

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

News of the First Presbyterian Church ~ Cheyenne, WY

September 2016

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In September we will begin a sermon series on "The Great Ends of the Church." The Great Ends are a list of six goals for the church developed in the early 20th century by the United Presbyterian Church of North

America, a predecessor to the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The six great ends of the church are:

1. The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
2. The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
3. The maintenance of divine worship;
4. The preservation of the truth;
5. The promotion of social righteousness; and
6. The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

As you look at this list you will probably find one of the great ends that is of particular interest to you. If you are interested in worship you will be drawn to the third great end. If you are interested in mission then the fifth and sixth great ends will be of special interest. What's important is that every goal is covered by one of the ministries of the church. To look at it from another angle, each area of church ministry should be able to identify one or more of these goals that the ministry is working on.

September is an exciting month at the church as we kick off the program year. I'm looking forward to the Christian Education's Kickoff Pancake Breakfast on Sept. 11. The start of this new program year is an excellent time to remind ourselves of the goals towards which we are working. Yogi Berra once said, "If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else." The Great Ends of the church will help the ministry of First Pres. not wind up someplace else, some place we don't want to be.

An important thing when working towards the church's goals is to set aside our personal goals that might hinder success and lead us someplace else. Our human nature can easily allow our own priorities to creep into the focus of our work and draw us away from the path we should be on. Any success we have achieving human goals, while it may look great, will result in our failing to be the church God wants us to be. We need to keep our eyes focused on God's kingdom. Hebrews 12:1-2 calls us "to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

To achieve the church's goals let us keep our eyes focused on Jesus Christ and let us work towards the Great Ends of the church. In Christ's name, Rev. Bob Thomson

Congratulations to . . .

Debie and Mark Child on the birth of granddaughter, Keegan Jean Stocks, born on August 11, 2016. Keegan weighed 6 lbs 2 ozs and was 18.5 inches. Parents are Kody Robert and Codey Jean Stocks of Dixon, WY.

Teresa Hopper and Stan Clapp on their marriage August 16, 2016. Teresa and Stan will be moving to Kentucky in October.

 Irmgard Meyer Grants News

This month I want to highlight three grants awarded this past year. One was to support the salaries of Ashley Braisted and Matt Woodard, our Children's Ministry Director and our Youth Director, repair of Education Wing (2nd floor) and sending our youth to Triennium at Purdue University.

I am going to ask you to look back a few years ago when we could count on one hand the number of children going up for the Children's Sermon and Children's Church. Now we see children everywhere and when Ashley leads them out to Children's Church they form a line from the front of the church to the back of the church.

Our youth have struggled to find their place in our church; with Matt's leadership they have not only found their place - they are becoming leaders. If you look at the front set of pews on Sunday morning on the West side you see a pew full of our youth sitting together - worshipping together with Matt.

This summer Matt led a group of youth to Purdue University to attend Presbyterian Youth Triennium. You witnessed the results of that trip on July 31.

This past June the Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry joined together for Vacation Bible School. The enthusiasm and joy I witnessed was wonderful. Watching everyone work together was inspiring and children, youth and adults were everywhere.

There is no doubt that the biggest change we have seen in our church is in our children and youth and aren't we thankful. I swell with pride when I see them around the church.

Without the Irmgard Meyer Gift, what I've just described would not have happened, because our budget could not have supported this effort. I am so thankful that this lady, Irmgard Meyer, remembered our church.

I will continue in the months ahead to tell the story of the Irmgard Meyer money and how it is being used. ~
Connie Davis



WHY SMALL GROUPS?

Submitted by Rev. Diana Hartman
(excerpt from SmallGroups.com)

God is in a community of three persons in one—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who exist in perfect unity. We are created in God's image. So it is not surprising that from the beginning, God created us to be in community with one another. Genesis 2:18 states: "It is not good for man to be alone." Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian points out:

Community is deeply grounded in the nature of God. It flows from who God is. Because he is community, he creates community. It is his gift of himself to humans. Therefore, the making of community may not be regarded as an optional decision for Christians. It is a compelling and irrevocable necessity, a binding divine mandate for all believers at all times.

When Jesus' ministry began, he called 12 disciples to be his primary relational and ministry community. Did Jesus need this motley crew to help him? Not really. But Jesus chose to love them, teach them, and pour himself into relationships with them, thereby creating the first "small group."

