sundays January 11th and 18th, meeting at 9:30** in the East Room.

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.

January 4th and 25th, and all of February are still open!

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) and click on the "Sermon Audio" tab where 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.

Joint Session & Deacons Meeting

On January 12th at 6pm our Session and Deacons Board will meet for their annual combined meeting. Our outgoing Elders and Deacons will attend for one final meeting, as the new Elders and Deacons join the group. We will vision together as leaders of the congregation, share a meal together (provided this year by session), welcome our new board members, and celebrate those who are stepping off the board. Session and Deacons will hold their January meetings immediately following our joint gathering.

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

Do You Have an Achin' for Some Bacon?

On behalf of the Deacons, you are invited to come to a **potluck after worship on January 25th** and enjoy good food and fellowship. Since it's a potluck, we can't guarantee there will be actual bacon served, but we can promise great food and fellowship and FPC Deacon/Moderator, Ashlie-Sarah Slunaker, has agreed to supply and cook ham for the occasion. Thanks Ashlie! If you plan on coming please bring a side to share.



Join us for Movie Night

January 28 the Membership/Outreach Committee will sponsor a movie night in Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:00 p.m. then will view the award winning movie "Courageous" at 5:30 p.m. The movie is about family values, faith and responsible parenting. It won the Best of Festival & Best Feature Film at the 2012 San Antonio Independent Christian Film Festival, the 2012 Epiphany Prize for Most Inspiring Movie, and the 2013 GMA Dove Award for Inspirational Film Of The Year. Anyone who plays a part in raising children including parents, grandparents, guardians, and care givers can be inspired by this film. Children will enjoy their own supervised activities while adults enjoy the movie.

Please come on January 28. If you cannot get to the church at 5:00 p.m., don't worry. Just let the church office know and we will be sure to save some dinner for you!

Little Angels Daycare

We have been busy learning all about Christmas and the reason for the season! We have made a ton of awesome Christmas crafts and have read a lot of Christmas books. We colored pictures and delivered them to Cottonwood group home. While there the residents enjoyed hearing the kids sing three carols. We are now up to 11 sight words and are continuing to practice telling time on the hour.

Health Insurance

Staff at OneHealth is offering free assistance to individuals and families with understanding the Affordable Healthcare Act and the health insurance marketplace. We will help community members with the application process and coverage options. For information, please contact the clinic at 874-8700 or come by 3rd floor of the V.A. Medical Center on 210 South Winchester in Miles City.

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:	Heifers for South Dakota
December:	Christmas Joy Offering

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

Adult Religious Education Opportunities

Adult Education Class During the month of January our adult Ed class will take a break. This will allow time for the pastors to train the incoming elders and deacons. We will resume our regular 9:30am meeting time in February.

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 sometime 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".

Worship in Your Inbox

Worship in Your Inbox is 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.

Thoughtful Christian Articles

An article is chosen every month from the Thoughtful Christian website. From 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 January article puts a Christian spin on New Year's resolutions.

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. On January 14th Pastor Kristin will be hosting the gathering in the Willett home. Contact her for more information.

Children's Sunday School

In January our children in Sunday School will learn about Epiphany and baptism. They will also begin to explore the parables of Jesus, beginning with the Parable of the Good Shepherd and then the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Please keep our children in your prayers as they explore their faith in Sunday School.



Our teens will meet January 11th & 25th. They will gather at City Brew from 7:30-8:30.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 - Betty McCourt
- Frank Bryant
- 6 - Dwight Conley
- 7 - Buford & Phyllis Griffin
- 9 - John Rex
- 16 - Dwight & Pat Conley
- 23 - Gus Glasscock
- 26 - Eleanor Hartmann
- Bill Mitchell
- 30 - Mary Jo Younglund

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

Building and Grounds

A few of the little things that have kept the B & G committee busy lately include fixing a light switch in the children's education room and an electrical outlet in the Fellowship Hall, winterizing the building by putting covers over window air conditioners and the attic fan in the sanctuary, repairing a couple of door knobs.

Two of the bigger things the committee has been involved with are the installation of the T-Loop system in the sanctuary and overseeing the installation of the new heating system. Pastor Brandon connected a power conditioner to the sanctuary's audio system which removes background noises and buzz from the electrical signal. Harry Price, of the B&G Committee, is looking into making a decorative wooden holder for the "necklace" type T-Loop receivers and headsets that will be mounted on the wall by the East entrance to the sanctuary.

Heating Project Update

The project is going well and moving along. The units that will supply heating and cooling to the East Room, offices, communion prep room and children's education area have been installed on the ground outside near the elevator entrance and the electrical has been connected to them. The blower modules that will supply heat and cooling for each room have been installed on the walls. MDU has connected the power supply to our building that is required to make all the new equipment functional.

