

News From The Pews

News of the First Presbyterian Church

February 2011

Rev. Bob Garrard

Website: www.firstprescheyenne.org

Rev. Diana Hartman

firstpresrlg@qwestoffice.net

Email: firstpresbyteri5@qwestoffice.net

firstpresap@qwestoffice.net

UPCOMING WORSHIP/EVENTS

February 6, 2011 – Communion Sunday

Worship Theme: "Making a Difference in the World"

Scriptures: Isaiah 58: 1-12; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-16;

Matthew 5: 13-20

Rev. Bob Garrard

February 13, 2011

Worship Theme: "Choices of Life and Death"

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

After the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

Annual Reports are located in the parlor/west entry.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9;

Matthew 5: 21-37

Rev. Bob Garrard

February 20, 2011 – Boy Scout Sunday

Worship Theme: "Love Your Enemy said Jesus"

Scriptures: Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18;

1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5: 38-48

Rev. Bob Garrard

February 27, 2011 – Gifts of Women Sunday

Worship Theme: "Beautiful Women Do Beautiful Things"

Scriptures: Psalm 139: 1-14; Luke 7: 36-50

Rev. Diana Hartman

*Ministry Fair & Potluck
February 13th*

*Gifts of Women Sunday
February 27, 2011*

It's Happening Right Here!

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February 2011 Calendar



Monday

February 14, 2011



We are headed into an exciting new year with many new activities! Read the many articles in this newsletter to learn more.

Please plan to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, February 13, after the 10:30 a.m. service where we will review the annual reports and vote on the change of terms of call of the pastors. A potluck lunch will follow the meeting.

We owe a great debt of thanks to the following elders and deacons for their three years of service in leading this congregation. They are models of what it means to be a Presbyterian.

Elders: Naomi Allen, Joe Kub, Sheila Lutz, Sue Riske, Jim Woodard, Tom Muhlbach and Deb Sanchez.

Deacons: Ashley Braisted, Gayle Lain, Liza Mackey, Bob Mason, Mary Lou McMIndes, Lyn Rinehart, Linda Woodard.

Thank you to all of you for your generous financial support in 2010! We ended the year on the plus side! This support and your generous promises of support for 2011 will give us the funds we need to carry out the traditional and new ministry programs planned by our ministries and deacons.

Our church officers for Classes 2011, 2012, and 2013, are:

Elders

CP = Chairperson

<p><u>Christian Education</u> 2011 George Barnes-CP 2012 Kathie Lake 2013 Holly Garrard</p>	<p><u>Personnel</u> 2011 Laurie Box-CP 2012 Marilyn Ham 2013 Sherry Gardner</p>	<p><u>New Life</u> 2011 Paula Baldeshwiler-CP 2012 Jean Marie Seitz 2013 Gwyn Vines</p>	<p><u>Finance</u> 2011 Patty Bennett 2012 Ken Sherman-CP 2013 Paul Stenback</p>
<p><u>Building and Grounds</u> 2011 Ron Williams 2012 Barbara Buell 2013 Jim Symmonds</p>	<p><u>Missions</u> 2011 Great Morrow-CP 2012 Linda McGuire 2013 Becky Dougherty</p>	<p><u>Worship & Music</u> 2011 Eric Wedell-Co-Chair 2012 Walt George-Co-Chair 2013 Louisa Brownstein</p>	<p><u>Clerk of Session</u> Marilyn Ham <u>Treasurer</u> Greg Dyekman</p>

Deacons – we need four deacons. If you are interested please call Bob Garrard at 638-3345.

<p><u>Class of 2011</u> Margie George – Moderator Joe Dougherty Phyllis Salzburg Dorothy Tucker Marion Yoder <i>Need two deacons for this year.</i></p>	<p><u>Class of 2012</u> Mary Burby Deborah Child Drew Dilly Dallas Lain Laura Westby <i>Need two deacons for two years.</i></p>	<p><u>Class of 2013</u> Charles Daum Dorothy Daum Shane Howe Margaret Mueller Charlene Randolph Adrienne Sears Marjorie Smith</p>
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Thank you to Denise Fetzer for so faithfully putting together the communion elements each month!

