



Issue 314
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Inspire

First Presbyterian Church, Pueblo, Colorado - www.firstprespueblo.org

"In the Heart of the City: Hospitality, Healing and Hope".

A Note from Brad on the New "Missional Initiatives Team"...

The next chapter of our Growing Healthy Churches / Season of Discernment journey is upon us. Scott, Jill and I have worked up a Seed Grant application in which we are requesting money from Presbytery to "revitalize our ministry in missional directions." We propose that, for this next chapter of our journey, we focus our community conversations in on a set of different evaluative criteria for what constitutes a legitimate church ministry. The evaluative criteria used almost exclusively at First Presbyterian Church of Pueblo over the last 100 years can be depicted as a "Butts and Bucks" criteria. That is, how many people are present and how much money are they donating to the church budget?

We reject "Butts and Bucks" criteria.

We propose a new set of criteria for our missional programming: community-based, service-oriented, person-to-person, community-creating and building bridges back to the faith community.

- Community-based: is the program located outside the walls of our church? The key evaluative criteria here is the act of Christians getting outside their box; in this case, the box located at 220 W. 10th Street.
- Service-oriented: does the program require Christians to serve others, and is the program of benefit to the community? The key evaluative criteria here is the act of Christians serving for the sake of the community.
- Person-to-person: does the program require Christians to contact, connect and cultivate interactions with other people? The key evaluative criteria here is the act of a Christian connecting with another human being.
- Community-creating: does the program lead to the sharing of one life with another? The key evaluative criteria here is the act of a Christian sharing his or her life with another in a meaningful way.
- Building Bridges Back: does the program offer to those involved a way to connect back to the faith community? The key evaluative criteria here is the act of creating an opportunity for a Christian to invite another into Christian fellowship.

As a first step on this next chapter of our journey, we are asking Session for permission to create a "Missional Initiatives Team" (MIT) who will be tasked with the job of creating opportunities for church members and friends to get involved in projects that look like the above, but also tasked with the job of encouraging every committee, every ministry team, every covenant group, every fellowship group and every one to become an active part of connecting with our community in missional ways. If all this sounds new and a bit odd, don't worry. We will be discussing the MIT and its exciting possibilities much more in the weeks, months and years ahead. Please be on the look out!

Grace and peace,

Brad

P.S. Are you interested in going to the Holy Land? If so, please contact me as I am putting a trip together!



Coffee Shop

I know many of you have wondered what has happened with the coffee shop? We have a beautiful set up and worked hard to get it moved to the main floor etc well - last spring our machines were vandalized. Vandalized? It may have been someone trying to rewarm their coffee. But why add the caramel syrup and coffee grounds into the mix?? Someone poured coffee, grounds, caramel syrup and milk into both machines - one a brand new and expensive espresso machine; the other our less expensive but new coffee machine that we use for steaming milk. All this they let sit and fermented and solidified. Sadly this act negated our warranty.

I have cleaned them out and cleaned them up, poured white vinegar water into both machines and ran them through numerous times. I finally got the machines to work - we just can't seem to get the nasty taste out.

Soooo . . . as time has passed our kids who were trained Baristas have graduated and left. Due to the condition of the machines, I have been unable to retrain kids. Our current group of kids, two of which are seniors and leave this spring - are not only super busy but hardly at church, which means they are unavailable to help.

Someone has offered to donate an espresso machine to replace our other one, but without enough kids to help, is this the wise choice?

We have some options - if we can think outside the box: (I am sure there are more that I can't see right now - so I would appreciate your ideas and thoughts)

- 1) Open it up to various groups in our church as a fundraising venture. i.e. the Divorce Recovery, Job Seekers, the mission committee, deacons, the men's and women's groups etc. Coffee could be served on Sundays and Wednesday during Presbybar and for special meetings, gatherings, showers, weddings, etc. Barista training would be offered as well as explicit instructions. The only request would be that whatever the group raises - 1/3 goes into the youth mission savings. That would do two things - keep the mission trip funding viable as well as help us recoup the cost of our supplies, machines, etc.
- 2) Open it up as a Mentoring program: Have an adult mentor team with a youth to run the coffee shop one Sunday a month. And . . . if we have enough people to do this - it would only be one Sunday every

other month! For those of you who say you never see the teens at church, why not step up to the plate and do something about it? This gives the youth and adults time to bond and visit, provides priceless relational ministering, and provides fundraising for the youth mission.

