

News From The Pews

News of the First Presbyterian Church

November 2011

Rev. Bob Garrard
firstpresrlg@qwestoffice.net

Website: www.firstprescheyenne.org
Email: firstpresbyteri5@qwestoffice.net

Rev. Diana Hartman
firstpresap@qwestoffice.net

UPCOMING WORSHIP/EVENTS

November 6, 2011 – Communion Sunday

Daylight Saving Time Ends - We fall back an hour!

Worship Theme: "Informed Choices"

Scriptures: Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18;

Matthew 25: 1-13

Rev. Bob Garrard

November 13, 2011

Worship Theme: "Faithful in Much"

Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; Matthew 25: 14-30

Rev. Bob Garrard

November 20, 2011 – Christ the King Sunday

Worship Theme: "Surprises in Heaven"

Scriptures: Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1: 15-23;

Matthew 25: 31-46

Rev. Bob Garrard

November 27, 2011 – First Sunday of Advent

Worship Theme: "Riding on Clouds"

Scriptures: Isaiah 64: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37

Rev. Diana Hartman

It's Happening Right Here!

Upcoming Events	1
Thank Offering	1
Rev. Garrard Article	2
Finance Ministry	2
Rev. Hartman Article	3-4
Living Water Trip	4
Thank You	5
Women of FPC	5-6
Peacemaking Offering	6
Notes and Church News	7
Newborn	7
Deacon's Beacons	8
Family Promise	9
Christian Education Ministry	10-13
<i>(Children, Youth, Small Groups, MOPs, Library, Camps)</i>	
November 2011 Calendar	14-16

THANK OFFERING SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 20TH

Each November Presbyterian Women participate through their circles in an offering called the Thank Offering. The money collected supports projects with small grants for hospitals, schools, women's health programs, domestic violence shelters, child and youth development programs, elder care programs, hunger programs, homeless shelters and more. Sixty percent of the offering funds new and creative ideas for mission, but because at least 40 percent supports health ministries throughout the world, many members of our congregation have asked that the opportunity to donate be open to the whole church. The offering will be collected during the worship services on November 20th—special envelopes will be in the pews for that Sunday. Checks should be made out to Presbyterian Women with Thank Offering on the memo line. If you donate by cash and wish a receipt for income taxes, please include your name and address in or on the envelope. Thanks so much for your participation.



November brings a time of special thanksgiving to me: The beauty of fall leaves; refreshing new snow; exciting and valuable church worship services and programs warming the faith and fellowship of the congregation; volunteers and staff who make this possible; freedom to worship and those who sacrifice to keep this so; bountiful harvests; turkey suppers; reaching out to those in need and being reunited with families are all part of this time to be thankful.

This season is also a good time to remember the basis of all this thankfulness. For me, what the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:3-8 is the foundation for all my thanksgiving as a Christian, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of *his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved*. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, *according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us.*"

I pray that in this season, God's freely bestowed and lavished grace, forgiveness and redemption made possible by the sacrifice in Jesus Christ fills your hearts and gives you reason to joyfully thank God for the innumerable blessings we have experienced.

May we be united as a congregation in our thanks and ministry as we enjoy this bounty from God, and share it just as generously with our neighbors in word and deed.

I will be on vacation November 21-29. I also will be fulfilling my role in a Presbytery Administrative Commission to the First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View on December 3-4.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Rev. Bob Garrard

From Your Finance Ministry

We hope by now you have received the stewardship letters along with the 2012 estimated pledge of giving that were mailed out on October 14, 2011. It would be very helpful if you complete your pledge form and bring it to one of the worship services on Dedication Sunday, November 6, 2011. If for some reason you are unable to attend on Dedication Sunday, then please mail your completed pledge form to the church office before November 6. By prayerfully considering a 2012 pledge gift and returning it to the church, you are aiding the session in making final decisions to the proposed 2012 budget.

The proposed budget for 2012 is \$597,887.00, which is greater than the 2011 budget. Our projected increases are due to such items as health insurance and other personnel expenses, building maintenance, per capita costs and small group education expenses. As a church implementing its vision for ministry, we have been able to provide more opportunities for our members and friends to grow in our faith and share our mission with others.



Thank you for your continued financial support of the work in our church. We appreciate your generosity and giving in faith. Thanks to everyone who has already brought or mailed in their pledge!

