

News From The Pews

News of the First Presbyterian Church

December 2008 - January 2009

Reverend Bob Garrard
firstpresrlg@qwestoffice.net

First Presbyterian Church
firstpresbyteri5@qwestoffice.net

Reverend Jan Brooks
firstpresjb@qwestoffice.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2008

December 7, 2007 – Sunday / Christmas Program

Worship Theme: "And They Called Him Jesus"

December 14, 2007 – Communion Sunday

Worship Theme: "How God Prepares the Way"

Scriptures: Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

December 21, 2007 – Sunday

Worship Theme: "Anointed and Appointed"

Scriptures: 2 Samuel 7: 1-1; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-36

December 24, 2007 – Wednesday / Christmas Eve

(Church closes at noon)

7:00 p.m. Early Christmas Eve Service

11:00 p.m. Late Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Worship Theme: "What Child Is This?"

Scriptures: Isaiah 9: 2-7; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-20

December 25, 2007 – Thursday

MERRY CHRISTMAS

(Church Office Closed)

December 28, 2008 – Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship Service (No Sunday School or Youth Activities)

A Service of Song, Prayer, and Praise

December 31, 2008 – New Year's Eve

(Church closes at noon)

JANUARY 2009

January 1, 2009 – Thursday

HAPPY NEW YEAR

(Church Office Closed)

January 4, 2009 – Communion Sunday

Worship Theme: "Unsearchable Riches"

January 11, 2009 – Sunday

Church Officer Ordination and Installation

Worship Theme: "Water, Spirit, Word"

Scriptures: Genesis 1: 1-5; Acts 19: 1-7; Mark 1: 4-11

January 18, 2009 – Sunday

Guest Preacher

January 19, 2009 – Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Observed

(Church Office Closed – Session will meet at 7:00 p.m.)

January 25, 2009 – Sunday / Confirmation Class Joins

Worship Theme: "Called Out By God"

Scriptures: John 3: 1-5, 10; Psalm 62: 5-12; Mark 1: 14-20

Where It's Happening Is Right Here!

Upcoming Events	1
Organist Resigns	1
From the Pastor	2
Associate Pastor Position Desc. .	3
Head of Staff Position Desc.	4
Finance Ministry	5
Elected Officers	6
2009 Pledge	6
Christmas Joy Offering	7
Presbyterian Women	8
Worship & Music	9
Congratulations	9
Historical Archives	10
Deacon's Beacons	11
Thank You	12
Notes & Church News	13
New Members	14
Youth Update	14
Attachments:	
Children's Ministry	
Nursery News	
December/January Calendars	

Resignation

It is with heartfelt sadness we have to announce the resignation of our organist, John Hillabolt. John's last day will be Sunday, December 28th. He has accepted a full-time position as the organist at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. On Sunday, December 21st, there will be a time of farewell during the fellowship times after each worship service. Though we will greatly miss John, we wish him the best in his new position!



A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all in advance of those dates, which will not be very long from now. I pray for you that there will be happiness and sanity in this usually mad season which is supposed to be one of great joy and anticipation of the birth of our Lord, who came to bring peace on earth and good will toward all.

Permission to Elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Granted! The Committee on Ministry of our Presbytery granted our congregation permission to elect the search committee for an associate pastor. Our session is working on this process which has become a bit more complicated because of recent changes to the Book of Order. Both the session and the congregation must determine the number to serve on the **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC)**. The congregation must also elect the Congregational Nominating Committee who then seeks out the nominees for the APNC. These nominees must be then elected by the congregation. At that point, the APNC will put together our Church Information Form and can begin the process of the search. Because of computerized information forms, e-mails and websites, information exchange is only seconds away. Finding the person who is the right match for our congregation and fulfills the will of God most likely will take months. The average is nine months to find a pastor. It usually takes longer to find an associate who can help us carry out our vision to Bring People Together in Christ's Love.

Think and pray about if you would want to serve or who you would recommend to serve on the APNC. Once the nominating committee is elected, let them know if you are interested.

