

The *Mustard Seed*

May 2015

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HELENA, MONTANA

Issue 5, Volume 2015

April Showers Bring May Surprises

I moved into my house the end of September last year. Growing season was over, giving little hint as to exactly what was in the beds around the house. Spring is now upon us, and there are things sprouting up in these gardens, but I'm not exactly sure what. One plant has revealed itself, a red Tulip. There might be more tulips, others might be Irises. There are some bushy like things - we'll see if they bloom or just leaf. It will all be a surprise.

One thing about surprises, kind-of-by-definition you can't *anticipate* a surprise. For a true surprise, there's no telling as to the what/when/where of the event. But, it does seem you can count on being surprised. I've noticed God seems to do this frequently; I suspect it's one of God's favorite pastimes.

God gives us hints that surprises might be in our future, "See, I am bringing about a new thing ..." "New things" almost exclusively come wrapped in the form of a surprise. I believe we can absolutely count on being surprised by God. Don't know when, but it will happen.

God does lay out some big miracles. Again, miracles are by definition "surprises." But there are far more "simple" surprises blooming all the time in our lives. Like when we bring what we've

got to the table - our time, talent, and/or resources - and we see that our "stuff" is hopelessly insufficient. But, **SURPRISE**, God takes our meager offerings and amplifies them, expands them, adds to them, transforms them - and something totally unexpected occurs.

Want to have a little fun with God? Just try telling God "never" about something. I've tried this - **SURPRISE** - the "never" occurs! It happens so consistently I tried using some reverse psychology on God and said "never" about something I really wanted to happen. **SURPRISE** - reverse psychology doesn't seem to work too well on one who knows what you are going to say before the words are even on your lips.

So, be open to God's surprises in your life. They are unpredictable. You may ask for one, but cajoling a surprise doesn't work (see previous paragraph). Surprises never (*oops*, "Surprises rarely") adhere to your schedule. But you can count on the fact that they will occur; just know that you will be surprised. Surprised about what pops up in the garden this spring. and, surprised about matters of *much* greater substance. God loves surprises! We should too!

Pastor Scott



Our Pastor
Rev. Scott Wipperman

First Presbyterian Church
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

406.442.4775
fpchelena.org

Educationally Speaking . . .

What's happening in Children's Ministries?

May – Each Sunday the kids will practice the song, “Every Move I Make” to share with the congregation on Pentecost Sunday.

May 3 – Deliver May Day Baskets

May 10 – Mother's Day activity

May 17 – Bible Presentation/VBS silhouettes

May 24 – PENTECOST SUNDAY (Wear red or orange or yellow)
Kids will sing during church.

June 15 – 19, 2015 *G-Force Adventure Park VBS, 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.*



G-Force Adventure Park starts in less than 60 days. That's right! School will be out in about 55 days. We are accepting registrations right now! The first day of Vacation Bible School is Monday, June 15, at 12:30 p.m.

Children will discover an interactive, energizing, Bible-based program that will give them an opportunity to experience God's love in action. During Vacation Bible School at G-Force: God's Love in Action, children will become Navigators and explore how to serve God and others with active love.

After a high-energy Opening Assembly at the *G-Force Zone*, the Navigators (led by their Pathfinders) make their way to one of the following areas:

* Scripture Zone – Interactive Bible lessons reveal five Action Words for following God's plan for our lives and your Navigators will discover Velocity Verses (Bible memory verses) that will move them in their faith long after VBS.

* Craft and Science Zone – Make their own crafts and explore science activities.

* Recreation Zone – Participate in lots of wild and zany recreational activities.

Kiddos then gather for tasty snacks at the Snack Zone and Reflection Zone.

Your young people may be picked up at 3:00 p.m.

Staff members include:

Opening Assembly and Music – Amanda Grimmatt and Lexsey Van Norman

Scripture Zone – Dianna Goodman

Craft and Science Zone – Melissa Stiles and Kama Roberts

Recreation Zone – Deb Whitcomb

Snack Zone – Marsha Davis and Lona Albright

Reflection Zone – Amanda and Lexsey

Registration Zone – Jane Ogle and Rose Leavitt

Media Man – Les Cramer

What do we still need? How can you help? Well . . . there are still lots of things to get ready before June 15! *If you don't see something that interests you, just ask me.*

*Craft/Science Zone leader for Friday, June 19.

*Scripture and Recreation Zone assistants.