Peace, Bob Garrard

KeY Shifts—lower to UPPER CASE
From running programs to implementing A VISION FOR MINISTRY
By Diana Hartman

One of the many things I appreciate about E. Stanley Ott's book "Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church," is the personal examples that he provides. His book is not about putting a theory into practice. Instead, he tells a true story about the journey he and his congregation actually took. He arrived at his new congregation to find "the congregation had decreased in size, members grown older, facilities showed considerable wear, and the same programs were being recycled year after year." The stories people told were about the past. When asked about the future they replied, "We want to be like we used to be." The past was their vision for the future. He realized that "for a vital future, we need dreams and visions that picture a new and transformational church."¹

They set out to bless and honor the congregation's past and the life investments of many people while at the same time beginning to paint a picture of a different but vibrant future. For four years he worked to near exhaustion leading the congregation toward being discipleship-directed and need responsive by modifying worship service, adding small groups, sending adults on mission trips and expanding ministries of care and adult discipleship. At the end of four years, frustrated and worn out, he was not seeing the change that he had hoped to see. A former pastor and colleague responded to his concern saying, "...the church had not become what it was in a day and the new life in the church would need a transformational approach to ministry over a long period of time."² They persisted in the vision and trusted that God was at work, making way for a new church in the midst of the existing church. The leadership trusted God to make key changes—some happened quickly, others required patience.

The vision of ministry worthy of our consideration is the one that they used to shape, design, and modify their new ministry. It relied upon these seven foundational concepts:

1. *It is Spirit-driven:* As William Carey said, "Attempt great things for God; expect great things from God." Trust that God will work through you and give God credit for your work.
2. *It is biblically based:* Keep Scripture at the heart of all we do in our church and in our lives. Base life and ministry on the principle and truths found in Scripture. Join a small group or bible study to discern the "who, what, why, where, when, and how" of ministry.
3. *It is discipleship-directed:* Make disciples, followers of Christ who are committed to Christ and one another and who are sent to serve the world.
4. *It is need responsive:* Nurture the well-being of people by addressing physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, and social needs, as well as, justice concerns. Realize that an individual's needs are often the door through which we are able to introduce him/her to Jesus Christ.
5. *It is "gathered-scattered" attentive:* Work to build the fellowship in its "gathered" state of large and small groups and seek to equip all believers for Christian life and ministry when "scattered." It is critical that the ministry designed for the gathered state enable the Christian life, response, and service in the scattered state equipping people for ministry where they spend the majority of their time.
6. *It is principle-patterned:* Provide a biblically based definition on the "how" of ministry.
Witness—communicate the good news, **Prayer**—pray for those being ministered to. **Koinonia-care**—fellowship that grows friendships and addresses needs. **Word**—teaching and applying

¹ Ott, E. Stanley, *Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church*, Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids, Michigan 2002. pp. 28-29.

² Ibid, p 30.

Scripture to life. **“With me”**—include people in ministry and life. **“Send them”**—people are sent to use their spiritual gifts to minister to others through leadership and interpersonal ministry.

7. *It is reflectively practiced:* Prayerful planning gives shape to vital ministry. By prayerful thought and reflection, the planning required to meet needs and effectively employ principles of ministry are discerned.

As we enter the new year, may we carefully and deliberately consider whether each area of our ministry meets people’s present needs and sends us into the world prepared to minister to others. Many of our current programs do just this, others may not. I encourage you to honor and celebrate those ministries and look forward to prayerfully engaging new ideas for ministry.

What’s Your Symbol?