What Is Your Purpose in Christ?

By Diana Hartman

It's not hard for one to become discouraged about the depths of brokenness in our world. Whether we are reading the newspaper, watching television news programs, surfing the net, reading a blog, or following a Tweet, the world can appear as if it is spiraling out of control. We live lives of comfort without concern for the resources we consume or the pollution we cause. Racism, classism, ageism, hatred, oppression and violence damage our world and us. Our own self-centeredness leads to hurting others and being hurt by others. Our relationship with God is damaged as we try to hide our sins from God. We run in fear of God forgetting that we are loved unconditionally and unimaginably by a God who loves us just as we are and a God who reaches out to us to help us become who we are intended to be.

Have we forgotten that God created this world and all that is in it, including each of us, and declared it good? God provided a place in which we could be cared for and a place we could care for. And while we put our complete trust in God to be in charge, life was good. But the first human beings and those of us who have come after want to take charge and use creation for our own benefit instead of God's intended purpose of serving each other. The moment the forbidden fruit was eaten it became "all about me." The presence of this evil is damaging our world and everyone in it. We all contribute to this mess.

But God loves us too much to let it stay this way. God has decided to pitch his tent right in the middle of our world's mess. Indeed, it is "a good day in the neighborhood." Jesus entered this world two thousand years ago to restore God's intended goodness. He started a resistance movement against evil that has been going on for two millennia. There are no armed forces involved in this movement, nor secluded communities to escape into, no protesters in the town square. Instead, he taught us about the power of love and a better way to live. He taught us that we do have the power to overcome the evil in this world and in us.

Jesus came into the middle of our damaged and diseased world. He died showing us how to live. He came back to life overcoming disease and death, providing us with this same immunity. He has given us the antidote so that through him we can overcome the brokenness in our world and in us. In Jesus Christ we are restored to the new creation.

God has restored creation so that it is possible that all of the governments, schools, corporations, families and our environment can be instruments of peace, love, and justice. Oppression and injustice can cease. When Jesus said that "the kingdom of God draws near", he was talking of this new creation where the negative "isms" (ageism, sexism, racism etc.) of our world give way to a new way of treating people and the environment. God's new thing is ushering in a world where peace, justice and love are valued over unfair competition, violence, and injustice.

God also restored our relationships so that we can love and forgive one another. Our damaged relationships can be healed. We can extend forgiveness to one another knowing that Christ has forgiven us.

Finally, God has restored our relationship with God. We don't have to live in fear of God for we have experienced God's unfathomable and unconditional love for us. We don't need to be self-centered and work against God's design but can put our trust in our loving God to be in charge of our world and our lives. We can be reconciled to God and share an intimate and loving relationship with God aligned with his purpose for our lives. The old self has died with Christ and our new self rises with him allowing him to take charge of our lives and to

live as he lived. Through this transformation we are led into loving relationships with others; we are transformed to transform the world.

Our purpose in Christ is to enter his revolution and to become the kind of good we want to see in the world, the kind of good that he exemplified. To be a church member is to be among those who are sent out together to heal systems, and one day this healing will be complete. In the meantime we are called to protect and heal the environment, fight injustice and oppression and to work together to do this. We are sent together to heal the brokenness of our lives and our world but we are not alone for the power of the Holy Spirit and the community of God's people goes with us.

As the holidays approach and the vices of over indulgence, over spending, over eating, over drinking, jealousy, resentment, depression, and non-forgiveness tempt us, do you have a strategy for conquering these temptations? As you listen to the nightly news, have you considered what your role may be in healing the brokenness in our world? With the help of God and our faith community, I believe we can be victors in this revolution.

Are you ready to join this revolution? Have you considered participating in bible studies to learn more about Jesus' revolution, in mission projects that will take you out to heal the brokenness in our world, in small groups to grow your sense of belonging to the faith community as you develop discipleship skills, and in worship and daily devotions to enrich your intimate and loving relationship with God? Let us help you! Get involved at First Presbyterian Church. It will be the best gift you have ever given or received.