*Decorators to help before VBS begins and help undecorate after VBS.
(Will have items to be cut out that could happen at home, also)

*Snack Zone needs:

Monday – *On the Move* – Apple slices (precut), grapes and 3 jars of marshmallow crème

Tuesday – *Veggies or Fruit to Go* – Cucumbers, celery and carrot sticks, or strawberries and blueberries and FLAT-bottomed ice cream cones

Wednesday – *Caring Faces* – Apple slices, bags of small bagels

Thursday – *Keep on Following* – Sugar-free popsicles

Friday – *Cheetah Chow* – Fish-shaped crackers, toasted oat cereal, M/M's, Acai chocolate-covered blueberries (other fun child-friendly items for GORP)

[If you are going to bring any of these snack items, please call and let me know before I go shopping.]

*Sports theme items for decorations:

Bicycles	Bicycle wheels	Helmets	Skateboards
Kites	Sports Jerseys	Pogo Sticks	Checkered flags
Sports equipment (all types)		Pin wheels	Cheap plastic hubcaps

Craft and Science Zone needs:

*Plastic 1-liter (20 oz.) soda bottles (thin, inexpensive bottles will not work for this activity)

*Metal pie pans

*Stopwatches that we could borrow

*15 hex nuts

*Paper towel rolls

*Potting soil

Recreation Zone needs:

*Paint stirrers

*Large world map that we could borrow

If you bring items in and they need to be returned to you, please put your name on them.

You will find the G-Force Registration form on the back page of the Mustard Seed. If you don't have kiddos, pass it along to friends and families in your neighborhood. Thanks a bunch!

2015 PW Annual Spring Rummage Sale



The PW spring rummage sale will be held on **Friday, May 22**, from **3 p.m. until 8 p.m.** and **Saturday, May 23**, **8 a.m. until 1 p.m.** Because of the lack of storage space here, we ask that you bring the items you have saved to the church beginning **Monday, May 18th**.

We will be sorting, organizing and pricing that week and will welcome all who can help. Thanks in advance!

The Session in action.....

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Helena met on Tuesday, April 21, at 6:30 pm at the Church. Rev. Scott Wipperman opened with worship and communion in the sanctuary.

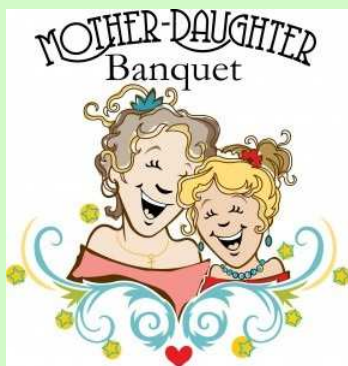
Action items:

- The Docket was approved as presented.
- Minutes of the March meeting as corrected were approved.
- Pastor Scott reported that the financials for March are looking better partially attributed to an anonymous donor. The Sigrid Barnes Underdal gift check has arrived and is going into the Sigrid Barnes Underdal restricted account. The extensive work on the sewer will come from this account. There have been a larger number of Pastoral Care visits this month. Pastor Scott also tries to make home visits to shut-ins each month. The next Presbytery meeting is June 27 and 28 in Harlem, with leaders from the Macedonian Ministry with Ed Albright and Dudley Rose also present. Pastor Scott conducted George Snyder's private Memorial Service yesterday at the funeral home (4/20).
- Report of Clerk – Elaine Gingery read a letter from the Director of Education and Congregational Ministries, Joni Miech, explaining she will be retiring June 30, 2015. Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept Joni's resignation with gratitude for her decades of service to this congregation.
- Elder John Gneckow, Chair of the Administration Committee, reported that the Anderson Trust received four applications for funding of church education and mission projects for a total of \$2,515.99, and all were approved. Melissa Stiles and Mary Craigle will review the applications for the Seeley Family Memorial Scholarship. The Sigrid Barnes Underdal bequest totaled \$87,664.88. The money was designated to be applied against the mortgage if such existed, and if there was no mortgage, the money is to be used for repairs and maintenance of the church property. The Church Secretary has been authorized to purchase updated computer software and, if possible, obtain two new computers within the remaining budgeted amount.
- Elder John Coefield, Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, reported that a great deal of work was done digging up 125 feet of old sewer line and connecting the "old halve" of the church to the fresh water line feeding the new addition (reducing the number of water meters by one). The sidewalk had to be dug up to accomplish this and has been replaced the week of April 19th. A vote of appreciation for the work of John Coefield in accomplishing supervision of this project was issued. An "All Church Clean-Up" has been scheduled for June 5 and 6 - more info to follow.
- Elder Rose Leavitt, Chair of Congregational Fellowship, reported the group is working on gifts for Mother's Day and Father's Day; Lost Soles will hike the Spring Meadow path; The Libera Choir film was outstanding; Sheriff Leo Dutton will be meeting with the congregation on Sunday, April 26.

