



# FPC NEWS

First Presbyterian Church  
Miles City, MT



Volume 13, Issue 5

May 2015

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## Happy Birthday!

This month we celebrate a great holy day in our faith tradition. It doesn't often get the attention it deserves, yet its significance does not fall short of Christmas and Easter. I know that sounds blasphemous, but Pentecost is essential to who we are and who we understand God to be. Christmas celebrates the incarnation- God's great love for us and willingness to come and walk among us to reveal that love in a more tangible way. Easter celebrate the cross and the resurrection—again God's great love for us on display as he willingly lays down his life for his beloved creation and then rising to demonstrate the unstoppable power of our great God. Pentecost marks the day on which God's call to action to his followers is taken seriously. It is the day that God reveals how essential we are as messengers of truth and love. It is the day that reveals fully that God chooses to work through ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Pentecost is when God's spirit comes and infuses the disciples with the ability to live the will of God more fully. It is when the disciples turned from being a small group of uncertain, anxious followers to the Church.

That is why it is often described as the Church's birthday. On that day the Bible says that thousands came to believe. On that day timid, reluctant men became preachers and proclaimers of God's great story. On that day the Great Commissioning —“go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”— began to be lived out. What followed was world changing.

We are here because of that day. We, First Presbyterian Church, gather in the name of God because those that gathered that day followed the Spirit into the world and acted. We are here because so many faithful followers after found themselves as a part of that great Pentecost story and they too joined in the work of God in the world as they were led by the Spirit to influence the lives and faiths of others.

The Pentecost story is our story. It is our call too. God's Spirit still rests upon us, still infuses us, and still leads us to action. The Church isn't intended to be a sedentary group, but rather a group of active, dynamic followers of God who continue to live the Great Commissioning and share the power of God's love with those that we meet. As we celebrate Pentecost this year, may we pray that God will infuse us with the same passion and sense of purpose as those followers so many years ago.

Happy Birthday!



### **Secretary:**

Mon.— Fri.

8 a.m. - Noon

### **Pastors:**

Mon. – Thurs.

9 a.m. – Noon

Afternoons by  
appointment

## Connecting With God

### Pentecost!

On Sunday, May 24th we will be celebrating Pentecost during worship. Come and join us as we remember that first Pentecost gathering as the Spirit descended as tongues of fire. All are invited to wear red to worship to represent the Spirit's presence with us. Join us after worship for a celebration of the Church's birthday in the East Room.

### Mother's Day

On Sunday May 10th we will celebrate all of the Mothers in our congregation. We hope that you will join us to honor the unconditional love of those who have left an eternal maternal mark on our hearts.

### Graduating Seniors

On Sunday May 17th we will recognize the graduating seniors of our congregation. We will congratulate them for their great efforts and bless their paths forward.

### 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: May 10th, June 7th & 28th.**

### Children's Sunday School

Our Children's Sunday School will finish up the school year this month. Our Godly Play time will continue through much of May. Beginning Sunday May 24th and continuing through the summer months in stead of Sunday School, children will be encouraged to remain in worship with their families. Activities (crafts and playtime) will be provided following the children's conversation for those who are not yet ready to sit through a full worship service. Thank you to all of those who have taught the children of FPC this year!



### We Celebrate with the Drga Family!

We were blessed to celebrate the sacrament of baptism with the Drga family on Sunday, April 26th. All four of the Drga children (Brynn, Lane, Tucker, and Lucas) were baptized. God's love and claim on those little ones' was evident. Praise God!

### Summer Newsletters

During the summer months we will consolidate our newsletters. The months of June and July will be combined as will August and September. If you have an article to submit for the June/July newsletter, please make sure it is to Nichole in the church office no later than Wednesday, May 20th.

### 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*



### Little Angels Daycare

The first week of April was spent learning about Easter, making Easter crafts and eating Easter-themed meals and snacks. The remainder of the month has been spent learning about spring and making spring projects. Our spring wall is nearly complete and it is one of my favorites yet! It brightens the entire room and makes it look very cheerful. We are now up to 27 sight words and are continuing to practice telling time on the hour. Other academic concepts we continue to work on include; letter sounds and recognition, colors, shapes and understanding the calendar. Being able to play outside and walk to story-time again has continued to be awesome. The sandboxes continue to be the favorite activity in the yard. The kids can play in them for hours without getting bored.



### Plans for VBS are underway

Though we are just beginning to see the signs of Spring around us, we are already looking forward and making plans for this summer's Vacation Bible School. We will continue to partner with the Methodist church to offer a week of Christian exploration and fun. This year VBS is scheduled for July 20-24. Mark your calendars so that your children can participate or so you can volunteer!