Job Description for the Associate Pastor – One of the vital pieces of information in the search for an associate pastor is the job description. **The newest one approved by our session on October 20, 2008 is included in the newsletter.** The foundation for this job description was the written congregational survey you took and returned in 2007. I prayed and simmered over it during my sabbatical and for the four following months. Rev. Jan Brooks prayed and chewed on it for several months. Our Personnel Ministry and Shepherding Team prayed and considered it for a couple of months. Our session prayed and looked it over for a month and then the Committee on Ministry of our Presbytery gave it a thorough going over. Now we need to find the right person to work with us in carrying out the vital ministries that lie therein.

In coordination with the Associate's job description, mine was also adjusted after just as much reflection with the congregational survey as the foundation for it. **It follows the Associate's job description in the newsletter.**

The 2009 Budget. As of this writing on November 12, 2008, the estimates of giving are still coming in, so we do not know how the next budget will look. If you have not yet sent your letter back to us, please do so soon. Our Finance ministry will be working on the returns during December and our session will be setting the budget in January. The amount of income we expect then will help set the staffing and programs for 2009. You have been most generous in the past in supporting the ministry of your church. I pray that the circumstances in your life allow this to continue. There is a note on our 2008 budget from Finance in the newsletter.

What about the Full-Time Youth Director Search? Our Personnel Ministry will be working on this as soon as they take care of other pressing annual personnel matters, and we see how the 2009 budget works out. Our ministry with our youth is still of the highest importance to our church. We are blessed to have Liz Rich as our interim part-time youth director.

Who was elected elder and deacon for 2009? A chart is in the newsletter. We are still seeking two deacons and one elder.

Vacation – I will be on vacation from December 26-January 3. Holly and I will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary.

Blessings and Christ peace be with you.
Bob Garrard

First Presbyterian Church, Cheyenne, Wyoming

POSITION DESCRIPTION: Associate Pastor

OVERALL FUNCTION, SUPPORT AND OBJECTIVE:

To supplement the work of the Pastor (Head of Staff) in the ministry of Jesus Christ in providing spiritual leadership, pastoral care, and direction to the congregation with special emphasis on the ministries of Christian Education, Congregational Leadership Education, and Evangelism.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

To the Presbytery of Wyoming through the Committee on Ministry
To the Session through the Pastor (Head of Staff) as immediate supervisor
To the congregation according to the terms of call

SALARY AND EVALUATION:

Performance and salary shall be reviewed annually by the Pastor (Head of Staff) in conjunction with the Personnel Ministry and reported to the Session. The congregation, at the annual meeting in February, will consider changes in terms of call.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. To provide professional support to the Christian Education Ministry, and its programs, to supervise and advise on curriculum development, Christian education classes and small groups.
2. To provide ongoing training for all Christian Education personnel.
3. To provide professional support to and be responsible for the development of programming and classes for the Adult Christian Education program.
4. To work with the Pastor (Head of Staff) in developing and providing leadership education opportunities for the members and elected leaders of the church.
5. To work with the New Life Ministry in planning and leading a program of new member recruitment and integration into the life and fellowship of the congregation.
6. To work with the Board of Deacons to provide pastoral support and leadership.
7. To assist in preaching the gospel, administering the sacraments and leading in worship in a manner consistent with the Reformed tradition.
8. To provide pastoral care as needed through visits in the hospitals and nursing homes in coordination with the Pastor (Head of Staff) and Deacons.
9. To fulfill all pastoral duties when the Pastor (Head of Staff) is absent.
10. To serve in the governing bodies of the denomination.
11. To grow personally, professionally, and spiritually by participating in continuing education opportunities.

RELATIONSHIPS:

The Associate Pastor shall be directed in his or her work by the pastor in consultation with the session through the Personnel Ministry. (Book of Order G-14.501f)

To the Session as a voting member.

To the Christian Education Ministry and the New Life Ministry as professional staff resource.

To the congregation as Associate Pastor.

To the Director of Children's Ministry and Youth Director as a supervisor.

To the Deacons as pastoral advisor.

To various other committees, ministries and groups as the need arises in accordance with the job responsibilities.

To the Presbytery of Wyoming as a continuing member.

Session approved this job description on October 20, 2008.