The next steps of the project will be: to install thermostats in the East Room, offices, communion prep room and children's education area which will give local temperature control to each room, and to connect the electrical and plumbing lines to the wall-mounted blower modules. After this is completed the heaters will be functional in these areas. A final stage of the project will be to install the heating unit, electrical, plumbing, and ductwork in the basement.

Thanks to everyone who is making this project possible through your prayers, patience, and monetary gifts. God has truly blessed this congregation.

Do You Wear Hearing Aids or any Assistive Listening Device?

The T-Loop system is installed in the sanctuary. Hooray! We are thankful to Harry Price, Vern Taylor, Duncan Bartholemew and Pastor Brandon for the hours they gave to this project.

We turned the system on for the first time on November 30th. On December 7th we had the official debut of the system in worship. Then on Sunday morning we invited Jay Richwine, a Hearing Device Specialist, to join us before and after worship to help users connect and fine tune their devices for use with the system. If you get a chance to thank Jay Richwine for volunteering his time to this effort, please do. Initial reports about the system from users are that the system does exactly what we intended for it to do. It allows them to hear announcements, prayers, songs, scriptures, and sermons clearer and better than before. In some cases the change has been dramatic. Praise God!

We will be fine tuning the system as needed, over time. We need your help with this. If you use the system please contact Pastor Brandon or a member of Building and Grounds if you become aware of any issues with the system so we can address it. If you or someone you know would like more information about the T-Loop system contact Pastor Brandon. Thanks again to everyone who has helped make this project a reality.



Serving the Church & the World

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

In the newsletter from October you may have noticed the article about this question. It indicated that the Finance Committee and Session were planning to pay for half of the cost with money from our Reserves and the other half would be raised from special gifts given by members of the congregation.

\$65,000. For some, it's inconceivable that we might raise that much money in special gifts without crippling our annual budget, especially since our last capital funds drive was less than three years ago (for the windows). For others, this goal is lofty but attainable, especially when we keep in mind all the benefits of it. As of December 15, we had received \$21,200 towards this goal with another \$8,975 pledged. If all of the pledge money is received we are almost halfway towards our goal. The most helpful question for everyone is, **in your conversations with God, do you believe God is asking you to invest in this project?**

If not, be at peace knowing you are doing what God wants you to do and pray God will show you a different way to invest in the life and ministries of FPC.

If so, be at peace knowing you are doing what God wants you to do and pray God will help you determine an appropriate amount to give.

Raising the funds for this project **With God's Help** is an exercise of faith. It requires us to do our part and trust God will provide the rest. We can't see the results of our efforts from here. In the end, we may raise the entire \$65,000 or your Session may need to approve the use of additional funds from our Reserves. We have undesignated funds available to use for this project if necessary. In either case, thanks be to God and many contributors who make it all possible. Time will tell and God will lead us.

Please Consider Making a 2015 Pledge

So far 22 pledge cards have been turned in for the 2015 ministry year. If you haven't 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. If you give regularly to the monthly mission special offerings, there is also a space for you to designate what you plan to give in that area as well. You should have received a pledge card with last month's newsletter, if you need one contact the church office.

Pledging isn't a contract, if your life situations change during 2015 and you need to adjust your pledge there will be no judgment or disappointment from the leadership of the church. Your pledge is the result of an intimate conversation between you and God concerning how much you can contribute to the ministry that God is doing here in our midst.

The greatest desire of the leadership of FPC is that every household make a commitment of some sort. Whether it be a \$1 a week or 10% of your income, whatever you believe you can commit to in gratitude to God, knowing that God has brought all of us together to be the Church of FPC in Miles City. Please prayerfully consider giving in 2015.

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. The Session works with the Financial Secretary and the Finance Committee to manage the day-to-day budget and to continually evaluate and plan for the long term stewardship of the resources God gives us for the worship, mission, and ministries of the this church. As partners in the ministries and mission of this congregation you should be informed about this work.