LIVING WATER TRIP DRILLING WELLS AND TEACHING HYGIENE

--Mission Ministry

The good news for the February mission trip to Honduras just keeps rolling in! We now have over \$5,270 in the Living Water line item. Our seven mission-goers have been meeting regularly to discuss the trip and make plans. Many are working on getting passports or required vaccinations, and all will be contributing significantly to the cost of the trip. Our travelers will have the excitement of going on an adventure, but we also need to remember that they will represent our congregation and will be bringing the gift of life and health, clean water, and better future to a village in Honduras.

This mission trip is a good example of the power of collaboration between members who do the hard travel plus the physical or community work needed and those of us who remain at home and work behind the scenes. We have three responsibilities as a congregation: to help support the trip, to go on the trip, and to pray for the success of those carrying out the mission. Thanks to those going on the trip, but thanks also to all those who are supporting the effort in the other two ways. The Bible tells us that God loves a cheerful giver, and you have willingly given much support!

Mission Ministry continues to pray for God's guidance in this and future mission trips. It will be exciting to give our mission travelers a big send-off and then to welcome them back and thank them for a job well done!



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



- Dear First Presbyterian Members,
 Since I am now feeling much better even though I am still being treated for leukemia, I feel my name can be removed from the prayer list. I know that prayers are responsible in a huge way for the improvement of my health. Thank you, everyone, for your prayers of intercession for me.

In Christian Love, Mary Jane Larson

- First Presbyterian Church,
 Thank you so much for the warm welcome upon the occasion of our son, Seth's, baptism. A special thank you to the Presbyterian Women for the beautiful blanket. It means so much to know we still have a church home in Cheyenne.

Thankfully yours in Christ, Chris and Jamie Reid

- Thank you church members for your concerns, good wishes, and prayers for us during Vicki's long rehabilitation following back surgery. Unfortunately she had a complication following the second back surgery which consisted of a neuropathy of her right hand. She is unable to use it now. We are told that the function of her right hand will return with time, but nobody knows when that will be.

We want to thank the ministers for their visits with Vicki and their concerns and prayers for her recovery. We also want to thank the Friendship Mariners for their visits, cards, flowers and gifts. We feel very fortunate to belong to such a concerned, caring, Christian congregation.

Sincerely, Vicki and Larry Meuli

Women of First Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Women Can Make a Difference! Get Involved

On Saturday, October 1, women from First Presbyterian Church drove to Laramie to participate in a day-long Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering. Attendees were Mary Burby, Libby Barnett, Ardyce Murdoch, Lorna Walkley, Patty Young, Myrtle Forney, Jan Schippers, Virginia Bohnenblust, and Melinda Brazzale.

Presbyterian women from Cheyenne, Laramie, Torrington, and Guernsey were in attendance. In addition to good fellowship and food, we learned much more about mission work that Presbyterian women are doing worldwide. Individually it is challenging to make a difference. United we can have a large impact!

Freda Dixon, co-moderator of Presbyterian Women of Wyoming, challenged us to be more involved in social justice. She admitted that it is common that Presbyterian women do a good job of sewing and knitting projects for those in need, but getting involved in changing unfair or unethical work is more difficult.

Patty Young had this reflection of the day, "I was particularly impressed with the worldwide involvement of PW. Working for justice and peace, providing school supplies as well as health care services and supplies to developing countries, and nurturing neighboring First Nation sisters, are great examples of fulfilling the purposes of PW. Women wanting to get more involved with the various missions and planning can feel

comfortable and confident doing so, by availing themselves of leadership training. Through PW, women can do a lot to support their local churches, communities, the USA, and the world!"

All women in the Presbyterian church are members of Presbyterian Women. Locally, we have numerous on-going mission projects that involve sewing, knitting, and some stitching. Other projects are being considered. For information, contact Kay Barnes, moderator, at george.kay.barnes@att.net or 307-778-7445.

Mission Display

On Sunday, November 13th, Presbyterian Women will have a display in the parlor of the various mission projects they have been involved with throughout the year. We will have examples of the various projects as well as pictures of completed items which have already been given to various groups in our community. Many of these projects were supported by your materials, time and money. Be sure to come and see what you have helped to provide to those who are in need. Your help has been greatly appreciated.

PEACEMAKING OFFERING: THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

– Mission Ministry



Your generosity in donating to the Peacemaking campaign this year, both with financial contributions and with donations to help children locally and far away, will make a difference in the lives of others. As of the newsletter deadline, we have a total of \$1709 for the offering itself. That means that our Pastor Discretionary Fund will have \$427, a fourth of the total donation, to help area residents with heating bills this winter. The remaining \$1,282 will go to PC (USA) headquarters to help make life better for those living in the midst of strife or in places where living conditions make life dangerous.