First Presbyterian Church, Cheyenne, Wyoming

POSITION DESCRIPTION: Pastor / Head of Staff

OVERALL FUNCTION AND OBJECTIVE:

To provide spiritual leadership and development, pastoral care, administrative oversight and organizational direction for the church, in order to carry forward the ministry of Jesus Christ.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

1. To the Presbytery of Wyoming through the Committee on Ministry
2. To the Session through the Personnel Ministry
3. To the Congregation according to the Terms of Call

SALARY AND EVALUATION:

1. Annual salary and performance reviews will be conducted by the Personnel Ministry and reported to the Session.
2. Changes in the Terms of Call will be considered by the congregation at the annual meeting in February of each year.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The duties for this position shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. To provide regular Sunday services of worship in keeping with the Reformed tradition, including preaching the Word and administration of the sacraments; and worship at other times, seasonal observances, weddings, and funerals.
2. To lead the Session, the staff and the congregation in the development, and operation of, and participation in a broad based program of education, missions, outreach, fellowship, stewardship, spiritual growth, and evangelism.
3. To supervise all full-time and part-time professional and support staff and provide opportunities for professional evaluation and feedback; including encouraging each member of the staff to seek opportunities for personal, spiritual, and professional growth.
4. To develop and provide leadership education opportunities for the members and elected leaders of the church.

5. To provide for the pastoral care and nurture of the congregation and others related to the ministry of this church.
6. To encourage, train, and educate persons to live as Christians and become witnesses for the Christian faith in the midst of their social and cultural environment.
7. To represent the church in the community.
8. To provide active leadership and encourage member participation in the governing bodies of the denomination and in ecumenical organizations.
9. To grow personally, professionally, and spiritually, by participating in continuing education and other opportunities for personal growth.

RELATIONSHIPS:

1. To the Session as a voting member and moderator.
2. To the ministries, committees, and Board of Deacons providing staff support.
3. To the Congregation as moderator and according to the provisions of the Terms of Call.
4. To the Presbytery of Wyoming as a continuing member.

Approved 12/16/89, Revised 5/10/2005 (Department to Ministry), Revised 10/20/08

Finance Ministry -- IRA Distributions

Our Finance Ministry would like to update you on a tax savings regarding Required Minimum Distributions for IRA holders over the age of 70 ½.

As you probably know, you are required to take an annual distribution from your IRA which is taxable. There is a tax savings opportunity where you can take the annual distribution and make a gift to the church *without paying taxes on the withdrawal*. These funds can be designated for any of the church ministries, or they can be unrestricted. This short-term tax savings opportunity will go away at the end of this 2009 tax year.

There are certain restrictions and regulations on the distribution, and if you have an interest in discussing this charitable distribution please contact anyone on the Finance Ministry or Reverend Garrard. The distribution check must be made out to the First Presbyterian Church to qualify for the tax break.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring the issue to your attention, and for your continued support of our church.

Sincerely,

The Finance Ministry

Brenda Wilson – 638-9760

Jerry Crader – 634-6388 (Home), 635-6644 (Office)

Wendy Curran – 778-3666

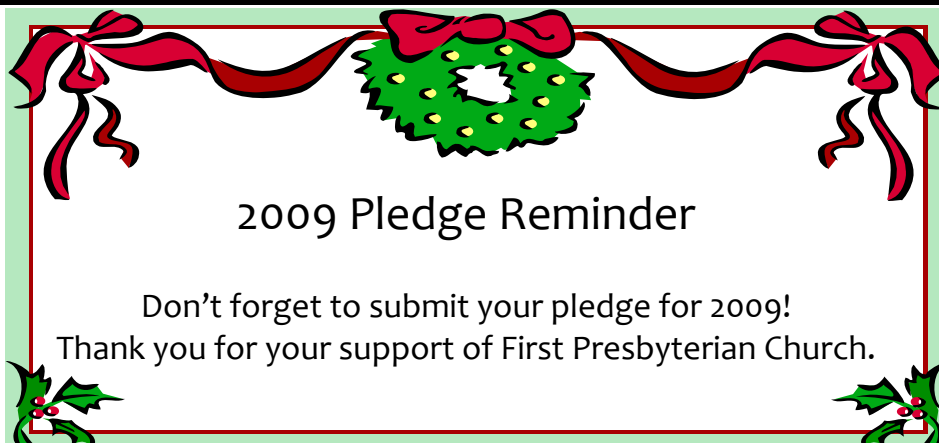
**2008 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
(Newly elected Elders and Deacons in bold)**