Come and celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday on February 27 during both worship services. On this day we will celebrate the beautiful women in our congregation who regularly do beautiful things in love and faithfulness to Jesus Christ. We invite these remarkable saints to lead worship with prayer, reading, drama, music and a variety of other talents. There are many ways in which women (of all ages) can participate. Everyone has God given gifts to share. All women are asked to bring a symbol of their gifts and place it on the tables in the West Hall of the church. Please put your name on or near your item. If you sew or knit, you might bring a sample of your work. If you work as a judge, CEO, or moderate meetings you might bring a gavel. Think about how God has blessed you with talents and bring a symbol to represent those talents that you share with others. We celebrate women, their service and the beautiful things they do that keep the church and community vibrant, active and full of God’s love.

There is a sign up list in the Parlor for those who would like to help lead the worship services. If you have an idea that is not listed, please check with Pastor Diana.

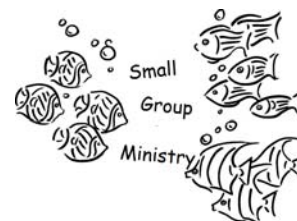


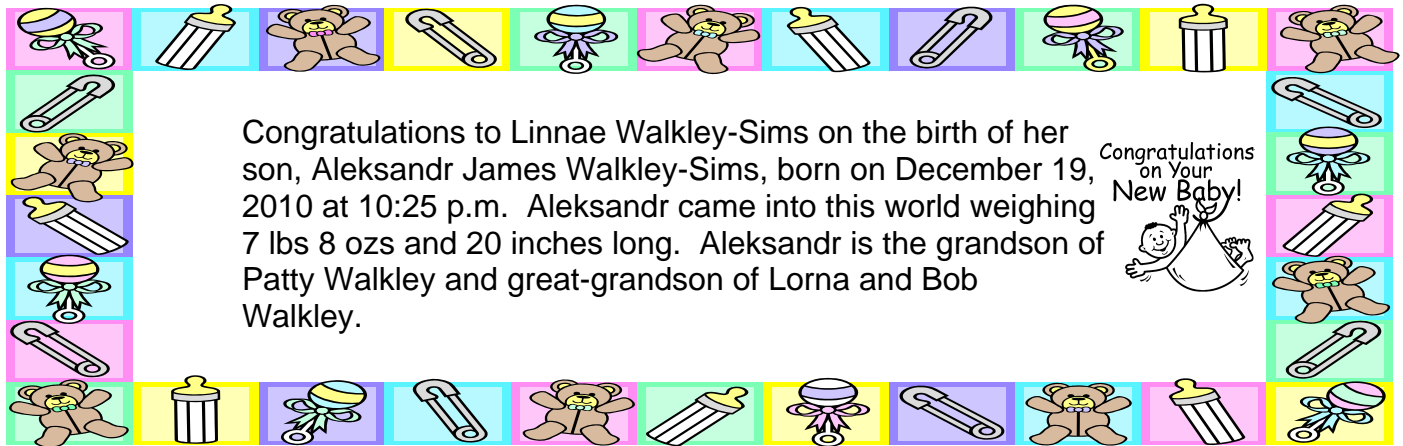
Small Groups with a Big Purpose

(Ministry Team: Rachel and Zach Meeker, Naomi Allen, Jean Marie Seitz, Diana Hartman)

The Small Group Ministry Team has been at work since November developing the Small Group Ministry Description. We have gone through a process of learning, discernment, and careful planning. Our Team has sent our Ministry Plan to the Christian Education and New Life Ministries for comments and expect to bring it before the Session in February. Our intention is to provide a training program for the leadership during the Spring and to implement the Small Group Ministry, in full, in the Fall.

For those who may not know about Small Groups, our steering group defines it as a group of 12 or fewer persons intent on participation with Christ in building his ever-expanding kingdom in the heart of the individual, in the life of the group, and through believers into the world. Small groups meet for Support, Study, peacemaking/mission, fellowship or other purposes. In the next newsletter we hope to share with you our full Ministry Description. We ask for your prayers as we move forward.