Those church groups that sponsored each of the four ways to give in order to help children are also pleased with the many donations added to the bins in the parlor. The deacons received 18 packages of diapers, all of which went to local agencies to help parents in need. The PW batting fund grew by \$166, a happy piece of news that means our quilters can buy twenty-three yards of batting, enough to make 36 quilts! That's a big help to the Quilts for Kids effort! The Christian Education Department also has a great start on putting together school kits for PC(USA). They received 77 items, including many notebooks, scissors, pencils, glue sticks, rulers, and other items. Mission Ministry is grateful to report that the children at Little Wound Elementary School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation have now received just over 20 pounds of arts and crafts supplies. Their teachers now have more construction paper, pipe cleaners, felt, paint and paint cups, wiggly eyes, beads, and many other craft items!

Thank you for all you did to make the Peacemaking Offering a success! We have a wonderful congregation, and together we are making a difference in the world!



♪♪ Notes & Church News ♪♪

30-Hour Famine Update

30 Hours without food, that's what the youth did the weekend of Oct 22 and 23. The youth also purchased over \$150 worth of food for the Cheyenne Salvation Army, raked 2 church members' yards, and completed the Peacemaking PDA school kits all while learning about hunger and poverty. The youth fasted and worked to experience some of the challenges that children in developing countries face on a daily basis. The youth raised over \$2166 for World Vision, meaning more than six children will be fed and clothed for an entire year. Thank you for showing your support through your prayers, encouragement, and gift.

Small Groups / Church Directory

The Small Groups have begun, however, it is never too late to join a group of your choice. For information, see the small groups article in the Christian Education section.

Photos will be taken by Lifetouch Photography. All information collected by Lifetouch is secured and will not be sold. **If you do not wish to have your e-mail listed in the church directory, please contact Jean Marie Seitz (638-8360) or the church office.**

New Life Ministry
Paula Baldeshwiler, Chair

Come Be Part of the Fun!

The Cheyenne Animal Shelter is seeking highly committed self-starters to join their Volunteer Program. If you have the time, heart and passion for animals, we want to hear from you today. We currently have over 10 volunteer opportunities available. For more information, please call Brock at 632-6655 or email us at: volunteer@cheyenneanimalshelter.org. We look forward to working with you.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Codey and Kody (Child) Stocks on their new baby girl, Kaylee Rosemary. Kaylee was born on October 3, 2011 at 10:21 p.m. She weighed 7 lbs 2.4 ozs and was 19 1/2 inches long. Proud grandparents are Mark and Debie Child.





Deacon's Beacons

Submitted by Jane Nelson

The greatest thing a man can do for his Heavenly Father is to be kind to some of his other children.

– Henry Drummond

Lord, thank you for the prayers in prayer chains and for the privilege of being in one of them. And thank you for your answers which tell us so much.

– Evelyn Christenson

Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in and through us.

– Andrew Murray

Use your prayers to open the way of recovery for:

Stacy "Skoumal" Adams	Pat Fairbanks	Tasha Jones	Mary Alice Radford
Meryl Adams	Myrtle Forney	Roshni Joseph	Aaron Rebout
Loretta Adsit	Irene Forwood	Rev. Tom Kittleman	Midge Reed
Lil Barbour	Adam George	Jim Kleine	Rev. Skip Reeves
Richard Beauchamp	Sue Gosnell	Dr. Robert Lanier	Doris Rogers
Rev. Kurt Borgaard	Bob Goss	Karen Lemon	Dorothy Rundquist
Betty Brown	Joan Gray	Ronan Louis	Lana, Leann Smith
Jay Brown	Karen Grover	Bob McGuire	Ken Smith
R.J. Brown	Rennie Grover	Vicki Meuli	Barbara Spatz
Rose Burrows	Bob Hale	Dennis Mosher	Austin Strietmatter
Eric Case	Jim Hamil	Carla Nolen	John Townsend
James Chaney	Marydee Hartsook	Alice Norfleet	Lila Wallace
Richard Chatfield	Dee Hoffdahl	Kim Olson	Javen Westby
John Chopich	Ruth Holmes	Glen Oslund	Allen White
Scott Coulson	Nina Belle Hoy	Esther Peterson	Margy Will
Lorna Crick	Ted Hoy	Sherry Popham	Carleen Williams
Carrol DeWyke	Marcy Jacobsen	Bertie Price	Harry Williams
Virginia Donaldson	Jon Jacquot	Mel Qualls	Marian Williams
Robert Drummond			

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

Receive everyday as a resurrection, as a new enjoyment of life – then let your joyful heart praise and magnify so good and glorious a Creator.