ELDERS

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Class of 2011</u>	<u>Class of 2010</u>	<u>Class of 2009</u>
Christian Education	George Barnes	Naomi Allen	Peggy Hutchings
Worship and Music	Eric Wedell	Sheila Lutz	Donna Goss
Finance	Clint Jessen	Deb Sanchez	Brenda Wilson
Personnel	– <i>Vacant</i> –	Jim Woodard	Theresa Hopper
Missions	Greta Morrow	Tom Muhlbach	Jeanne Bellamy
New Life	Paula Baldeshwiler	Sue Riske	Barb Lutz
Building and Grounds	Katie Dauterman	Joe Kub	Gary Moore

DEACONS

<u>Class of 2011</u>	<u>Class of 2010</u>	<u>Class of 2009</u>
Donna Epler	Bob Mason	Joe Dougherty
Dorothy Tucker	Liza Mackey	Calvin Fogg
Ross Bagne	Gayle Lain	Laurell Fogg
Marion Yoder	Lyn Rinehart	EvaJeanne Holmes
Phyllis Salzburg	Mary Anne Purtzer	Jennifer Kaufman
– <i>2 Vacancies</i> –	Ashley Stratton	Jory Kaufman
	Mary Lou McMIndes	Roberta Trimble





2008 Christmas Joy Offering: Responding to Good News of Great Joy!

Submitted by: Mission Ministry

This year's Christmas Joy Offering, to be collected during services on December 14 and December 21, is a significant way for our congregation to reach out to Presbyterians across the country in two very important ways. We hope you will be moved to put an offering in the Christmas Joy envelope from your offering box, use a pew envelope and put "Christmas Joy Offering" on the memo line and on the envelope, or mail in your donation if you cannot attend services on either of these Sundays.

Half our offering will go to the Board of Pensions to help ensure that Presbyterian ministers can live independently when they retire and to help active church workers who have financial emergencies such as unexpected medical bills or family emergencies. Often this means helping those who have ministered to small churches and lived a very modest lifestyle, dedicating their lives to serving people in need and having faith that their meager savings will be supplemented by sources such as the Christmas Joy offering. Please consider making a contribution to help some of the most important people in our society – ministers who spend their lives giving of themselves to help others!

The other half of this special offering will be used to support racial ethnic schools and colleges, both by providing scholarships to their students and by helping with operating expenses. Students in these schools thrive as they discover their gifts and develop their skills in order to make a substantial contribution to society. Often they choose to return to the struggling communities in which they grew up, spending their lives making a huge difference to others. By giving a generous gift during the Christmas Joy Offering period, you can help educate minority students and, by extension, make a difference in the lives of many other Americans!

Last year, the Christmas Joy Offering for Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) totaled \$5,215,040. After allowing for advertising, printing, and administrative costs, a whopping 91.5% of that, over \$4,739,000 went directly to the Board of Pensions programs and to the Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges Program. What does that mean to our church? It means that every dollar we send will help make a big difference! If each of us can give a little, we will have a lot of money to send to these programs!



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Tea



The holiday season is rapidly headed our way so the Presbyterian Women have planned activities that will provide women with worship and fellowship. On December 13th the annual Christmas tea will take place. Finger food and beverages will be provided for all women in attendance. A music program which we hope will delight all of you will be presented for your entertainment. We hope to see a lot of our women for this event. Festivities will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Church parlor. We will make arrangements for a nursery upon request. Please contact Kay Barnes (778-7445) for reservations.

Most of our mission projects have been completed, but we will be asking your further support in bringing in Campbell soup labels, and box tops from Betty Crocker or Pillsbury products. Be sure the UP code is visible all the labels and box tops.

Thank you all for all your help. We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Warm Garment Tree

The "Warm Garment Tree" will be set up in the parlor soon! Please help us decorate it with gloves, caps, scarves, socks, etc. for those less fortunate. These items will be provided to those in need a few days before Christmas.