The apostles continued Jesus' model and formed a community of believers who loved God and loved one another. Despite incredible persecutions and against all odds, this rag tag group of Jesus-followers launched small communities (i.e. church) that proclaimed the gospel and changed the world forever.

The consumer mentality rampant in our culture has permeated our understanding of community. We focus on what we are going to get out of church or small group rather than what God is going to do in us and through us because of our relationships within community. We need each other to help us know the truth about who we are, who God is, and how we can live in light of those truths. Like iron sharpening iron, the relationships we form within our small communities can become a tool for God to use in our character transformation.

We live in an increasingly fragmented and disconnected world. Though social media and other technology have made our world seemingly more connected, people have fewer genuine friends than ever before. It feels scary and threatening to allow ourselves to be known or to invest in knowing someone else at a deep level. It is much easier and more convenient to stay on the surface. Yet when we take the risk of being authentic with a small group of people, we can experience God's grace and love coming through others, which leads to freedom and transformation.

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19–20 mandates that every follower of Christ is on mission to "go and make disciples of all nations." Jesus gave this instruction to all his followers, both as individuals and as the body of Christ. We, as a small group and as a church, bear collective witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

One of Jesus' final instructions to his disciples is found in John 13:34–35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Note that Jesus did not say people will know we are Christians by how many churches we build, how many Bible studies we complete, how many prayers we say, or how many people come to our church. The litmus test is clear: people will know we are Christ-followers when we love each other the way Jesus does.

Are you willing to give a small group a try? Would you lead a small group? What small group topics interest you? Contact Pastor Diana with your responses at firstpresap@qwestoffice.net or 638-3345 or by text at 307-772-1295. Your participation will help to shape the future of our church. If you have a heart for people, are willing to open your home or church, can serve a snack and turn on a DVD player—then you can host a small group.

Women of First Presbyterian Church

With the opening of the new school year, September also brings the 'new year' activities for the women of the church—and every Presbyterian woman is invited to participate in PW activities, which are focused on nurturing our faith through prayer and Bible study; supporting the mission of the church worldwide, working for justice and peace, and building an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the PC(USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

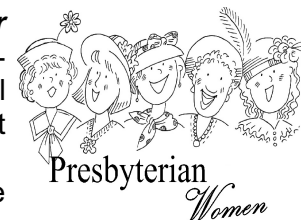
The three circles which make up PW at First Presbyterian will be guided in their 2016-2017 Bible Study by the extensively researched "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes" to examine what we can learn about Jesus from the Gospel writers, as well as from other sources.

These circles meet at the church on the following schedule, and each one welcomes new members:

- Sarah**—Second Thursday, 7:00 pm
- Ruth** – Third Friday, 1:00 pm
- Rebecca**—Fourth Monday, 1:00 pm

The PW hosts any/all women of the church four times each year for a meal, fellowship, and program, and the first of these is a **September 9 (Friday) lunch**. The program topic will focus on education, so watch for further details in worship bulletin, worship announcements, and notices posted around the church. Our circles, plus anyone interested in handwork and conversation, meet monthly for **Stitch by Stitch** to craft quilts, dresses for children, warmth and comfort items for veterans, children in distress, and others. Do plan to drop in from 10 to 12 (lower CE wing) to help on Saturday, September 17, and Saturdays once each month as announced. (Usually 3rd Saturday.)

Through the year, PW's from around the state (i.e. the Presbytery of Wyoming) meet together for fellowship, inspiration, and study. We are looking forward now to the **Fall District Meeting** in Torrington on **Saturday, October 22** and details will be available soon, so **Save the date on your calendar!** The first Presbytery-wide event was a very successful annual Retreat, August 12-14, at the church camp in Story, WY. (Next year's retreat will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Camp Story.)



♪♪ Notes & Church News ♪♪

Musicians Hey, all you musicians ~ We are looking for a few good men (and women) to join the choirs! Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights:

- 5:30pm Handbell Ensemble
- 6:00pm Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

We welcome singers and players of all ages, beginning in 7th grade. Please come and join our musical family!

