



FPC NEWS

First Presbyterian Church
Miles City, MT

The Gift of the Ordinary



Volume 13, Issue 6

June/July 2015

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Secretary:

Mon.— Fri.
8 a.m. - Noon

Pastors:

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

Pentecost marked the end of the season known as Eastertide in the church calendar and the beginning of “Ordinary Time.” In our denomination we celebrate the seasons of the church calendar with special colors for advent and lent, extra worship services during Holy Week and Christmas, and liturgies that focus on the meaning of these “special” seasons. I always find it amusing when we enter “Ordinary Time.” In my mind calling it “ordinary time” is akin to calling it “the non-special season” or “just another Sunday season.” What’s wrong with ordinary?

It is no secret at this point in our ministry that one of our favorite and trusted theologians is Frederick Buechner. I recently decided to begin reading a daily devotional that is composed of excerpts from Buechner’s writings. As usual the very first meditation I read was filled with just what I needed and is appropriate for this “ordinary” season we are embarking on together. He writes:

“Listen to your Life. All moments are key moments. I discovered that if you really keep your eye peeled to it and your ears open, if you really pay attention to it, even such a limited and limiting life as the one I was living on Rupert Mountain opened up onto extraordinary vistas. Taking your children to school and kissing your wife goodbye. Eating lunch with a friend. Trying to do a decent day’s work. Hearing the rain patter against the window. There is no event so commonplace but that God is present within it, always hiddenly, always leaving you room to recognize him or not to recognize him, but all the more fascinatingly because of that, all the more compellingly and hauntingly.... If I were called upon to state in a few words the essence of everything I was trying to say both as a novelist and as a preacher, it would be something like this: Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.”

As we journey through yet another “ordinary” summer, may we each see God at work around us. May we recognize the gift of the ordinary. Blessings on you and yours.

Your Pastors

Connecting With God

Breakfast-In-A-Bag

Plan to stay after worship on June 14th for our annual Breakfast-In-A-Bag. Free will donations will be committed to our Local Mission Fund that provides emergency assistance in our community.



Gives Shirt Template

T-Shirt Day In Worship

In conjunction with the Mission Committee's Breakfast-in-a-Bag, the Membership & Outreach Committee encourages you to wear your favorite T-shirt to worship June 14. Many of us have

T-shirts that display messages about our favorite events, charities or sports teams. Or your favorite shirt might be one given to you by a person dear to you. Wear yours and share the message of your shirt with your church family. Tell your friends about it during our breakfast event. Even if you don't have a favorite T-shirt, come and enjoy hearing from others about their special shirts.

Summer Worship Schedule

Now through Labor Day we will gather to worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30am. Adult education will take a break over the summer, but plan to stay with us following the service for coffee and treats. This summer will be the first with our new air conditioning, which we are confident will be a blessing to all those who attend. We hope to worship with you this summer!

Summer Newsletters

Our August and September Newsletters will be combined as well. If you have an article to submit for the newsletter, please make sure it is to Nichole in the church office no later than Wednesday, July 22nd.

No Summer Sunday School but that doesn't mean there isn't anything for the kids...

Over the summer we take a break from Sunday School lessons and encourage families to keep their little ones in worship with them. It is a great opportunity for the kids to experience the entirety of the worship service. We know that this can still be too much for many children, so except for communion Sundays there is child care available following the children's conversation (this will be mostly crafts and play time). On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of each month) there won't be child care so that all can partake of the sacrament together.

Summer Nursery Happenings

So many babies are being born into our congregation that we need to do a bit of reconstruction in our nursery to provide enough space for them. Over the summer we are going to relocate our nursery ministry to the children's area to provide time for this reconstruction to take place. Infants and toddler (0-3) can be dropped off in the child care area prior to worship. We are excited to have the updated nursery space ready for the fall!

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.

The following Sundays are open: June 28th and all of July & August.

Prayer Chain

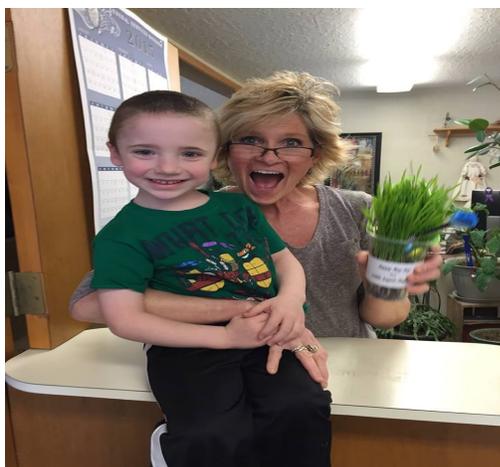
To have a prayer request added to the prayer chain, contact Nichole the Secretary at the church office. 234-4855

Growing in Your Faith & Relationships

Ice Cream Social



Join us for an ice cream social on the church lawn Wednesday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m. The Membership & Outreach Committee will provide ice cream, chocolate, and caramel toppings. You are invited to bring your favorite topping to share. The possibilities are endless: nuts, crumbled cookies, fruit, sprinkles, chips, anything you can think of that you like on a sundae. It's a build-your-own event. We've asked Pastor Brandon to lead us in a few songs. Invite your friends and family and enjoy a fun evening on the back lawn. (If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll gather in Fellowship Hall.)