– William Law

May Thy grace, O Lord, make that possible to me which seems impossible to me by nature.

Please pray for the families and friends of those who have left us:

Eskild Arntzen -- Loss of Mother
 Kay Barnes -- Loss of Father
 Kevin Boyce -- Loss of Father
 Gail Drinkwater -- Loss of Brother-In-Law
 Linda McGuire -- Loss of Father



What you always wanted to know about.... FAMILY PROMISE

BACKGROUND, PURPOSE, GENERAL INFORMATION

Family Promise (formerly known as CIHN – Cheyenne Interfaith Hospitality Network) began in 2001 with the purpose of empowering an interfaith and community response to homeless children with families. The program is a collaborative effort of interfaith congregations who host families a week at a time, providing lodging, home cooked meals, shelter, and comprehensive assistance and encouragement in an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality. In Cheyenne we currently have 10 host and 4 support congregations.

The program has a full time Director who serves as an advocate for the families working with volunteers, and partnering with other non-profit agencies in and around Cheyenne. A part-time Case Manager works with the families to meet job search, housing, and financial needs. Families attend classes on budgeting, time management and parenting skills.

FPC is not a religious organization but rather congregations become part of a community effort to pool resources and help homeless children and their families. Cheyenne is one of more than 161 Family Promise affiliates across the United States.

HOW IT WORKS AT 1ST PRESBYTERIAN

We have 3 Coordinators who rotate the Coordinator responsibilities – Mary Burby, Josh Haack (with wife Andrea), and Phyllis Salzburg – although we all help whenever needed. Each coordinator prepares the volunteer schedule for our week of hosting. 1st Presbyterian has a wonderful group of volunteers but we're always looking for more! Volunteers sign up for a particular day to help in any of the positions needed, such as providing a home cooked meal around 5:00 p.m., or serve as dinner host arriving around 5:00 p.m. to enjoy the evening meal with the families and staying until about 8:00 p.m., or stay overnight for security and in case of any emergency from 8:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. the next morning. We have your bed ready for you! Meal preparation is shared by volunteers. Hosts are encouraged to team up, bringing other family members along to share a couple hours with the families.

On our weekend days we also have volunteers who act as hosts to keep the families company for a few hours at a time. Our hosting week comes around about every three months and we never know until a few days before our rotation begins how many families we will have. Sunrise Church of the Nazarene is our support congregation and they have been a great help, providing food and volunteers for our rotations. **Our next rotation will be November 27 – December 4, 2011.**

Families arrive at our church on Sunday afternoon, about 1:00 p.m., where the coordinators and volunteer hosts greet them. Coordinators go over rules for our church and then visit about what kinds of food they like for breakfast or lunch, any food allergies, work schedules, transportation – things we need to know to help make their stay comfortable. Each weekday morning they leave by 7:00 a.m. and return in the afternoon by 5:00 p.m. The following Sunday, they pack their belongings and help clean the Sunday School rooms where they have stayed. They are welcome to stay for our church services or they depart around 7:30 a.m.

COORDINATORS' MEETING Nov. 7, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist

The first Monday of each month coordinators from all congregations meet with the Family Promise Case Manager to discuss any problems, difficulties, AND successes.

At the next Coordinators' meeting (**see above**) there will be a training session at the same time for volunteers, new or existing. There is an excellent new video on the program which will also be shown for any who wish to stop by. All are welcome to attend and learn more. Any questions please contact Mary 214-6622, Josh 631-9503 or Phyllis 421-1516.

1ST PRESBYTERIAN -- THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF
FAMILY PROMISE!