- 3) Make it a community outreach. Open up the coffee bar to the neighborhood! If we are a community in a downtown setting why not offer people something they can't find close by - an amazing cup of espresso, latte', Italian Soda, etc. and for cheaper than they could find anywhere else! Thinking way outside the box - advertise to the community that on a certain night with their coffee it's an "open mike nite," or an "acoustic nite," invite one of our very talented members perform vocal, instrumental or invite a local band come play. This would bring people into the church that normally might not come and allows our church to build "community" in our community.
- 4) Close it down.

If you would like to share your ideas or are interested in learning /becoming a trained barista - please contact Rene at 250.0574.

Dear Members and Friends of FPC

This letter is to let you know that I am seeking employment in Dallas, TX. My last day at work will be November 15th.

Most of my family is in the Dallas area. My mother will also be moving to the Dallas area as soon as plans can be made. Therefore, it seems to be the right time in my life and that of my family to make this move. It also seems to be the right time in the life of First Pres as you move into new areas of ministry.

Of course, you will always be a part of me for the ministry we have shared and for all the love and affirmation I have received from each of you. May God be with you in your work to lead First Pres into her future. *Rev. Suzanne L. D'Spain.*



December 4 - MYLife and high school meet at 11:30-1 pm. United Methodist church for the combined youth group. Both MYLife and LUVLife meet for a group project to help the **YWCA the women/children crisis shelter** from 4-6 pm. We will be helping them decorate for Christmas by putting up and decorating the Christmas trees and the hall banisters.

December 11 - MYLife and high school kids meet at UMC from 11:30 pm.

LUVLife meets from 6-8 pm for our **Annual White Elephant Christmas Party**. Bring a gift under \$5 which you bought or something new someone gave you that you will never ever use! Wrap it up and bring Christmas food to share!

December 18, 25, January 1 - No Youth Groups due to Christmas break and the Holidays.

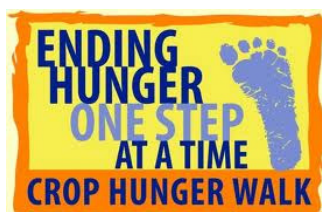
January 8 - Ski trip registrations and \$ are due. MYLife and any interested high schoolers meet at UMC from 11:30-1 pm. LUVLife meets from 6-8 pm.

January 15 - Youth Sunday practice both MYLife and LUVLife from 6-7 pm.

January 22 - Youth Sunday - middle and high school students are in charge of leading worship for both services. They must arrive 15 minutes before the service in which they are participating. If they could help for both that would be AWESOME! No regular youth groups today.

January 27-29 - Our annual Wolf Creek Ski Trip. Both MYLife and LUVLife. For those who have registered meet at the church at 4:30 pm on Friday 27th. We will return on Sunday the 29th, approximately 3:30 pm.

Dinner Theatre - We made \$1,500 and a big thank you to the anonymous donor who matched our total making it a **grand total of \$3,000**.



First, a huge thank you to all of you who walked or made financial contributions to this year's CROP Walk. **October 16** was a beautiful Sunday afternoon as a group of walkers headed out for two laps around the river-walk. A total of nine Pueblo churches participated in the annual CROP Walk, raising a grand total of \$5,500 towards ending hunger locally and around the world. Each participating community designated 2 local organizations to share 25% of the money raised, and this year Los Pobres and the SRDA meals on wheels were the recipients.