Little Angels Daycare

On May 1st the kids delivered May Day Baskets. We delivered 48 baskets! It was a beautiful day so we had a wonderful picnic out in the yard! The kids have been enjoyed making spring crafts, learning about a caterpillar's metamorphosis and spending as much time possible outside. Story time with the Bucking horse royalty was a big hit. They got to meet the rodeo princesses, ride "cows," learn to rope and to wave regally. We are also enjoying our new swing set! We are up to 29 sight words and are continuing to practice telling time. Other academic concepts we continue to work on include: letter sounds and recognition, colors, shapes and understanding the calendar.



VBS- Expedition Everest!

The week of July 20-24 we will be teaming up with the Methodist and UCC church to offer VBS for our children and the community. This year the kids will explore God's faithfulness as they journey up Mount Everest. It will be an amazing week of fun and faith as we grow together. Registration information is available through the church office. The theme this year coincides with the unfortunate devastation in Nepal and a collection will be taken during the week to help with recovery and rebuilding there.

VBS Volunteers Needed!

We anticipate around 75 children will participate in this summer's VBS! With that many little ones, we need a lot of adult and teen volunteers. If you are willing to help please contact Pastor Kristin as soon as possible. If you aren't comfortable leading in a hands on way with the children, we also need help through donations of supplies and set up. There will be a board in the East Room beginning in mid June with items that are needed to donate or borrow. We hope that you will help by selecting something you can contribute!

Thank you to our Sunday School Teachers!

Throughout the school year we have been blessed by many adults and teens who have shared their time and their faith with our children. We want to recognize them and express our appreciation for the ministry of these devoted teachers. Our teachers and volunteers have included: Denise Hartse, Carolyn Zimmerman, Nathan Kraft, Ashli Drga, Joanne Perkins, Don Bidwell, and Emily Bennet. If you see one of these amazing teachers at church please share your gratitude with them. They have been a true blessing to all of the children of our congregation!

Serving the Church & the World

Mission Committee

June:	Local Mission
July:	EMI
August:	ROCKS Program
September:	Theological Education Fund
October:	Peacemaking Offering
November:	Montana Rescue Mission
December:	Christmas Joy Offering

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee will be meeting on June 1st at 7pm here at the church to discuss the breakfast in a bag that will be immediately follow the worship service on June 14th. This will benefit a local mission. We are looking for people to join our committee if you are interested in joining the mission committee please contact Verna Viall. Hughette Bengé a great asset to our committee, will be moving in June. She will be greatly missed by all.

PW News

Our spring luncheon was a success with 18 attending, two from Forsyth and three from Terry. Candy Brown from CNADA gave a talk on those people who are in abusive situations or going through a sexual assault crisis. And said there is a need for good clothing for them like sweats, tops or blouses in size medium, large or extra large. There are clothing drop boxes located at the library, the police station or the CNADA office; if anyone has something they would like to donate to this cause. PW is in a transition period and has decided to drop our membership with the PW Presbytery and operate independently. There will be a reorganization meeting on September 14th for all the ladies in the church to discuss this in more detail. Until then things will continue as usual.

Mary Lynn & Delores

Special Offerings Update

In April we collected \$450 for our One Great Hour of Sharing collection. In May (as of the 26th) we collected \$275 to be committed to the PC(USA) Pentecost Offering. More information can be found on the back of the newsletter or on the bulletin board in the East Room.

Westminster Spires Summer Camps

CHILDREN AND YOUTH- On behalf of Yellowstone Presbytery, you are invited to a summer camp adventure at Westminster Spires in Red Lodge!

Westminster Spires is a Christian camp that is excited about helping children and teens grow in their love of life and the good earth and to grow in friendship with others and with God.

Activities at camp include hiking in the Beartooth Mountains, playing indoor and outdoor games, participating in short mission projects, designing and making crafts, rafting or swimming, eating great food, talking and learning about life through daily Bible Study, telling stories and singing around the campfire, and much more.

Youth Camps are available for Elementary July 12th-16th, Junior High July 19th-24th and Senior High youth July 26th-31st. Camps are led by volunteer clergy and lay leaders with paid youth counselors. The Session at FPC approved a request for YOUR PASTORS to help lead the Elementary Camp (July 12-16). FUN!