Joyful Ringers Chime Choir Are you in 2nd - 6th grade and looking for something fun and musical to do at church? Come and join the Joyful Ringers Chime Choir! We will begin practice on Sunday, Sept. 12, at 10:45am. We will practice every Sunday at 10:45am, and play for church four times. Come and make a joyful noise with us.

Proposed Elevator Installation There will be a presentation by The Design Studio to the session on a proposed elevator installation on Monday, September 19, at 6:15pm. Interested people of the congregation are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Ernie Brazzale (630-6363).



HYSTERICAL HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

Submitted by Peggy Williams

The ancient Christian symbols above the choir were installed by the Deacons in 1958. Mr. Frederic Porter, chairman of the Board of Deacons, was thanked for the time he gave in selecting, drawing the plans, and having these symbols installed.

The following explanation will help you to understand and appreciate what these symbols mean.

Facing them going left to right:

1. THE DOVE – Symbol of the Holy Spirit
2. THE TWELVE APOSTLES – Represented by 12 sheep
3. THE PEACOCK – Symbol of the Resurrection
4. THE LILY – Symbol of Easter and Immortality
5. FISH AND SPEAR – Symbol of St. Simon
6. THE BUILDER'S SQUARE AND SPEAR – Apostle Thomas
7. THE BIBLE AND SWORD – Symbol of St. Paul
8. THE GOSPEL – Symbol of St. Barnabas
9. THE CROSS OF ST. ANDREW – A very ancient symbol
10. THE PHOENIX – Symbol of immortal life

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 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! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!



- I am so grateful for all of the prayers, love, and cards following the death of my mother, Judy Willard. I am so blessed to have such a loving supportive church family, and a faith that assures me Mother is enjoying her heavenly reward for a long life well lived. Belinda Smith



FROM THE LIBRARY Library Committee

In Shirley Dobson's book, Certain Peace in Uncertain Times, she explains how prayer can help us handle anxiety and worry in spite of what is happening in the world around us. She includes a four step approach to prayer-- P.R.A.Y. (Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield) and devotionals for 31 days to help the reader learn how to get started and use the four steps. [248.3 DOB.CER]

Mark Buchanan, in Hidden in Plain Sight, uses 2 Peter 1:1-9 to help us understand how Peter's list of 7 virtues can be used as Christian disciplines to help deepen our faith, and create a most satisfying, fruitful life with a strong relationship to God. He also gives us glimpses into the life of Peter. [241.4 BUC.HID].



Consider Adult Sunday School

This year the Adult Sunday School class is using material from the Presbyterian Church entitled, "*Being Reformed.*" This material is designed to explore what it means to be Presbyterian Christians in the world today, emphasizing essential Reformed theological principles that relate to our lives of faith.

Each topic consists of six lessons, so the material will not become boring. The first topic is "The Great Ends of the Church."

There are six. Do you know what they are? See:

- Romans 10:14
- Acts 4:32-35
- Psalm 150
- John 1: 14
- Amos 5: 24
- Luke 13: 18-19

The Adult Sunday School class begins at 8:15 AM. If you bring children for their class, why not attend the adult class and make it a family affair. Otherwise, set the alarm for an hour earlier and give God an extra hour of your time at the beginning of the week. Your faith will be rewarded.



Adult SS Class

Children's Ministry

Welcome Back-to-Sunday School

We've been living the great annual "Back-to-School" experience for a couple of weeks now, but there's also ANOTHER great "Back-to-...that occurs at this time each year." Back-to-Sunday School!" For many of you this is no "Back-to-..." at all. You never miss a Sunday. But for many of us, this is kind of a "New Year" with hopeful resolutions for a shift back into "The Spiritual Lane." For some (children, youth, and adults) this might even be a FIRST like pre-school or kindergarten or a FIRST TIME to encounter the "good stuff" Sunday School has to offer. Whatever your situation...WELCOME Back-to- Sunday School!

On this subject, I often run across this list. I know I have shared it before, but I feel it is a great reminder to try and help parents give their children the best experience possible in Sunday School. Here's are a few ideas I found that I believe will be quite helpful to you parents since you, of course, want your children to get the most out of Sunday School.