Have you ever wondered what you could do to help alleviate the suffering associated with hunger? Do you get overwhelmed when you hear statistics like over 1 billion people are hungry worldwide or that each day almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes? Through the faithful leadership of local volunteers, some 2,000 communities around the country take part each year to end hunger one step at a time. I believe this is why it is such a powerful experience to join with thousands of others who take a practical and important step towards alleviating hunger. First Presbyterian had a fantastic group of 12 walkers, and came home with a trophy recognizing our first year participating. It is a hand-made trophy with a baby shoe mounted on top to celebrate our baby step as participants. The other trophy handed out each year is a gold sneaker for the church that raises the most money. I say we should aim to trade that baby shoe in for the gold sneaker next year, what do you say? -Pastor Scott VanderWal

Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 11th

9:00 am service led by Tuned In

The Messiah - 10:30 am service led by Chancel Choir & guest soloists

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on

Saturday, December 24th, 7 pm with Chancel Choir & Communion at **11 pm**.

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 23rd PM, Monday, December 26th, Friday December 30th & Monday, January 2nd. (Shortened church office hours Tuesday thru Thursday, December 27-29th 10 am-2pm)

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th - There will be one service only at 10:30 am.
NO Sunday School

Sunday, January 1st - There will be one service only at 10:30 am. NO Sunday School

Advent Readers



November 27th	- 9 am Patsy Harper 10:30 am Margie Scorgie & Edna Fox
December 4th	- 9 am Tammy Graham 10:30 am Dave & Virginia Shaw Family
December 11th	- 9 am Brian & Emily Carter, LeeAnn McIntire & Boys
December 18th	- 9 am Larry & Cindy Henderson & Family 10:30 am Tom & Jeannine Moore

Music Ministry



Greetings from the Choir Room! The music dept. is off to a great start this fall season and looking forward to more great things in the next few months! As most of you know, the choir will be performing Handel's "Messiah" on **Sunday, December 11th at the 10:30 am service**. I would like to encourage anyone who is interested in singing with us or knows someone who might be to please come and join us on Wednesday nights at 8 pm for rehearsal. And if you are more inclined to listen, this is the perfect opportunity to invite someone new to church to see this wonderful production. In addition to our fantastic Chancel Choir and amazing organist, Neal Osborn, the Messiah will feature some wonderful string players and guest soloists Jeremy Nickell, Rebecca Work, our own Terri Stahlman, and Brent Ritter. Please support your choir with your presence on December 11th.

In Bell Choir news, I'm pleased to report that our well-done article in the Chieftain on October 22nd proved quite successful and we had three new people join us for practice. As happy as we are at the turnout, however, we could always use more people. So if you or someone you know thinks that playing bells might be a fun new experience (and it is!!) please join us on Tuesday nights from 6 to 7:30 pm for practice and stay for a basic music reading skills class that follows 'til 8 pm. We had a blast at our last class!

Also, the choir is looking for a volunteer to help with the music library. We need someone to help us organize new music in the folders and file old music on a very open-ended basis. The time commitment is minimal (every two or three months) and I will work around your schedule. Please call me for further information. On a personal note, I wanted to take a moment to say how thrilled I am to be a part of the First Pres. family and look forward to getting to know you all better in the weeks and months to come. Thank you all for your warm welcome! Jennifer Ritter (778-1570)



Thanksgiving Service and Dinner

Thursday, November 24th

Service 11:30 am

Dinner 12 noon

Bring a side or dessert to share. Sign up sheet on the information board.

Church office will be closed

Thursday, 24th & Friday, 25th.

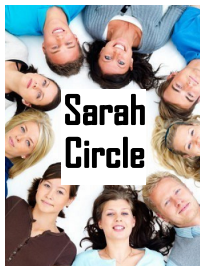


Prayer Group

December 6th the Prayer Group will meet at 10:30 am for "Prayer and a Potluck"

Lunch which will be at 11:30 am Marilyn Hurley's 4 Strawflower Court. Please RSVP at 561-1134.

Sarah Circle Christmas Luncheon
Thursday, December 8th
11:00 am
Church Fellowship Hall



Please bring:

A Favorite dish (not dessert)
A wrapped ornament or inexpensive gift (our polite gift exchange!)