Small Group Updates

Our ten new small groups are well on their way. We still have plenty of room for new participants. If you would like to join a group, simply contact the group leader for information about where and when they are meeting. If you have an idea for a small group that would fit your interest or needs, please contact Pastor Diana in the church office. The following groups are currently looking for additional participants:

Caring and Sharing

Led by Libby Barnett (libbybarnett@bresnan.net; 634-5671). We call upon church members to listen to and “be with them” offering a genuine caring presence, to share the love of God Christian to Christian. We meet the first Monday of the month at 12:30 pm in the church library.

Christ in Work

Led by Jory Kaufman (jory.kaufman@bresnan.net; 630-4428). We are reading scripture and discuss how we apply it in our daily lives. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the church library.

Cooking for Christ

Led by Shan and Chris Anderson (421-0075). We engage in Fellowship and Prayer as we prepare a “theme” meal to enjoy together. We meet monthly on the first Sunday at 5:30 pm. **Entire families are encouraged to join this group.**

God’s Grace

Led by Jeromey Howard (Jah_45@yahoo.com; 406-788-3046). We are studying the view of God and his saving grace as brought from the Reformation. We will be using *Putting Amazing Back into Grace* by Michael Horton as our guide. Call for meeting times.

Holy Land Witnesses

Led by Curt Barnett (curtisbarnett@bresnan.net; 634-5671). The Biblical Holy Land is filled with physical evidence that witnesses to the events we read about in both the Old and New Testament texts. Evidence which a person can see and touch, if one is so fortunate to travel to that ancient land. This small group will explore some of these witnesses together. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 11 am in the church library.

James Brothers

Led by Chris Cooper (coopwyo@yahoo.com; 632-2488) We meet monthly to discuss a chapter or two out of a book like "Quiet Strength, Men's Bible Study" by Tony Dungy. After the discussion, we divvy out the work request cards that have been filled out by the congregation. The types of jobs we are able to do are winterizing air conditioners, fixing broken chairs, raking leaves, etc. Please call for meeting times.

Prophecy in the Bible

Led by Bob Garrard (firstpresrlg@qwestoffice.net; 638-3345). The first six weeks will be examining prophecy that leads to the birth of Jesus. The second six weeks after Christmas and New Years we will examine what prophecy in the Bible teaches us about the return of Jesus and the end of the world. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7pm in the church library.

Walk, Pray, Love

Led by Phyllis O'Connor
(phyloconn@msn.com; 634-0401). We will spend our time with a walk, short meditation, and fellowship. We meet the 4th Wednesday at 9:00 am at 710 Mylar Park Dr.

Holy Rollers

Led by Deb Child
(debiechild@yahoo.com; 777-7114). We are engaged in Word-Share-Prayer and learning the techniques of how to prepare some wonderful recipes. We meet at 1:00 pm on the 1st Saturday. Call for location.

Weavings of Our Lives

Led by Diana Hartman
(firstpresap@qwestoffice.net; 638-3345). We are exploring how the stories in the Bible and our stories are woven together. We will learn to express our lives and stories through the art of weaving. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 pm at 408 East 25th St.

Children's Ministry

What is Advent?

Advent is the season that begins the liturgical year. It consists of four Sundays starting with the Sunday closest to November 30th. The word advent is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." In the societies of the Roman empire, the word *adventus* referred to the arrival of a person of dignity and great power -- a king, emperor, or even one of the gods. For Christians, Advent is the time when the church patiently prepares for the coming of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ.

While the rest of secular society is already caught up in the frantic rush of shopping, decorations, parties, and other distractions, the church takes pause during Advent to contemplate the wonder of God's underserved mercy and love in Jesus Christ. Christians approach the Advent season much as expectant parents approach the months before a child is born. There are feelings of exhilaration, uneasiness, longing, and awe as the day of arrival approaches. Just as parents do everything they can to get ready and put things into good order, God's people prepare themselves at home and at church for the coming of the Lord by exercising the disciplines of Advent: confession and repentance, fervent prayer, immersion in Scripture, fasting, and the singing of the Great O Antiphons and other seasonal hymns and anthems.

The story of Christmas has lived through the generations of human history, ever since Jesus Christ was born in a stable in Bethlehem. Because the truth is alive, a living nativity scene can be the most meaningful display and teaching tool for the Christmas season. Please join us on December 13, at 6:30 pm for our first ever living nativity scene!