- Elder Debbie Whitcomb, reporting for the Education Committee, stated that Bibles will be presented to 2nd and 3rd graders on May 17; Senior Sunday will be May 31 and will honor Lexsey Van Norman and Kyle Fadness; Vacation Bible School, in conjunction with St. Paul's Methodist Church, will be held June 15-19; Joni Miech announced she will be retiring at the end of June.
- Elder Jim Meyer, reporting for the Mission Committee, stated the next hosting week for the Family Promise program is May 10; \$600 has been sent to Glacier Camp; a Habitat for Humanity work day will be scheduled for Friday, May 29, and Saturday, June 20; a service day for congregation members will be scheduled in June; there is a concern about the small number of participants in the After-School Program; the last day for this program this year will be May 20; boxes to be auctioned for Glacier Camp are in the narthex awaiting donations and must be filled before May 8.
- Elder Rose Leavitt distributed and reviewed the Personnel Committee (PC) report. Employee checkups have been taking place; the PC will be working with the Education Committee to create a job description for new the Christian Education Director position; to help ensure the church is in top shape for Sunday worship after weekend events, Jim Meyer moved to increase the budget to hire someone to clean on Sunday mornings before worship; Session approved the establishment of a Special Committee to review the church membership database; it will be comprised of John Warren, Chair; Mary Craigle; Elaine Gingery; and Pastor Scott.
- Elder Dianna Goodman, Chair of the Worship Committee, reported a new software program at a cost of \$500 will be purchased; this program will project the full music on the screen from a new hymnal, "Glory to God"; the motor for the organ is no longer working and will be replaced; a rental organ is currently being used; the Praise Band will provide music on May 17.

If anyone would like additional information about the meeting, a copy of the minutes will be made available to them.

Mother/Daughter Banquet **May 12, 2015**



Ladies, you are cordially invited to attend the annual Presbyterian Women's Mother/Daughter Banquet which will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at 6 p.m. The price is \$5.00. Bring your daughter, mother, sister, aunt or good friend and join us for an evening of fellowship, conversation and entertainment! Please call Merle Korizek at 443-3793 no later than Sunday, May 10th, for reservations. Our speaker for the evening will be Penny

Vincelli, who, with her husband, owns Steve's Cafe. They are establishing a home here in Helena for children in need called "The Little Children's Home."

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP NEWS

GAME NIGHT

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE JOINING A GAME... "IT'S FUN AND REWARDING," WE CLAIM! SO COME PLAY WITH US... WE WON'T EVEN CUSS! IF WE LOSE, WE'LL LOVE YOU THE SAME!

Game Night:

May 15th, 6pm, at First Presbyterian

Pizza...Pop...Snacks

Bring a game, or play one of ours

Bring a friend, too!

Your Fellowship Committee

Rose - Jane - Sheryl - Carol -

Barb - Merle - Scott

Your
Congregational
Fellowship Com-
mittee has several
group activities
planned for this
spring and sum-
mer. Take a look
at the list, and
mark your
calendar now.

We're very open to ideas for fun and fellowship from all members of our congregation. If you have an idea, please let us know by emailing barb640@hotmail.com.

Your Congregational
Fellowship Committee

First Presbyterian Church Annual Summer Picnic

Sunday, August 9, immediately following the Church Service. We will meet at the L & C Co. Fairgrounds for a potluck, including – of course – fun and games! Go ahead and wear your "play" clothes to the Church Service, so you don't have to go home and change before the picnic.

Root Beer Floats and Music

Thursday, July 16, we will meet at 7 p.m. at Memorial Park to enjoy fellowship and delicious root beer floats, followed by the entertainment of our city's summer band, beginning at 8 p.m.

HOLD THE DATE(s)!

This year's All-Church Spring Clean-up will be Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6. Look for more details in the June *Mustard Seed*.

John Coefield

Chair, Buildings and Grounds Committee

ABIGAIL CIRCLE will meet at 9:30, May 5, in the Huxley Lounge here at FPC.

ESTHER CIRCLE will meet at 9:30, May 5, in the Ruth Room here at FPC.

REBEKAH CIRCLE will meet May 7, at 9:30, at Gay Lilly Cavagnolo's.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



**Sunday
Coffee
Time
Treats!**

We have been blessed to have treats for the fellowship time following worship. THANKS to all who have contributed. Your time and Talent are much appreciated.