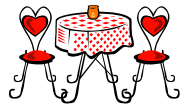




Women of First Presbyterian Church

Submitted by Kay Barnes

VALENTINE LUNCHEON - Mark your calendars now for a Valentine Luncheon to be held by Presbyterian Women on Friday, February 11th. We'll begin with a Quiet Hour in the Chapel at 12 noon followed by a salad luncheon at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Our program will be the opportunity to get better acquainted with our three newest staff members - Ashley Braisted, Children's Ministry Director; Heather Dixon, Youth Director; and Diana Hartman, Associate Pastor - and learn about their work, interests and plans for the future. We will also have a memorial service for those PW members who died this past year. Hostesses for the day will be the Ruth Circle. Reservations are not needed - just come and join us for good food and fellowship. Questions? Contact Kay Barnes 778-7445.



STITCH-BY-STITCH - the next stitching workshop will be Saturday, February 19th from 10 a.m. to noon in the Church Parlor. We'll work on fleece blankets for Linus Project, make quilts for Safehouse and for Alzheimer patients and will be available to help with knitting and crocheting of items for needy individuals. We would love to have you join us. For information contact Ann Lembke 634-4677 or Kay Barnes.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP - If you are willing to do some cross-stitching or perhaps work with beads, please consider joining two new projects for Presbyterian Women. We will be making smaller more varied Chrismon ornaments for the parlor tree for next Christmas using cross-stitch and beading. Watch the bulletins for announcements of the date of the first meeting. We are also going to cross-stitch ornaments for some of the present and past ministers and associate ministers of our church who are not already represented on the Memory Tree put up in the Parlor each Christmas. If you are interested in helping with either project please contact Kay Barnes (778-7445). Some of this work could be done at home at your convenience.



Living Water International Mission Trip

On February 25th, Norm Soden and Tom Muhlbach will fly to Houston and the following day fly to Nicaragua where they will be part of a week long "Pump Repair" mission team for Living Water International (LWI). Richard Bell, LWI volunteer, had a heart to know and serve the people of Nicaragua. Through his leadership, LWI began sending drill teams to Nicaragua over five years ago. The program has grown tremendously and there are teams sent to repair pumps or drill wells almost every week of the year.

Norm and Tom will be commissioned at the 10:30 AM church service on February 20th. In addition, Norm and Tom plan to do a presentation following their trip and mission experience.

Many of our congregation have made donations to the LWI account our church has set up and a portion of this money is helping fund Norm and Tom's mission trip.



Christmas Outreach Was a Real Success!

Thanks so much, to those of you who participated in this years Christmas Outreach Projects!

Angel Tree: Over 130 needy school age children and their siblings have received needed requested gift items which most assuredly made their Christmas brighter.

Toys for Tots: Scores (nearly two big boxes) of new Christmas toys were provided for the Marine Corps Reserves' annual distribution to over 1000 pre screened needy children in our community and surrounding area.

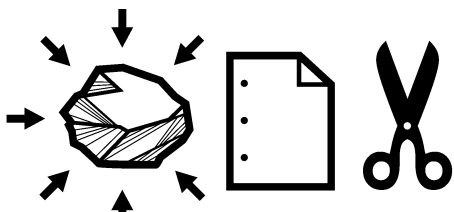
Presbyterian Women Warmth Tree: A winning effort for folks to stay a little warmer with donated cold weather clothing items for all ages. The collection took place last year, continuing through January 9th this year.

Special thanks to Debbie & Mark Child, Greta Morrow, Marion Yoder, Mary Lou McMIndes, Phyllis Salzburg, Dorothy Tucker, Joe and Becky Dougherty, Margie George, Kay Barnes, Bob Garrard, LCSD# 1 staff members, Family Promise staff, Safehouse staff, our Church Staff and all others who helped organize and promote and distribute this big effort.

Most of all, Deacons Local Mission stands in awe and grateful appreciation of our congregation for their outstanding Christian kindness! Thank you so much!!!



*You
are
the
best...*


Our Volunteers ROCK!