Outreach gifts:

Posada's youth program

Sangre de Cristo Hospice Foundation

Guests and Newcomers always welcome. Questions: Cay Herrington 566-2035 or Barb Nelson 647-1173.



Poinsettia
Would you like to donate a Poinsettia to decorate our sanctuary at Christmas?

A sign-up sheet is available on the notice board. Please indicate if your plant is in honor or in memory of someone/something. Cost is \$9.00 each. Please make your check out to First Pres, marked poinsettia.

Covenant Groups

Did you know that there are five covenant groups that are meeting every month to deepen their relationship with God and one another? Members in these groups have shared with me how important it is to have a place to discuss the joys and stressors of life, their faith questions and answers to prayer. They often balance their times of study by attending concerts, going boating and having BBQ's.

One response from a group that meets in member's homes highlights the variety of topics groups choose to explore: "Our studies have included many topics over the past two years including the study of prayer for our grown children, and 'Heaven and Hell Are for Real'".

Another group comprised of women that are widowed meets twice a month for dinner at a local restaurant for friendship, conversation and support. This group also does a fantastic job of celebrating birthdays and honoring wedding anniversaries.

It is our hope and prayer that many more of you will experience the blessings of being a part of a covenant group. We can plug you into a current group or form as many new groups as needed to match the interest. Please contact Pastor Scott VanderWal with your interest or questions at svanderwal@qwestoffice.net.



- ✝ To the family and friends of Elizabeth Korb on her death on July 5th.
- ✝ Martha Hill and family on the death of her husband Burley on August 12th.
- ✝ Betty Cohu and family on the death of her husband Don on August 29th.
- ✝ The family and friends of Marjorie Becker on her death on August 29th.
- ✝ Larry & Cindy Henderson and family on the death of Larry's step dad.
- ✝ Jeff and Dacia Shaw and family on the death of Dacia's dad.
- ✝ Tom and Jeannine Moore and family on the death of Tom's mom.
- ✝ The family and friends of Jill Zerfas on her death on November 4th.

Financials

	January- October 2011	2011 Budget	YTD% of Budget
INCOME:			
2011 Pledges	348,886	439,599	79.36%
From All Other Sources	66,336	83,863	79.10%
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$ 415,222</i>	<i>\$ 523,462</i>	<i>79.32%</i>
EXPENSES:			
Per Capita	18,396	22,028	83.51%
Personnel Expenses	287,950	334,773	86.01%
Administrative Expenses	24,198	27,100	89.29%
Property	54,323	74,000	73.41%
Worship	(45)	1,575	(2.84)%
Music	6,276	8,150	77.00%
Christian Education Ministry	3,210	6,452	49.75%
Youth Program	3,997	6,810	58.70%
Fellowship	2,729	4,735	57.63%
Deacons	1,594	2,700	59.02%
Misc. Session	1,245	1,475	84.38%
Mission	39,198	48,480	78.43%
<i>Current Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 443,071</i>	<i>\$ 539,778</i>	<i>48.28%</i>
<i>GHC General Reserve Exp.</i>	<i>3,257</i>	<i>- 0 -</i>	
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 446,328</i>	<i>\$ 539,778</i>	<i>82.69%</i>

Per Capita - \$30.45 for 2011

Pledge Cards Needed:

Stewardship Season Update –

We ask that pledge cards be returned to the church by Sunday, November 27th, in order for the finance committee and Session to complete the budget in December. Pledge cards can be left in the offering plate, mailed or carried to the Church Office or called into Karen. Our Church has received (as of 11/3/11) 115 pledge cards equaling \$252,876 compared to a 2010 year end total of 221 pledge cards equaling \$421,349.