### Westminster Spires

**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.

The camp will open this year on the weekend of June 5-7 with Revamp the Camp. Volunteers will complete projects such as painting, cleaning, washing windows and getting the kitchen, dining room, sleeping cabins and other buildings ready for summer use. The Mission Committee at FPC is interested in organizing transportation from Miles City to serve at Revamp the Camp next summer (2016, there are scheduling conflicts this year). If you would like to participate contact Sandy Welch at 406-252-2403 or by email at [welchvan@aol.com](mailto:welchvan@aol.com) for more information.

Youth Camps are available for Elementary, Junior High and Senior High youth. 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 or the Yellowstone Presbytery website at [www.yellowstonepcusa.org](http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org). Adults interested in serving on the summer camp staff are encouraged to contact Curt Kochner at 406-259-7368 or by email at [ckochner@mcn.net](mailto:ckochner@mcn.net).



## *Serving the Church & the World*

### Mission Committee

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 March we collected \$510 for Suicide Prevention in Eastern Montana. In April (as of the 19th) we collected \$245 to be committed to the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Thank you for supporting our special offerings. In May we will support the Pentecost Offering. More information can be found on the back of the newsletter or on the bulletin board in the East Room.

### PW News

PW would like to thank those ladies who helped with bingo at the HRH Extended Care the last two weeks in March. We really appreciated your help on this project.

We would also like to thank Eleanor Neurohr for getting the flowers out to the shut-ins.

The PW Spring Luncheon will be held on May 7th at 12pm. All the ladies of the church are invited. This will be a salad bar and everyone is asked to bring a salad. Hope to see you there.

### Trash Walk

From May 1 to May 24 Keep Miles City Beautiful aims to remove trash from Miles City streets. Walkers are encouraged, on their daily walks, to take a bag and pick up garbage. When done contact KMCB to report which area was cleaned and the size and number of bags collected: report the following ways: call or text 406-951-1129 or email [jg@keepmcbbeautiful.com](mailto:jg@keepmcbbeautiful.com). Also see trash walk map located on the bulletin board in the East Room.

### Red Cross Needs You!

Red Cross needs you! As wildfire season approaches, join the Red Cross as a Disaster Action Team member or shelter worker. Your help is greatly needed to respond to potential threats in our community- our family, our neighbors! Remember that the time to train is before the disaster happens. Please consider giving of your time and talents. Go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call 1-800-272-6668. Miles City and our neighbors need to know that Red Cross is there. Be the face and arms of Red Cross.

### The VA Needs You

The VA needs you! The VA nursing home is looking for volunteers to visit patients that are in their last days who do not have family. They need volunteers to visit, read, sing, or just sit with them. Contact Mary Haydal at 874-5857 for more information.

### Buildings & Grounds

The Building and Grounds Committee continues to be hard at work putting the finishing touches on the heating and cooling system. A fence has been put up around the outside units in order to provide some protection. The offices will soon be receiving cosmetic touches as the exposed pipes will be covered. We are also happy to share that a heating unit will be installed in Selle Hall in order to make that beautiful room available for meetings and library use.

## *Serving the Church & the World*

### Session Notes

At the April Session meeting on Monday the 20th, 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 and upcoming baptisms.
- Reviewing the year to date financials
- Approving the summer worship schedule and time of continuing education for the pastors
- Receiving Roxy's resignation and hearing the initial plan of action for the time of transition
- Reviewing the "Policy on Former and Retired Pastors"
- Beginning its work on a new Fiscal Policy

The next called session meeting will be Monday, May 18th at 6pm. Please continue to keep the leaders of our congregation in your prayers as they go about their work.

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

God is good! So is our congregation! We continue to see contributions coming in to fund the heading and cooling project. Our goal was to raise \$65,000 for the project. We are proud to share that we are now up to \$58,151.81 (As of April 20th)! That is wonderful progress and we are just shy our our ambitious goal. Thank you to all who continue to help in this endeavor!

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

6 - Jack Fleming	13 - Jack & Caroline Fleming
7 - Ashlie Sarah Slunaker	17 - Myrtle Herzog
9 - Eleanor Neurohr	28 - Sharon Sorlien
10 - Jason Helland	29 - Irene Martin
11 - Wayne Helland	30 - Nola Goodman
12 - Eleanor Bryant Dennis Corbin	

### News of Transition

Roxy Carlson has served as the FPC treasurer for many years. Her diligent effort and deep commitment to the ministry of this congregation has been more than evident in her thorough and detailed financial record keeping and communications. She has helped this congregation through transition and new endeavors such as the daycare ministry and investment of our reserves with Wealth Management. Her work here has been above and beyond her main form of employment as a financial advisor both her in Miles City and in Terry. Roxy has determined that her outside demands no longer provide the time for her to tend properly to the finance of the church. She shared with Session this past month that she will be resigning from her position. The transition will begin in May and will mostly likely continue through the summer months as she hands over her responsibilities. Please keep Roxy in your prayers during this transition. Also pray for the next person who will fill this role.