*Thanks for
all you do!*

♪ ♪ Notes & Church News ♪ ♪

Don't forget the Annual Congregational Meeting, February 13th

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 13, 2011, directly after the second worship service. You can pick up a copy of the 2010 Annual Report in the parlor or west hallway. Please plan to attend.

Lions and Tigers and Bears, OH No?

It's A Ministry Fair – February 13th!

Come one, Come all to the First Presbyterian Ministry Fair on February 13 following the 10:30 AM Worship Service and Congregational Meeting. We will begin with a potluck lunch and ask you to bring a side dishes and desserts. Following the luncheon, each of our Ministry Teams and other Groups in the church invite you to visit their "fair booth". There you will discover the purpose of each ministry, how they meet people's needs and the goals they have for this year. As you are greeted by and talk with the "carnies", you may discover some way in which you are able to faithfully and with love serve Jesus Christ through your service to your church and your neighbor. You may even be the lucky winner of one their many prizes. The "booths" will be moved to the Parlor for the two succeeding weeks to give everyone a chance to become more aware of all of the wonderful ministry that happens through First Presbyterian Church. Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 13.

College Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee of the Christian Education Ministry has announced that college scholarships are once again being offered by First Presbyterian Church. The two scholarships are the General College Scholarship, available to any college student, and the Keith Weigner Memorial Healthcare Scholarship, open to students studying in a field of healthcare. Application packets have been mailed to high school seniors. All others, including current church scholarship holders wishing to renew, must pick up an application packet from the church office. Applicants must be members of First Presbyterian Church. The application deadline is March 1, 2011. Questions? Please call Scholarship Chairperson Maïda Wedell at 635-1983.



Join the Youth Team

Are you interested in the youth of our church? Want to help shape the future of our church? Join the Youth Team. We will meet once a month to discuss current events, ideas, and plan future activities. Contact Heather or the church office if interested (638-3345).

**Take a Trip
Around the World!**



Wonder Full World takes you on a journey packed with friendship, God, and spiritual growth. It's a retreat you won't want to miss! Join us for a whirlwind tour of the seven continents, where we'll experience meaningful Bible studies, explore the wonders of a woman's heart, and have time for both quiet reflection and laugh-out-loud fun!

Location: First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall
When: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm Friday, March 18
9:00 am – 3:30 pm Saturday, March 19
Cost: Full retreat \$30. Saturday only \$25.

(Travel bag, dinner on Friday, lunch on Saturday and snacks provided)

For more information contact: Rev. Diana Hartman 638-3345 or Melinda Brazzale 778-7009.

DESIGNED FOR WOMEN OF ALL AGES (High School age and through 115 years)

Submitted by Peggy Williams

This month (February) we will remember the history of Boy Scouts and this church.



**HYSTERICAL
HISTORICAL
ARCHIVES**

Boy Scout Troop 116, organized on March 3, 1943, enjoys the distinction of being the only troop in Cheyenne with sponsorship by the same organization from its formation.

Early in the 1920's another troop was formed at First Presbyterian. At that time, Dr. Robert T. Caldwell and Harry Henderson were the organizers. It is worth noting that this troop won first place at the Longs Peak Council Annual Jamboree at Greeley, Colorado in 1935. When World War II came along, the men working with Scouting went to war and many troops throughout the United States were put on hold.

In 1943 when Troop 116 was formed, the Assistant Pastor, Rev. Glenn Calhoun, was the first Scoutmaster. The first Troop Committee was chaired by Charles W. St. John and included W. Robert Dubois, L. H. "Shorty" Hutton, Riley Snow, Richard Strawn and Dr. Ashby Steele.

Troop 116 has enjoyed in the past, many honors as they have participated in Council and District events.

The Archives Committee would like to let the congregation know that two plaques have been

hung in the church building by the Symmonds' family. One small one beneath the clock in the sanctuary and another in the library to honor Margaret Symmonds' work with the music library.