Family Promise of Greater Helena

First Presbyterian Church's next week with Family Promise will be **May 10 – 16**. We will begin sign-ups for the May date and will be needing meals for Sunday and Monday dinner and hosts to spend the night at First Baptist Church.

There are presently two families in the program, one with an infant child, and the other family is expecting their first child in August.

The next one-hour Volunteer Training session will be May 16, at 6 pm, at First Christian Church.

If you know of someone who could use the help of Family Promise, the contact number for Nick Zollo, Director, is 465-9467.

Questions or to volunteer, call Lucille Letcher at 443-3497 or Elaine Gingery at 461-0561 or email at megingery@bresnan.net

Did you know the Newsletter is on our web site. If you would like to read or share a copy with a friend or family member, just go to www.fpchelena.com. 😊

Send A Camper To Glacier Camp



The Glacier Presbyterian Camp Board is sponsoring a fund-raiser for camper scholarships at Spruce Lodge on Friday, May 8. Our church is participating by filling 4, yes, that's 4 baskets this year with all the goodies for: (1) Make a Dessert; (2) Make An Italian Dinner; (3) Kid's Travel Box; and (4) Movie Night. Actually, our "baskets" are cherry boxes from Polson. The baskets are in the Narthex. If you would like to make a cash donation, please write a check to the First Presbyterian Church; indicate "camp scholarships" on your memo line. Each of the "baskets" is auctioned at the fund-raiser. Last year's fund-raiser provided almost \$12,000 for camper scholarships! Questions? Please call Carol Gneckow, 442-9309.

MAY 2015

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1 - Chris Goodman, Alex Krugman

May 5 - Tim Borsberry

May 6 - Merilee Wipperman

May 7 - Lauren Samson, Justin Roberts

May 10 - Marcus Mattioli, Dorothy Stewart

May 11 - Delmar Davis

May 12 - Judy Reel

May 14 - Julie Chaffee

May 18 - Pearle Plowman

May 19 - Kennedy Walsh

May 20 - Ken Salo, Joey Steffens

May 23 - Linda Graham

May 26 - Maxine Conver

May 27 - Kathy Chambers

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 12th - Rex & Kathy Seeley

May 22nd - Josh & Shannon Koutecky

May 24th - Kevin & Wendy Cook

May 31st - Glenn & Sandy Phillips

MAY CONDOLENCES, PRAISES & PRAYERS

We would like to extend our most sincere sympathies to Dee & Judy Patton. Dee's brother, John W. Patton, passed away on Easter Sunday, April 5.

We would like to extend our most sincere sympathies to the family of George Snyder. George passed away on April 14.

After-School Program

Thank you to all who supported and helped make our trip on April 4 to Fairmont Hot Springs a success over spring break. The kids were able to experience an area to which they had not previously had the opportunity to go. The smiles, laughter and enjoyment touched the children's lives. This month we are finishing up with Earth Day, July 22, at Nature Park where the children will spend time cleaning the park area of the litter. They will be making a difference in our community.

AUDIO/VIDEO OPERATORS

- 3 - Strasko/Albright
- 10 - Strasko/Cramer
- 17 - Cramer
- 24 - Albright/LaFournaise
- 31 - Moses

Lay Liturgist



- 3 - Carol Carpenter
- 10 - Dianna Goodman
- 17 - PRAISE BAND
- 24 - Rose Leavitt
- 31 - PENDING

USHERS

- 3 - Jim & Jan Benjamin, Mary Wright
- 10 - John & Carol Gneckow
- 17 - Elroy & Lucille Letcher
Linda Test, Judy Bayless
- 24 - Carole Massman & Kathy Chambers
- 31 - Richard and Sheryl Erickson,
Carol Stebbins

On-Call Deacons

- Barrie Heinecke 443-1373
- Linda Test 449-3688

Communion Servers

May 3rd

- Jim and Charlotte Meyer
- Marvin and Carol Carpenter

Communion Preparation



- Linda Test
- Merle Korizek

"Thank you so much!"

To all of the wonderful women of the church who have been bringing treats for all to share on Sundays during the coffee time following worship. You make this fellowship time very special!



Also, a special thank you to Tonna Strasko and Stephanie Boysen for the monthly birthday cakes!