Up Coming Events -

November 11- Half Day Fun Day
December 11- Christmas Program 2nd service
December 13- Family Advent Night
December 25- No Sunday School

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

Youth Ministry

The 30 Hour Famine was a huge success! Thank you to all that supported and encouraged the youth. The youth also enjoyed helping MOPS with their *Pumpkin Party*. No matter how old you are, preschoolers are still cute.

November is going to be a bit of a crazy month for the youth with holidays, the Sr. High Fall Retreat in Casper, and school activities.

Here is a look at November:

11:	Early Out of School
11 - 16:	Heather Gone
18 - 20:	Sr. High Fall Retreat in Casper
20:	No Youth Group
23 - 25:	No School for Turkey Day!
24:	Turkey Day

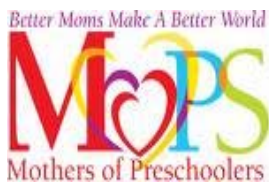
The youth have been learning about God in Sunday school through Disney movies. We've talked about family and community via *Lilo and Stitch* and materialism/selfishness via *The Emperor's New Groove*, just to name a few. In November, we'll be looking for God in *Tarzan*, *Cinderella*, *Atlantis*, and *Monsters, Inc.*

As always, all (7th - 12th grade) youth are invited to attend Sunday school (9:15 - 10:15am) and/or Youth Group (Sundays 6:30 - 8:00pm).

Blessings,
~Heather



***Check out FPC's Youth Facebook page (First Pres Youth)
and ALWAYS be in the know!***



Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) had two excellent meetings in October!

Carolyn Vick, an instructor with Parks and Recreation, shared her knowledge of food. She reminded each of us to have fun and try new creations when we are cooking for our families. She even had an appetizer to share!

All of the moms had the opportunity to visit with a panel of five doctors on October 20. What a joy to be able to visit with doctors without being rushed during an appointment. Thank you to Cori Cooper from our congregation for serving as the panel pharmacist!

On November 3 we will welcome Jean Blackmer author of *MomSense*. Jean lives in Denver and works for MOPS International. Each year MOPS Intl chooses a theme book and this year it is *MomSense*. We have invited the other two MOPS groups from Cheyenne to join us that evening. We are very excited!

Thank you to Great Harvest Bread Company for donating soup and bread for our October 20 meeting!

We are grateful to Diane Nyffler, Libby Barnett, Mary Jane Larson, and Fern Gullet for answering the call to help in the nursery! What a wonderful church family!

Sunday Morning Adult Classes

Classes are continuing on the Old Testament at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the church library. Each class consists of ½ hour DVD lecture followed by a discussion. The lecturer is Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University. This is a course in which we are learning about the history, background, theology and point of view of the books of the Hebrew Bible. Come join us to learn more about these essential scriptures. George Barnes moderates the classroom discussions.

Beginning November 6 Diana Hartman will lead *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. We will meet in the stage room from 9:10 – 10:10 am. Our group will take a journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels on video from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ.

This five-session DVD was filmed on location in the Holy Land. Each exciting and informative session contains 10-15 minute video vignettes of Adam Hamilton retracing the actual path of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heartfelt as you walk along this road.

Sessions include:

1. November 6—Mary of Nazareth
2. November 13—Joseph of Bethlehem
3. November 20—Mary's Visit to Elizabeth
4. November 27—From Nazareth to Bethlehem
5. December 4—The Manger



In The Library

Submitted by the Library Committee

Misquoting Jesus by Bart D. Ehrman is written for anyone who might be interested in how we got our New Testament, in what interesting ways these words occasionally got changed, and how we might, through the application of some rather rigorous methods of analysis reconstruct what those original words actually were. Dr. Ehrman's style is easy to read and not too technical. For those who would like to further pursue the subject, there is a good index and plenty of endnotes. [225 EHR.MIS]

Ephesus contains pictures of ruins and statuary you might see today along with information about that general area of what is now western Turkey. Explanations are included to help the reader understand what part these ruins and statues played in the history of the area. [227.5 KES.EPH]

Stanley Baldwin used the seven character traits mentioned in 2 Peter 1:5-7 as the basis for How To Build Your Christian Character: Goodness, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly kindness and Love. Baldwin discusses each trait, and gives examples of how the reader can apply them to his/her life. [241.5 BAL.HOW]