For more information, see the Youth Camp brochure and registration forms on the information table in the East Room.



Serving the Church & the World

Buildings & Grounds

The Building and Grounds Committee would like to welcome Nathan Kraft to the committee.

In the upcoming months lots of work is going be going on in and around the church. We are going to be removing the heat radiator and the risers in the "Cry Room". The fire place heater will be installed in Selle Hall, along with new carpet or vinyl in the old nursery. Outside we will be replacing some shingles that came off in the last windstorm and respread some of the gravel in the parking lot.

A Day At Jefferson

In line with our special mission offering's focus on youth during the month of May, Pastor Brandon volunteered at Jefferson school for a day. It was a great experience getting to witness the creative work of teachers and help within a few classrooms. We hope that his presence was a blessing to the teachers and students. We will continue to arrange mission outings that align with our financial offerings towards missions. If you would like to join the pastors in these efforts please contact the church office.

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

We continue to be in awe of God's provision and the generosity of our congregation. Another \$500 was contributed to our efforts! Our goal has been to raise \$65,000 for the project. We are proud to share that we are now up to \$58,551.81 (as of May 20th)! That is wonderful progress and we are just shy our ambitious goal. Thank you to all who continue to help in this endeavor!

Financial Snapshot

We are grateful for God's great provisions and continue to be diligent in the stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us. As of the end of April, we are still below our projected income through offering and pledges, but have seen an increase in giving over the month of April. Due to expenses being lower than anticipated, we are still on target with our budget totals. We celebrate this, but are also mindful that our budget was a deficit to begin with.

We continue in faith, sincerely trusting that God is leading this congregation. We see God's leadership at work all around us through the children who inspire us on Sunday mornings, the baptisms that are taking place, the people that are served beyond our walls, and the inspiration we receive as we worship together. We continue this good work into the summer and are confident that God will continue to provide through the loving and gracious gifts of the body of Christ.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

June		16 -	Steven Martin
6 -	Clinton Long Sioux		Marcus & Denise Hartse
7 -	Pastors Brandon & Kristin Willett	24 -	Wayne & Betty Lou Helland
11 -	Millie Valach		
12 -	June Baker	26 -	Vern & Mary Lynn Taylor
15	Donald & Arlis Bidwell	29	Donald Bidwell
July:			
4 -	John & Donna Rex	23 -	Nancy Cain
10 -	Stacy Mackenzie-Scheid	25 -	Milton Bengé
13 -	Donalene McLeod	26 -	Jim Zimmerman
18 -	Amelia Bradley	28 -	Timmy Regan
20 -	Alice Spear-Bankey	~	Nathan Kraft
21 -	Caroline Fleming		
	Ina McRae		

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

First Presbyterian Church
Session Summary Report
4/30/2015

GF REVENUE	4/30/15 YTD Actual	4/30/15 YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs Budget	4/30/14 YTD Actual	Difference 2015 / 2014
Offering	26,176.65	28,800.00	(2,623.35)	27,405.00	(1,228.35)
Per Capita	2,045.00	1,800.00	245.00	2,227.00	(182.00)
Broadcast Sponsorship	1,685.00	2,040.00	(355.00)	1,945.00	(260.00)
Income from Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	1,010.00	600.00	410.00	520.00	490.00
TOTAL REVENUE	30,916.65	33,240.00	(2,323.35)	32,097.00	(1,180.35)
GF EXPENSES	4/30/15 YTD Actual	4/30/15 YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs. Budget	4/30/14 YTD Actual	Difference 2015 / 2014
Personnel	(31,384.71)	(32,169.99)	785.28	(31,520.25)	135.54
Property	(8,657.60)	(10,567.40)	1,909.80	(9,972.53)	1,314.93
Other	(12,149.56)	(13,535.75)	1,386.19	(15,792.88)	3,643.32
TOTAL EXPENSES	(52,191.87)	(56,273.14)	4,081.27	(57,285.66)	5,093.79
NET GENERAL FUND	4/30/15 YTD Actual	4/30/15 YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs Budget	4/30/14 YTD Actual	Difference 2015 / 2014
	(21,275.22)	(23,033.14)	1,757.92	(25,188.66)	3,913.44
OTHER FUNDS	4/30/15 YTD Actual	4/30/15 YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs Budget		
Transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Reserve Fund	9,428.11	9,545.00	(116.89)		
Building Fund	0.00	50.00	(50.00)		
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Temporarily Restricted	445.02	0.00	445.02		
Permanently Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00		
TOTAL OTHER	9,873.13	9,595.00	278.13		
NET GENERAL FUND + OTHER FUNDS	4/30/15 YTD Actual	4/30/15 YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs Budget		
Change in net assets	(11,402.09)	(13,438.14)	2,036.05		