- Encourage your child to develop friendships at Sunday School. One of the strongest benefits the church provides your family is an extended "family" of both adult and childhood friends who support positive Christian values. Consistent attendance makes it easy for meaningful friendships to grow.
- Be consistent in bringing your child to Sunday School so that he or she will benefit from the Biblical instruction. Children are surrounded by influences which are often in conflict with the real truth of life. Sunday School can be your child's most important hour every week! Perhaps better than any other, Sunday School is the place and time where the good values and understandings YOU want your kids to have are reinforced.
- Watch for and talk with your child about the take-home materials provided each week. Just a few minutes of informal conversation at home can help tremendously to reinforce and apply the Bible Truths your child has studied. And we parents usually learn something from these as well!
- Use the Bible in your home. Open the Bible in your home to the Bible story or Scripture reading from last week's Sunday School class. Copy key verses onto a folded index card and set it on your kitchen table or put it on the front of your refrigerator. This is obviously just the tip of the iceberg! So many of you out there would have additional ones to add from your own experiences. Coming up this Sunday School year we will be changing the time. I am very excited about this new time. I believe this will allow us to try new and great things this year!



Finally, Children's Ministry will be hosting a "Flip Back into the 2016-2017 Program Year" on September 11th at 8:00am-9:15am. We will be flipping pancakes to all church members. Can't wait to see everyone! Welcome Back!

**Sunday School
Starts September 11th
8:15am- 9:15am**

With God's Grace,
Ashley Braisted

Youth Group

Your First Presbyterian Youth Group has been extremely busy these past few months, and have loved every moment of it! As we get ready for the school year, we want to keep the amazing momentum that we've built and continue to "Go".



First and foremost, I want to say thank you to all of the helpers that have volunteered their time to aid this group. The Mariners, as well as various other groups, have been incredibly generous and donated a lot of time and resources to send our kids to Triennium. We have also had amazing support from people like George Barnes and Rev. Diana Hartman who drove us to and from Denver for our trip! Lastly, a huge thank you to Hans Seitz and Jessica Sanchez. Both Hans and Jessica sacrificed time to be able to help chaperone during our trip to Indiana. In all of these instances, these people are living examples of what it means to give one's time and resources to benefit others. From all of us in the Youth Group, thank you so much.

Our trips this summer have been incredibly successful. We had 14 youth and 3 adults attend Triennium from our church, and about 50 from our state! As we closed out July, we got ready for Youth Sunday, where the Youth put together the entire service. This was an amazing opportunity for our youth to lead worship. We want to thank everyone who attended. We also had a chance to share a special type of worship with some other members of our congregation by going to Faith Day at the Rockies. We had 63 attend the event with us, where we watched the Rockies play, as well as listen to testimonials from Rockies players and coaches. To cap it all off, we got to hear the Christian band "Crowder". This was an amazing event, and I hope that we can continue to do these kinds of events in the future!

Looking ahead, the youth will begin the school year, for the Jr. High, Sr. High and College students! For the Jr. and Sr. High, classes begin August 24th, and the 29th for our college students. This means we will, as a youth group, both

prepare for school, as well as get back into a “normal” schedule here at church! We will invite everyone in our congregation to join us as we kick off the year. On September 11th, we will have a church-wide welcome to the program year, where we will provide breakfast for all. We’re excited to begin this program year, and we hope that we can share that excitement with you, too!

In Christ,
Matt Woodard

First Presbyterian Church of Cheyenne is a connected church. We are one of 28 Presbyterian churches in the Presbytery of Wyoming. To learn more about our presbytery and stay up-to-date go to: <http://pbywy.org/>.

DEACON'S BEACON

Be In Prayer For

Donna Goss – Loss of Husband, Bob

Meryl Adams	Adam George	Sophie Meese
LaVonne Beardsley	Tamieka Hamm	Dick Moody
Loretta Boucher	Tammy Harden	Ian Mueller
Al Brenner	Edna Harris	Paul Murdoch
Pat Brenner	Safia Hauswirth	Joe Norris
Briggs Family	Robert Hawk	Eric Payne
Chris Christensen	Beth Hoobler	Karen Toft Pope
Karen Christensen	Charlie Johnson	Carol Rieser
Jerry Crader	Avery Jurgens	Niki Stratton
Jessica Curless and Family	Jim Kubitschek	Rick Stratton
Karen Denniston	Mary Jane Larson	John Townsend
Carrol DeWyke	Bonnie Legerski	Jane Uchner
Robert Drummond	William Loftus	Eric Wedell
Eva Estorga	Marilyn Markus	Javen Westby
	Ray Martin	Deborah White

The family of Bob Goss asked for his obituary to be placed in the newsletter for those who knew him.