### Financial Snapshot

We are grateful to God's great provisions and continue to be diligent in the stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us. You will see the financial snapshot as of the end of March following. We still fall below our projected income through offering and pledges. Due to expenses being lower than anticipated though 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 that 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 know that our finances are too in God's hands.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Session Summary Report**  
**3/31/2015**

revised 4/20/2015

<b>GF REVENUE</b>	<b>3/31/15 YTD Actual</b>	<b>3/31/15 YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual vs Budget</b>	<b>3/31/14 YTD Actual</b>	<b>Difference 2015 / 2014</b>
Offering	20,114.30	22,700.00	(2,585.70)	21,785.00	(1,670.70)
Per Capita	2,045.00	1,350.00	695.00	1,845.00	200.00
Broadcast Sponsorship	1,325.00	1,560.00	(235.00)	1,705.00	(380.00)
Income from Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	950.00	450.00	500.00	520.00	430.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>24,434.30</b>	<b>26,060.00</b>	<b>(1,625.70)</b>	<b>25,855.00</b>	<b>(1,420.70)</b>
<b>GF EXPENSES</b>	<b>3/31/15 YTD Actual</b>	<b>3/31/15 YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual vs. Budget</b>	<b>3/31/14 YTD Actual</b>	<b>Difference 2015 / 2014</b>
Personnel	(23,383.90)	(24,218.54)	834.64	(23,547.19)	163.29
Property	(7,308.12)	(8,306.80)	998.68	(7,872.05)	563.93
Other	(10,619.85)	(12,468.25)	1,848.40	(11,947.67)	1,327.82
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(41,311.87)</b>	<b>(44,993.59)</b>	<b>3,681.72</b>	<b>(43,366.91)</b>	<b>2,055.04</b>
<b>NET GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>3/31/15 YTD Actual</b>	<b>3/31/15 YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual vs Budget</b>	<b>3/31/14 YTD Actual</b>	<b>Difference 2015 / 2014</b>
	(16,877.57)	(18,933.59)	2,056.02	(17,511.91)	634.34
<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>3/31/15 YTD Actual</b>	<b>3/31/15 YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual vs Budget</b>		
Transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Reserve Fund	9,222.45	9,340.00	(117.55)		
Building Fund	0.00	50.00	(50.00)		
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Temporarily Restricted	370.05	0.00	370.05		
Permanently Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00		
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>9,592.50</b>	<b>9,390.00</b>	<b>202.50</b>		
<b>NET GENERAL FUND + OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>3/31/15 YTD Actual</b>	<b>3/31/15 YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Actual vs Budget</b>		
Change in net assets	(7,285.07)	(9,543.59)	2,258.52		

# MAY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office closed	2
3 9:30AM Adult Ed 11:00AM Worship w/ Holy Communion Sunday School	4 2:00PM Eagle's Manor Communion 3:30PM Building & Grounds	5	6	7 12:00PM PW Luncheon	8	9
10 9:30AM Adult Ed 11:00AM Worship w/ Minute 4 Mission Sunday School 7:00PM Youth Group	11	12 2:30PM Friendship Villa Communion 7:00PM Deacons meeting	13 4:00PM Holy Rosary Communion 7:30pm Women's Devotional Group	14 9:00AM PW Fellowship 2:00pm Deborah Circle	15	16
17 <b>Grad Recognition</b> 9:30AM Adult Ed 11:00AM Worship Sunday School	18 6:00PM Session Meeting	19	20 <b>June/July Newsletter Deadline</b>	21 9:00AM PW Fellowship	22	23
24 <b>Pentecost</b> 9:30AM Adult Ed 11:00AM Worship No Sunday School 7:00PM Youth Group	25 <b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b>	26	27	28 9:00AM PW Fellowship 1:30pm Elizabeth's Circle	29	30
31 9:30AM Adult Ed 11:00AM Worship No Sunday School						



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### May Special Offerings:



PENTECOST  
OFFERING

The Pentecost Offering provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Our congregation keeps 40% of the Offering to support ministries benefiting these age groups in our community. The General Assembly's portion (60%) provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised more than \$8 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.

### Save the Date!

Membership committee will host an ice cream social on Wednesday June 3rd beginning at 6:30 on the back lawn of the church. Everyone is asked to bring a topping to share and come for an evening of sweets and fun. Hope you can make it!