JUNE 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3:30PM Building & Grounds 7:00PM Mission Committee Meeting	2	3 6:30PM Ice Cream Social	4 9:00AM PW Fellowship	5	6
7 9:30AM Worship w/ Holy Communion No Children Activities 2:00PM B-day Party for Hughetta at Range Riders	8 2:00PM Eagle's Manor Communion	9 2:30PM Friendship Villa Communion 7:00PM Deacons meeting	10 4:00PM Holy Rosary Communion	11 9:00AM PW Fellowship	12 Presbytery meeting in Springs	13 in White Sulfur
14 T-Shirt Sunday 9:30AM Worship w/ Minute 4 Mission 10:30AM Breakfast in a Bag	15 6:00PM Session Meeting	16	17	18 9:00AM PW Fellowship	19	20
21 Father's Day 9:30AM Worship	22	23	24	25 9:00AM PW Fellowship	26	27
28 9:30AM Worship	29	30				

JULY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:30AM Worship w/ Communion	6 Independence Day Office Closed	7 2:30pm Friendship Villa Communion	8 11:00AM Membership Committee Meeting 4:00PM Holy Rosary Communion	9 2:00PM Eagles Manor Communion	10	11
12 9:30AM Worship w/Minute 4 Mission	13	14	15	16 9:00AM PW Fellowship	17	18
19 9:30AM Worship	20 Vacation Bible School	21 VBS	22 VBS	23 VBS	24 VBS	25
26 9:30AM Worship	27	28	29	30 9:00AM PW Fellowship	31	

Pastors teaching at Presbyterian Camp in Red Lodge

Serving the Church & the World

Session Notes

At the May Session meeting on Monday the 18th, the Session Elders shared time in study and prayer and then embarked on the work of leadership. Some highlights from the meeting include:

- Celebration of recent baptisms- did you notice Brynn's sweet face as she waited for the water?
- Reviewing the year to date financials
- Celebrating the daycares recent successful licensing evaluation
- Listening to plans for the final stages of the heating/cooling project
- Approving the updated job description for the Treasurer position
- Reviewed and edited the "Guidelines for our Local Mission Fund"
- Continuing its work on a new Fiscal Policy

The next called session meeting will be Monday, June 15th at 6pm. Please continue to keep the leaders of our congregation in your prayers as they go about their work.

Yellowstone Presbytery Meets June 12th and 13th in White Sulphur Springs

Pastors and elders from our presbytery will be gathering to worship and conduct business in mid June. Along with the business at hand the group will be joined by Vera White with the denomination's "1001 Worshipping Communities" initiative. It promises to be an inspirational couple of days as Vera shares how to assess the needs of our communities and create worshipping bodies within them. The focus will be on mission and how to bless those in our midst. In addition to delegates, the Presbytery is encouraging attendance by anyone who is interested in learning more about the "1001 Worshipping Communities." If you are interested please contact one of the pastors.

Worship at Knowlton

To celebrate Memorial Day our pastors participated in a clean up and beautification project at Knowlton Cemetery. Following the clean up they led a brief worship time and shared a meal with those gathered. It was a wonderful way to commemorate the day.

Thank you to the Griffins for extending the invitation and all those who participated for such warm hospitality.

The Caring Ministries of FPC

Do you need a ride to church? Do you know someone who might like to receive a card of celebration or sympathy? Can you think of anyone who would like a visit or to receive communion in their home? Do you want someone to pray with or for you? If so, feel free to get in touch with a Deacon.

The Deacons lead the caring ministries at FPC and would be glad to help. In fact, at their most recent meeting, the Deacons suggested printing their names in the newsletter so we can better serve the needs of our congregation. Feel free to contact any Deacon or a pastor with a need.

Our Deacons are:

Ashlie-Sarah Slunaker (moderator)

Pat Conley

Connie Bartholemew

Mary Lou Russiff

Joanne Perkins

Gail Price

Laura Bennett

Emily Bennett

Karl Drga



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

June & July Special Offerings:



Comfort those in any
trouble with the comfort
we ourselves have
received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:4

June: The Special Offering for the month of June is the Local Mission. This mission was established several years ago, so there would be a fund to support those who fall through the cracks. These are individuals that have tried to get help elsewhere, but no help has been found.

July: The Special Offering for the month of July is EMI. Eastern Montana Industries is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to provide people with disabilities the vocational and residential services necessary to achieve their highest levels of productivity and independence in the least restrictive setting possible. Today they employ over 130 people and serve 11 southeastern Montana counties. They have 8 adult group homes that service 48 individuals with development disabilities. In addition, they provide vocational and community living support to over 170 individuals annually. They have been providing these services for over 30 years and have become an integral part of our community. Please consider giving to this mission effort in the month ahead.