Don't forget to put your pennies in the Pennies for Stained Glass jar toward the rear of the sanctuary. We aren't able to empty the Penny Jar very often but when we do, we usually find \$100.00 or so. We need to continue saving our pennies as this fund goes toward any maintenance or cleaning needed on our beautiful windows. Try putting your age in pennies every year on your birthday.

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	Ralph DeWyke	632-8210
Mel Qualls	638-8805	Glen Oslund	638-8884
Frances Creech	638-3787	Peggy Williams	634-0147

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



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



- We thank all of you for the love and support shown, and the sympathy cards and memorial gifts sent in response to Holly's mom, Beulah Phillips, passing, who is now with the Lord in heaven.
Holly and Bob Garrard
- Dear Church Family,
Bob and I want to thank all of you for your calls, emails, cards, gifts, flowers and many, many prayers.
A special thank you to Rev. Garrard who has been a "standard caller" to check up on Bob. He makes us so glad to have him as our pastor. He even called us on his way back from Pittsburgh! Another person we'd like to thank publicly is Jim Harper who also calls and gives us so much support and helpful information.
Our Mariners' group has kept us supported as well with so much love. What we'd like to say to all of you, our church family, many, many thanks for your love, support and prayers. Bob is in his fifth week of chemo and radiation therapy. He does remarkably well except for fatigue. We are taking it one day at a time and have much faith, trust, strength, and prayer that Bob will get through this with all of your prayer and God's guidance.
Thank you all, Bob and Linda McGuire
- Dear Friends,
A world of thanks to you! With special thanks I am writing this note to all who

were so kind and thoughtful to me after my sudden by-pass surgery on Christmas Eve. I am positive that your caring and prayers helped get me on the road to recovery.

The bouquet of flowers from the Sunday service was delivered to my room and provided many hours of pleasure to me. Your thoughtful notes and prayers will be with me and my family forever.

Ladd Fredrick

■ Church Family,

My humblest thanks to all of you for your kind thoughts and prayers after my recent hip replacement surgery. I truly was humbled to receive your letter with all the signatures on it. Without prayer, I believe it would have taken longer to heal. I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Pastor Diana for visiting me during a snowstorm down in Fort Collins. What an incredible surprise that was!

Thank you, each and every one....Rosemary Novario

- We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped us so much when we hosted the two families between Christmas and New Years. Since it was vacation time for all of us, we appreciated your efforts even more. The families we hosted have told us how much they like to come to our church, and your friendliness plays a huge part in their feelings. The food you bring is wonderful and your sharing of your time with the children and parents gives them time to "vent". Those of you who spent the night in the church also shared some special time with the families. How nice it is to always have clean linens to put on their mattresses. This program could not exist if you didn't come forth and volunteer.

Thank you, John and Judy Phillips

- First Presbyterian Church and Presbyterian Women have received thank you cards and calls from Stride, Project Linus, and elementary schools asking that we pass along their thanks for all the gifts, gift cards, warm clothes, and other items that have so generously been donated to them from the congregation.

■ Christmas Joy Offering was a SUCCESS!

Thanks to everyone in the congregation who gave to the Christmas Joy Offering! Because of your generosity, Mission Ministry will send \$1826.17 to PC (USA) to help church workers who need financial assistance during difficult times as well as students at racial ethnic colleges. Our donation will help make a difference!





Deacon's Beacons

Submitted by Jane Nelson

Speak words of blessing over the lives of your friends and loved ones. Then watch for and witness the positive impact your words have made. - God's Daily Answer

All through this day, O Lord, by the power of Thy quickening Spirit, let me touch the lives of others for good. Whether through the word I speak, the prayer I pray, or the life I live. - Ancient Collect

Speak words of blessing for:

Stacy "Skoumal" Adams	Virginia Donaldson	March Jacobsen	Paula Qualls
Meryl Adams	Robert Drummond	Margret Jones	Aaron Rebout
Loretta Adsit	Pat Fairbanks	Roshni Joseph	Midge Reed
Lil Barbour	Wes Garrard	Rev. Tom Kittleman	Rev. Skip Reeves
Richard Beauchamp	Adam George	Jim Kleine	Douglas Rice
John Bishop	Bob Goss	Dr. Robert Lanier	Doris Rogers
Betty Brown	Joan Gray	Bob McGuire	Patti Sandison
Del Brown	Karen Grover	Carla Nolen	Camille Silver
Jay Brown	Jim Hamil	Alice Norfleet	Lana, Leann Smith & Ken Smith
R.J. Brown	Marydee Hartsook	Kari Pace-Murdoch	Austin Strietmatter
Dennis Butler	Jeanie Hazels	Kim Olson	John Townsend
Bonnie Carley	Charlie Heinritz	Jennifer O'Neill	Javen Westby
Eric Case	Marjorie Hoflund	Glen Oslund	Margy Will
James Chaney	Marv Hoflund	Robin Peterson	Harry Williams
Richard Chatfield	Bob and Karen Hruby	Sherry Popham	B.J. Wise
Scott Coulson	Michelle Ivester	Bertie Price	

- If anyone listed on the above list needs to be removed, please let the church office know. -

For those who mourn:

Waking up this morning, I smile. Twenty-four brand new hours are before me. I vow to live fully each moment and to look at all things with eyes of compassion. - Thich Nhat Hanh

May God give you....for every storm a rainbow,
for every tear a smile,
for every care a promise,
and a blessing in every trial,
For every problem life sends,
a faithful friend to share and
for every sigh a sweet song.
An answer for every prayer.

Irish Blessing



Pray for:

Shirley Clark - Loss of Husband, Richard
Dave and Julie Cook - Loss of Great-Uncle
Ann Hilson - Loss of Husband, David
Ken Vines - Loss of Uncle



New Adult Christian Education Series

The Christian Education Ministry announces a new series on the New Testament: "The Making of the New Testament Canon". Join us for a study of how the ancient writings of the early Christian Church came to form the collection that we now call the New Testament. Each session will consist of a 30-minute lecture on DVD followed by class discussion for the remainder of the hour.

By the time you read this the first couple of classes will have taken place. If there is any interest, we will hold "catch-up" sessions to get everyone up to speed. Questions? Call George Barnes 778-7445.

Topics we will discuss: (Still subject to minor changes!)

- February 6 - The Pauline Epistles
- February 13 - The Problem of Authorship
- February 20 - The Beginnings of the Gospel Tradition
- February 27 - The Earliest Gospels
- March 6 - The Other Gospels
- March 13 - Apocalypticism and the Apocalypse of John
- March 20 - The Copyists Who Gave Us Scripture
- March 27 - (Mission Speaker - No Sunday School)
- April 3 - Authority in the Early Church
- April 10 - The Importance of Interpretation
- April 17 - When Did the Canon Get Finalized?



Children's Ministry

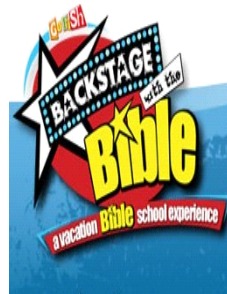


After my recent trip to Orlando, Florida I felt it to be spiritually refreshing. I attended the 2011 Children's Pastor Conference. One of my goals at this conference was to gather information on different VBS programs. My plan was to bring flyers back home and review 'pros' and 'cons' about all of them. But, I attended a small session called "It's time to put the BIBLE back into Vacation Bible School!" I knew that "Back Stage with the Bible" curriculum was it! This curriculum takes your kids to the ultimate "concert" experience each day to worship and sing with the Go Fish Guys! After that, it's time to go backstage, tour a recording studio, and most importantly - learn about the Bible! Your kids will have a great time learning the books of the Bible, the ten commandments, and how to be saved by grace through faith...and that's all just in the first few minutes of singing each day! Our goal with this Vacation Bible School is to clearly present the gospel of Jesus Christ while having as much fun as humanly possible. It's time to put the BIBLE back into Vacation Bible School!

Who are the Go Fish Guys?