Pins Sold by the Presbyterian Women

If you purchased one or more of the pins Presbyterian Women recently sold and would like a receipt for half the cost for IRS purposes, please contact Kay Barnes (778-7445). She will need to know your name, address, phone number, and the number of pins purchased for yourself or for gifts.

Thank You!

Worship and Music Ministry

During this last year as Moderator of Worship and Music I've learned that our worship service has many parts and pieces. Some of these parts are performed by our Pastors, choir and staff. Some of the parts are visible like the choirs or the acolytes or even the pastors. There are parts that happen that are not visible like the bulletins, the flowers and decorations, preparations for Communion and Sanctuary set ups. As this year is passing, we would like to say **THANK YOU** to the people that volunteer to be lay readers, ushers, serve and set up Communion, handle the sound system and recording of the services. **THANK YOU** to people I'm sure I have forgotten or don't realize their quiet contribution which makes our services meaningful, fulfilling and bringing people together in Christ's love. We say **THANK YOU** to the staff for performing their duties so that we may bring joy and community to our membership and visitors.

THANK YOU to the following lay readers:

Wendy Curran	Larry Barttelbort	Marilyn Ham	Jim Coomes
The Kilpatrick Family	Sue Riske	Linda Stratton	
Ashley Stratton			
Naomi Allen	Sherry Lovato	Marion Yoder	Sarah Carver
Lloyd Nordhausen	Megan Muhlbach	Eleanor Lane	Jen Andrews
	Peggy Hutchings	Laura Perry	

THANK YOU to Denise Fetzer and Ray Fetzer for the set up of Communion.

THANK YOU to Tracy Duck for making the Communion set for the youth services.

There are many people to thank and I'm sure I have forgotten someone in these lists. Please forgive me if I didn't include your name, for the Ministry truly thanks everyone for your talents and contributions.

Worship and Music wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and hope you enjoy your worship services.

Sheila Lutz

Worship and Music Moderator



HYSTERICAL
HISTORICAL
ARCHIVES

Congratulations



Jamie Maas and Chris Reid are happy to announce their engagement. Jamie has just finished her first semester as a M.Div student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Chris is a Staff Sergeant in the Air Force stationed at F.E. Warren AFB. A January 2010 wedding is being planned to be held in Cheyenne.



Becky Tish on being presented the Harmony Award for all of the music she shares with our community.

Submitted by Peggy Williams

Daniel Stephenson Swan, one of the early Elders of our congregation, was born October 24, 1842, at Carmichaels, Green County, PA and was one of a family

of seven children, four boys and three girls. When he was 14 years old, his parents moved to Mount Pleasant, IA.

At the age of 22, Mr. Swan joined the Forty-fifth Iowa Infantry and with this regiment he served throughout the Civil War, returning to Mount Pleasant after hostilities between the North and south had ceased. After working on his father's farm for a time, he entered the hardware business at Cedar Rapids, IA. In 1878 he came to Wyoming, establishing himself in the cattle business at Horse Creek. Charles, one of his brothers, also came west, and together they formed a partnership in the cattle business in which their father became financially interested.

In 1881 he returned to Iowa and married Miss Cordelia Crew at Salem, IA on January 16. The couple established a home on Horse Creek. In 1883, Mr. Swan moved to Cheyenne with his family, giving up the cattle business for two years. In 1885, however, he re-entered it at Elk Mountain and continued in the industry for approximately 10 years, his family maintaining a home in Cheyenne during this time.

In 1892 he was elected clerk of the Laramie county district court and in 1894 he was re-elected. He then served two terms as county treasurer and upon the expiration of this service was appointed city clerk, which office he held continuously for 16 years, remaining in office through several changes in party administrations. In 1916 he was appointed bailiff in the Wyoming supreme court and this position he held until the time of his death.

He was a member of Acacia Lodge No. 11, A. F. and A.M., of Cheyenne and of Wyoming Consistory No. 1. He was also a member for many years of the board of elders of the First Presbyterian church. He was quartermaster of the local G.A.R. post.