Bob was born in South Dakota and settled in Cheyenne with his family in 1945. As a young man he was active in Boy Scouts, high school chorus and competitive swimming. He was most proud of his time as State Master Councilor of the Order of DeMolay. He graduated from Cheyenne High in 1951. Bob attended the University of Wyoming where he was a competitive swimmer. He held several records in the butterfly event. Bob joined the Army and was stationed in Korea during the war. After his tour he went to work for the Martin Company.

In 1960 Bob returned to Cheyenne and began a 35 year teaching career where he taught at Carey Junior High and Central High School. He was a member of the Cheyenne Frontier Days Contract Acts Committee for nearly 40 years. He was inducted into CFD Heels in 1991. For many years Bob recorded Sunday sermons at the First Presbyterian Church. He then edited those tapes for broadcast on the radio. His hobbies included HAM radio. He also enjoyed car racing at the local race track. He was lucky to be able to combine his love of racing with another love, photography. Bob became the official track photographer.

Date	Day	Time	Event
		9:30am	Worship Service
		10:30am	Fellowship Time
		6:00pm	Youth Group
Sept. 12	Monday	12:00pm	Investment Committee (Library)
		1:00pm	New Life Ministry (Stage Room)
		5:30pm	Christian Education Ministry (Library)
		7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop 116
Sept. 13	Tuesday	4:00pm	Personnel Ministry (Library)
		7:00pm	Missions Ministry (Library)
Sept. 14	Wednesday	2:00pm	Finance Ministry (Library)
		5:30pm	Handbell Ensemble
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir
		6:40pm	Youth Ministry Team (Archives)
		7:00pm	Chancel Choir
Sept. 15-17	Thur - Sat	■■■	Presbytery Meeting – Highlands, Cheyenne
Sept. 15	Thursday	7:00pm	Hearts and Hands (Parlor)
Sept. 16	Friday	1:00pm	Ruth Circle (Library)
Sept. 17	Saturday	10:00am	Stitch by Stitch (Lower CE)
Sept. 18	Sunday	■■■	A Special Meeting of the Congregation (Sanctuary) will be held to elect new elders, deacons and the congregation nominating committee.
		8:00am	Nursery
		8:15am	Sunday School for all Ages
		9:30am	Worship Service
		10:30am	Annual Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
		10:45am	Fellowship Time
		6:00pm	Youth Group
Sept. 19	Monday	■■■	Newsletter Deadline for October
		6:15pm	TDS, Inc - Architect presentation (Sanctuary)
		7:00pm	Session (Lower CE)
		7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop 116
Sept. 20	Tuesday	1:00pm	Worship Design Team mtg (Lower CE)
		5:30pm	MOPS (CE Wing)

Date	Day	Time	Event
		7:00pm	Boy Scouts (OA)
Sept. 21	Wednesday	5:30pm	Handbell Ensemble
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir
		6:40pm	Youth Ministry Team (Archives)
		7:00pm	Chancel Choir
Sept. 23	Friday	12:00pm	Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (Library)
Sept. 25	Sunday	■■■	FPC week to host Family Promise Families
		8:00am	Nursery
		9:30am	Worship Service
		10:30am	Fellowship Time
		6:00pm	Youth Group
Sept. 26	Monday	1:00pm	Rebecca Circle (Library)
		6:30pm	Local Missions (Lower CE)
		7:00pm	Deacons (Lower CE)
		7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop 116
Sept. 27	Tuesday	1:00pm	Genealogy (Library)
Sept. 28	Wednesday	9:00am	Walk, Pray, Love Small Group (O'Connor's)
		5:30pm	Handbell Ensemble
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir
		6:40pm	Youth Ministry Team (Archives)
		7:00pm	Chancel Choir
Sept. 29	Thursday	7:00pm	Book Club (Library)



Join us as we get back in the saddle with the Fall Schedule on Sunday, September 11th. The Children's Ministry's "Flip Back into the 2016-2017 Program Year" Pancake Breakfast will start at 8:00am. They will be flipping pancakes to all church members. A sight to see!