Bulletin

Announcement
deadline by
12 Noon each
Wednesday

Mustard Seed

Deadline
the 20th of
each month

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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1	2
Small Group Study 12 Noon	
Friday Night Speaker 7 pm	

3 Communion Sunday Worship 10:00 am Godly Play 10:15 am	4 Cong. Fellowship 11:30 pm Education 2 pm After-school Program 3 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm	5 Abigail Circle 9:30 am Esther Circle 9:30 am Bridge Club 11 am Jesus: Forgiving Victim 12 noon Personnel 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm AL-ANON 7:30 pm	6 Willing Workers 9:30 am After-school Program 3 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm CHOIR 7 pm	7 Rebekah Circle 9:30 am Bridge Club 11 am Children of the Day Small Group 5:15 pm District # 61 - 7 pm It's In the Book AA Group 7 pm	8 Small Group Study 12 Noon	9
10 MOTHER'S DAY! Worship 10:00 am Godly Play 10:15 am	11 After-school Program 3 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm	12 Worship Cmte - 10 am Jesus: Forgiving Victim 12 noon Admin - 5:30 pm Mission - 6 pm Bldg & Grounds 7 pm Mother/Daughter Banquet 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 pm AL-ANON 7:30 pm	13 Willing Workers 9:30 am After-school Program 3 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm CHOIR 7 pm	14 Bridge Club 11:00 am Children of the Day Small Group 5:15 pm District # 11 - 7:30 pm It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm	15 Small Group Study 12 Noon GAME NIGHT 6:00 pm	16
17 Worship 10:00 am Godly Play 10:15 am Installation Elders/Deacons, Senior Hi. Sunday and 2nd - 3rd grade Bible presentation DEACONS' MTG 11:15 am	18 After-school Program 3 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm	19 Bridge Club 11 am Jesus: Forgiving Victim 12 noon Staff Meeting 3 pm SESSION 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm AL-ANON 7:30 pm	20 Willing Workers 9:30 am After-school Program 3 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm CHOIR 7 pm	21 Bridge Club 11:00 am Children of the Day Small Group 5:15 pm It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm	22 Small Group Study 12 Noon PW Rummage Sale 3 - 8 pm	23 PW Rummage Sale 8 - 1 pm
24 PENTECOST Worship 10:00 am Godly Play 10:15 am	25 Girl Scouts 7 pm	26 Bridge Club 11 am Boy Scouts 7 pm AL-ANON 7:30 pm	27 Willing Workers 9:30 am Youth Group 6:30 pm CHOIR 7 pm	28 Bridge Club 11:00 am Children of the Day Small Group 5:15 pm It's In the Book AA Group 7:00 pm	29 Small Group Study 12 Noon	30
31 Worship 10:00 am Godly Play 10:15 am						

ECUMENICAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

June 15 – 19, 2015
12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the following churches: St. Paul's United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church

Name _____ Birth date _____ Age _____ M _____ F _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Last grade-completed _____

In Case of an Emergency, contact: _____ Phone _____

Mother _____ Work Phone _____

Father _____ Work Phone _____

Allergies or other conditions, which may limit activities _____

Church affiliation (if any) _____

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE AGE LEVEL:

All Classes will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 535 N. Ewing – 442-4775

() Entering kindergarten in the fall () Entering pre-1st or 1st grade in the fall

() Entering pre-kindergarten in the fall (***MUST BE "5" by October 31st***)

() Entering 2nd grade in the fall () Entering 3rd grade in the fall

() Entering 4th grade () Entering 5th grade () Entering 6th grade

I would be willing to help. _____ YES _____ NO I am an adult _____ teenager _____

I would be willing to bring snacks. _____ M _____ T _____ W _____ Thur _____ F

In case of an emergency, I hereby give my permission for the leaders at Vacation Bible School to take measures that are in the best interest and welfare of my child, contacting me as soon as possible.

Date _____

Signature of parent/guardian

Please use a separate registration form for each child.

Return your registration form to the First Presbyterian Church at 535 N. Ewing or St. Paul's United Methodist Church at 512 Logan for your child by June 11, 2015.

A \$10.00 donation toward the cost of materials and healthy snacks would be appreciated.

Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please call the First Presbyterian Church.



First Presbyterian Church
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

www.fpchelena.com

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m.
Friday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
406-442-4775

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LABEL
HERE

Cokesbury's *God's Love in Action* >>>

G-E-FORCE

It's time to **FUEL UP & GET READY** for Cokesbury's **2015 VBS**

June 15 - 19
12:30 to 3:00 PM

You can go online, fill out an application and either print it and mail it to: **FPC, 535 North Ewing St., Helena, MT 59601**, or email it to us by visiting our homepage at www.fpchelena.com, clicking 'VBS' button, filling out the form, then the email button.