At the time of his death on October 3, 1925, he was survived by his wife, Cordelia, one daughter, Mrs. W. L. Diver of Guernsey, and two brothers, Allen and Solon.

We would like to encourage anyone having information on past or present members, any documents concerning the same or any of First Presbyterian Church activities, or any items concerning First Presbyterian Church to contact one of the members of this committee. Copies can be made to place in our records and the originals returned to the owner.

If you are interested in serving on this committee or just helping with some of our projects, please contact any member of the committee.

Paula Qualls 638-8805
Mel Qualls 638-8805
Frances Creech 638-3787
Ralph DeWyke 632-8210

Glen Oslund 638-8884
Peggy Williams 634-0147
Colleen Osborn (out of town member)

REMEMBER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM
AS WE JOURNEY FORWARD MAKING OUR OWN HISTORY.



Deacon's Beacons

Submitted by Jane Nelson

Lord, through your Holy Spirit, help me to understand so much of the victory and joy of your coming to earth so that I shall enjoy Christmas more than ever before. – Corrie Ten Bloom

The year is almost over, a new year begins. As we think about the twelve months ahead, let us invite God to oversee ALL that crosses our path. Let us give Him charge of our lives, including our prayer life. – Nick Harrison

Admit the impossible and the Lord of the impossible will make it happen. Ask for the power and do something to express His love to those people He has put on your agenda. – Lloyd John Ogilvie

Express God's love to:

Stacy "Skoumal" Adams	Adam George	Roshni Joseph	Paula Qualls
Meryl Adams	Myra George	Jim Kleine	Midge Reed
Greg Bachman	Emily Graham	Gayle Lain	Doris Rogers
Lil Barbour	Joan Gray	Eugene Martinez	Toby Salas
Jay Brown	Dianne Grimm	Rex Mauch	Celia Schadel
R.J. Brown	Mary Gunn	Keith & Janet McIlroy	Allan Schultz
Thelma Brubaker	Bob Hale	Kevin McMIndes	Susan Sexton
Scott Coulson	Marydee Hartsook	Hal Miller	Kay Starnes
Frances Creech	Dan Herman	Alice Norfleet	Joe Strike
Katie Dauterman	Clyde Hilson	Colleen Osborn	Bob Sullivan
Jon DeWyke	Marv Hoflund	Steve Oxley	Sharon Tuck
Robert Drummond	Karen Hruby	Beulah Phillips	Margy Will
Nick Estrada	Marcy Jacobsen	Sherry Popham	Greg Wirfel
Glen & Sheri Flyr	Margret Jones	Tom Price	B.J. Wise

The blessing of the Lord rest and remain upon all His people in every land, in every tongue. The Lord meet in mercy all that seek Him; the Lord comfort all who suffer and mourn; the Lord hasten His coming and give His people the blessing of peace. – Handley Moule

Please pray for:

Betty Jo Mainwaring -- Loss of sister

Family of Rena Crisp

Family of Everett Gardner

and Marian Woodson

Family of James



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!



- I want to thank the church for the prayers, flowers, and food you have brought to me. I am feeling better each week. May God bless each of you.
Ethel E. Cooper

- Bob and I want to say thank you to the youth and the leaders for the wonderful food they prepared and brought to us. We enjoyed the fellowship and food very much.
Bob and Ruth Hale

- Open Letter to the Board of Deacons:
As moderator of the Campus Christian Community at the Laramie County Community College, I wish to thank you for your generous donation of \$1320 from the local mission funds for which you are responsible. Your gift has enabled me to ask other churches to give accordingly. Our church can lead the way in supporting this important ministry in our community.
In Christ, Bob Walkley

- To the congregation of First Presbyterian Church,
Words are inadequate to express how much all of you are appreciated for your caring concern during Lorna's struggle with extreme pain. Your thoughtful notes and encouraging support, cheerful visits, tasty treats, and especially your prayers have kept us in good spirits. Lorna is slowly but steadily making progress and is now walking again. Thank each one of you who is a part of this loving congregation. May God continue to bless us all.
Bob, Lorna, and Patty Walkley

- Thanks to the following Deacons for helping serve during the October fellowships: Ashley Stratton, Susan Payne, Lyn Rinehart (twice), EvaJeanne Holmes, Bert Trimble, Jory Kaufman, Jennifer Kaufman, Calvin Fogg, Laurell Fogg, and Mary Anne Purtzer.