The first table, called "GF Revenue," shows all the year-to-date income credited to the FPC general fund from offerings, pledges, and per capita. It gives an up-to-date summary 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. **The summary for November's close indicates that our total income from offerings, broadcast sponsorships, and per capita are significantly under budget.**

The second table, called "GF Expenses," shows the actual expenses that have been charged to the church's general fund so far this year. **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 is \$4,703.57 under budget. This is better than we anticipated, but we need to keep in mind that the 2014 budget we approved already included a deficit.**

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. The negative figure in the YTD Actual vs Budget reflects the payment made.**

In summary, the church has received less income from offerings than we budgeted and our finances would be healthier if we made up this deficit to our income ASAP, especially when we remember that we are operating with a deficit budget. 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 are on track to meet, and potentially exceed, our budget this year. **We could end up with a smaller deficit in our General Fund than we budgeted, though our net will be in the negative due to our heating project.**

Thank you for investing in the mission and ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Please continue to pray for God's guidance and provisions for the ministries, mission, and leadership of FPC and to continue leading us in the faithful stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

First Presbyterian Church
Session Summary Report
11/30/2014

GF REVENUE	11/30/14 YTD Actual	11/30/14 YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs Budget	11/30/13 YTD Actual	Difference 2014 / 2013
Offering	76,549.45	84,000.00	(7,450.55)	88,811.13	(12,261.68)
Per Capita	2,414.50	2,700.00	(285.50)	2,712.90	(298.40)
Broadcast Sponsorship	4,810.00	5,000.00	(190.00)	3,780.00	1,030.00
Other	1,490.28	1,650.00	(159.72)	2,120.09	(629.81)
TOTAL REVENUE	85,264.23	93,350.00	(8,085.77)	97,424.12	(12,159.89)
GF EXPENSES	11/30/14 YTD Actual	11/30/14 YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs. Budget	11/30/13 YTD Actual	Difference 2014 / 2013
Personnel	(84,168.43)	(88,415.70)	4,247.27	(83,815.41)	(353.02)
Property	(22,784.86)	(26,831.60)	4,046.74	(24,336.40)	1,551.54
Other	(30,147.17)	(34,642.50)	4,495.33	(30,577.52)	430.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	(137,100.46)	(149,889.80)	12,789.34	(138,729.33)	1,628.87
NET GENERAL FUND	11/30/14 YTD Actual	11/30/14 YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs Budget	11/30/13 YTD Actual	Difference 2014 / 2013
	(51,836.23)	(56,539.80)	4,703.57	(41,305.21)	(10,531.02)
OTHER FUNDS	11/30/14 YTD Actual	11/30/14 YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs Budget		
Transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Reserve Fund	11,302.61	10,012.00	1,290.61		
Building Fund	1,525.37	1,600.00	(74.63)		
Other	(15,082.00)	0.00	(15,082.00)		
Temporarily Restricted	2,810.37	120.00	2,690.37		
Permanently Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00		
TOTAL OTHER	556.35	11,732.00	(11,175.65)		
NET GENERAL FUND + OTHER FUNDS	11/30/14 YTD Actual	11/30/14 YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs Budget		
Change in net assets	(51,279.88)	(44,807.80)	(6,472.08)		

JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3
4 11:00AM Worship w/ Holy Communion Sunday School	5 2:00PM Eagle's Manor Communion 4:00PM Building & Grounds	6	7 4:00PM Holy Rosary Communion	8 9:00AM PW Fellowship 2:00PM Deborah Circle	9	10
11 9:30AM New Officer Training 11:00AM Worship w/ Mi- nute 4 Mission Sunday School 7:30PM Youth Group	12 9:30AM PW Coordinating 6:00PM Session/ Deacon Meeting	13 2:30PM Friendship Villa Communion	14 7:30PM Women's Devotional Group	15 9:00AM PW Fellowship	16	17
18 9:30AM New Officer Training 11:00AM Worship Sunday School 12:00PM Congregational Meeting	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22 9:00AM PW Fellowship	23	24
25 11:00AM Worship Sunday School 12PM Potluck 7:30PM Youth Group	26	27	28 5:00PM Dinner 5:30PM Movie Night	29 9:00AM PW Fellowship	30	31



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CHURCH



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<http://mc1stpres.org>

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



January Special Offering: DEAP

The Developmental Educational Assistance Program (DEAP) is a not for profit organization that provides a variety of family education, support, childcare, health nutrition and residential services to families, children and adults. DEAP was organized in 1976 to provide family education and support services to families whose children had developmental disabilities or were at risk of developmental delays. Since organization, DEAP has expanded services and programs to include evaluation and diagnosis, caregiver, early intervention, supported and community living, family preservation, childcare resource and referral, and health education /

nutrition (WIC) services. Services are provided in 17 eastern Montana counties. Satellite offices are located in Colstrip and Glendive. DEAP successfully administers services through contracts awarded by the State of Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) including Developmental Disability Services, Child and Family Services, Health Policy and Services, Human and Community Services. DEAP continues to respond to opportunities to expand services, and to seek other private and public funding sources that can support people's essential needs in ways they choose.