"The Go Fish Guys" have some of the tightest harmony and catchiest songs I've heard in years. They write and play for the younger crowd, but not only do they live up to their motto, "To create kids' music that won't drive parents bonkers," they exceed it. Go Fish brings acappella music to a whole new level. As if that wasn't enough, in 2009 they created their own Vacation Bible School Curriculum that focuses a bit more on scripture and the plan of salvation than most, plus has music and music videos that are unsurpassed by any VBS program I've found in my history of working with them. I encourage you check out their web page (www.gofishguys.com), get to know the "Go Fish Guys" and take a moment to enjoy their music. You'll be glad you did! VBS will be held at the church June 6-10. There will be more information!

With God's Grace,
Ashley Braisted
Children's Ministry Director



Youth Ministry

December and January were great months for the youth. They participated in the Family Advent Nights, Christmas Lock-In, pizza and game day, started the Nooma short film series on Sundays, and began planning for the youth mission trip. We will be going to the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee, June 19 – 24, 2011. We will be having a few extra events in addition to our normal gatherings this February:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| February | 6 – Super Bowl party (location TBA) |
| | 13 – 6 pm 'Greasy Spoon' dinner |
| | 21 – No School – Ice Skating or Movie in the afternoon |
| | TBA – Local Mission Service Project |



youth
NEWS

Towards the end of February, we will begin planning and preparing for Youth Sunday, March 13th. As always, all (7th – 12th grade) youth are invited to our many events every week: Sunday School (9:15 – 10:15), Youth Group (Sundays 6:30 – 8), Junior High Only (Wednesdays 6:30 – 8), and *Cast of Characters* Book Study (Thursdays 7 – 8:30).

~Heather

Better Moms Make A Better World



MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) has started 2011 with a bang and we look forward to a terrific Spring. Christy Carroll, project manager, for Strong Families Strong Wyoming joined us on January 6 to discuss communication. Learn to communicate well with your preschooler, so the teenage years will be more peaceful.

In December Ben Jacquot, a sheriff and church member, spoke on road safety. Diane Nyffler, a church member, prepared two terrific and yummy bag gifts for the moms to put together at our Christmas meeting. We also did a sing along with the children. MOPS has nine meetings left and we have some very exciting things planned. Thank you Ben and Diane!

Our monthly attendance for moms and kids continues to grow. The relationships with God and each other that grow through this ministry are a constant blessing. We'd like to thank Summit Title for their generous donation. And thank you to the MOPS moms who have donated food, craft supplies and time to help make the ministry possible.

There will be a special offering for MOPS on February 6. You, the congregation, have been amazing in your support. We thank you and ask that you continue to support this ministry.

Please remember to invite your friends and family to join us on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 5:30 to 7:30. If you'd like more information or would like to know how you can help, please contact Stephanie Prescott at 634-3765.



IN THE LIBRARY - submitted by the Library Committee

In The Steward: A Biblical Symbol Come of Age, Donald Hall discusses how stewardship is viewed by most Christians. He explains some of the differences in how European and North American churches approach the idea of stewardship (e.g. North American churches are usually on their own in raising funds while many European churches are state-owned and don't have such a need to raise funds locally). He feels Christians should consider stewardship as the mission of the church rather than as just something we do on occasion to support various mission programs, that we are already stewards because of the gifts we have received through Christ. [248.6 HAL.STE]

A Continual Feast, by Jan Karon, is a handbook of quotes from the "journals" of Father Tim Kevanagh, the main character of Karon's Mitford book series. Included are ideas, wisdom, humor and common sense from a number of famous people and some of Kevanagh's thoughts about their comments. [FIC KAR.CON]

Keith Drury, in Holiness for Ordinary People, defines holiness as Christlikeness or perfect love. He says such holiness is not just for ministers or high ranking church officials but for all Christians on a daily basis. He describes how God begins to transform us to be Christlike from the moment we accept Christ into our lives. [234.8 DRU.HOL]