Also, to the Friendship Mariners, Lifeboats 1, 2, and 3 for serving and providing "goodies."
Marcy Helser, Fellowship Committee Co-Chairperson

 Notes & Church News TOYS FOR TOTS

Won't you help a child have a Merry Christmas?
TOYS FOR TOTS collection box is in the parlor!

"Toys for Tots" has been helping children in our community have a Merry Christmas for many years now. The demand is greater than ever and we need your help in meeting this challenge.

All you need to do, is buy any **toy(s)** of your choosing for a child from **age 1- 18**, drop it, **un wrapped**, into the **collection box** in the **parlor**, between now and **December 21st** . The Marines and their volunteers will make sure it gets to a needy child.

The Deacons thank you – the children will too!

2009 PER CAPITA

The per capita for 2009 is \$36.35.

TAX INFORMATION

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2008, donors must deliver or mail (and postmark) checks on or by December 31, 2008. Checks placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2009 **will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2008** even if the check is predated to 2008 or was actually written in 2008. However, checks that are postmarked or hand delivered to the church in 2008 will be deductible in 2008.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

Two of the new additions were written to help women develop a stronger faith, find out what God wants them to be doing with their lives and help them gain the confidence to carry out these tasks in today's busy and pressure-filled world.

A Woman God Can Use -- Pamela Helm [248.8]
Becoming God's Special Woman -- Jo Berry [248.8]

Both of these books may be found on the new additions shelf along with a large number of new audio-visuals. These include videos, CD's, DVD's, and cassette tapes of Bible studies and inspirational topics.

Welcome New Members

We wish to welcome John and Stacy Broda to our congregation! This is their third year living in Cheyenne, although Stacy grew up in Cheyenne and is at home at First Presbyterian since she is the granddaughter of Wayne and Glenis Child. John & Stacy moved here from Elk Mountain where they both had been teaching. He was teaching 3rd/4th grade combined and she was the Agriculture teacher. Their move to Cheyenne enables them to live on the ranch along with her parents and grandparents. John also got a position teaching 5th grade at Buffalo Ridge and coaching wrestling at Central High. Their son, Gage, was born 3 months ago. In addition to being busy with a new baby, Stacy is also helping coach meets for FFA at Central. When they have time, they both enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting and gardening. Welcome, Stacy, John & Gage!

Youth Update

As I type this letter I am in amazement of the money donated to the youth for the Heifer Project. I thank each and every one of you for your support and donations. I do not have a grand total as of yet because we are still receiving donations but I can tell you what we have so far and also say keep an eye and ear open for the final total for Heifer.

The total money raised as of November 18, 2008 is \$1591.92. With this money the following items were specifically bought: four knitting basket shares; one and a quarter share of a heifer; a sheep share; two llamas; three flocks of chicks; two flocks of ducks and geese; one tree seedling; two trio of rabbits; a honeybee colony and one pig. With these purchases we have \$598.02 currently left to purchase other animals but like I said above there are still donations coming in so with those totals still to come I do not know what else we will be buying. As for our piñata contest, the sheep came out in the lead with \$109.52, the rabbit came in second with a total of \$65.16, and last but not least the chick with \$49.01.

The youth also did a wonderful service project on November 15, 2008. The night before we cooked up a storm at the Woodard's home making mini-meatloaves and lasagna then we met up at the Church on November 15th and went out to a few of our homebound congregational members to deliver the food and visit with them. Once the visitations were finished we headed to two other members homes to shovel snow, partly clean a garage, clean up under a tree, and do some other projects within the homes. I want to say thank you to each of the people we visited this day. The youth really enjoyed spending the time with each of you and also appreciated the opportunity to serve you.

We look forward to the opportunity to serve the congregation again and we are very grateful for the support that you give us in our activities. I pray that each of you have a Thanksgiving that is full of many memories and blessings.

In Christ's Loving Grasp, Liz