Summary:

Year-To-Date 2011

Total Revenues Received
\$ 415,222

Total Operating Expenses
\$ 446,328
Net \$ (31,106)

Financial Notes

- ◆ Contribution Statements were sent out the first week in November. Included in the statements were:
 - ◆ your envelope number,
 - ◆ your 2012 pledge amount (if you have pledged), and what was recorded for your 2012 Capital Campaign Pledge,
 - ◆ how much is left on your pledge for 2011 as of October 31st, and
 - ◆ whether you have given your per capita. If not, please consider doing so. Put "PerCapita" on your check/envelope to have it credited correctly. You may remember that 10% of this amount goes to Presbytery and the other 90% is budgeted for our own capital campaign for the next few years.
- ◆ If you have any questions about your pledges or statement or if you did not receive one in the mail, please contact me at the church.
- ◆ Legal note about 2011 contributions.
 - ◆ Contributions received before January 1, 2012 will be recorded in 2011 unless designated for 2012.
 - ◆ Offerings received on Sunday, January 1st need to be labeled as 2011 or 2012 so they can be credited correctly.
 - ◆ Please note the church office will be closed Friday, December 30th.
 - ◆ If you mail a check to First Presbyterian Church designated for 2011 with a 2011 postmarked date and it is received by Thursday, January 4, 2012, the contribution can be recorded for 2011.
 - ◆ Any contributions received after Thursday, January 4, 2012, regardless of designation, date on the check or postmark, will be recorded as a 2012 contribution.
 - ◆ Federal tax law governs this policy.

Karen Brooks Rhea, Financial Secretary/Office Mgr.

Children & Family Ministries

Children's Programs

The **Nursery** is located across from the sanctuary and is available every Sunday for Children 6 weeks to 3 years of age for the 9:00 am and 10:30 am service.



Sunday Celebration

- **Starting November 27th at the 9:00 service;** there is an option for Kids during the sermon. Kids (preschool-5th grade) will start in worship with their parents and have the option to remain or be dismissed before the sermon for an interactive group lesson time and activity.
- **During the 10:30 service** we have Sunday School for ages 3 through 8th grade. All kids (except 6th, 7th & 8th) begin the hour together in classroom #2 for singing then divide into their own classrooms.

First Sundays Family Worship

On the first Sunday of every month we will have the opportunity to have a family friendly service which will provide a space for all generations to worship together. On these mornings the nursery will be available but there will be no Sunday Celebration at either service.

- **Christmas Day, Dec 25th,** one service at 10:30 AM (Family Worship)
- **New Years Day, Jan 1st,** one service at 10:30 AM (Family Worship)
- **Jan 8th is a Family Worship Sunday with Communion**
- **Starting Jan 8th we will have a PANCAKE BREAKFAST** on family worship Sundays for all you early risers-get up and fill up before we worship. (8:15-9 am).

Parent's Connect, Sunday January 22nd 10:30 am-11:30am



Once every quarter we will offer a Sunday morning time for parents to...

- January focus: How to make faith part of daily family life

For the Whole Family

- **Wednesday Play Group** for children 3 and under with a parent or guardian. From 10:00 am to Noon. **Nov 30th** is a Mom's (Dad's) morning out with free child care E-mail Jill for schedule and more details. We will start up again Jan 11th.
- **Christmas movie and cookie party, December 9th,** 7:00 pm-9:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.
- **Valentine's Parents Night Out:** Friday, Feb 10th, 5-8 (RSVP to save space)

Questions/ Ideas? Contact: Pastor Jill VanderWal, jillvanderwal@qwestoffice.net

		<p>Children of incarcerated parents in our area deserve Christmas! The "Angel Tree" project sponsored by the Deacons will begin on Sunday, November 20th. We will have children's names with needs available that Sunday and also November 27th and December 4th with the last day for gifts due at church by December 11th. Please consider sponsoring one or two children.</p>
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Caroling Party for the whole family!

Thursday, December 22nd at 5:00 pm for Italian soup at church, then go to Presbyterian Towers together and then break up to see shut-ins and those in nursing homes....

Worship Schedule

Contemporary Service	9:00 am
Traditional Service	10:30 am
Sunday School.....	9:00 am and 10:30 am
Hispanic NCD	12 noon

THE INSPIRE, a quarterly publication of **First Presbyterian Church**

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Rev. Scott VanderWal, Associate Pastor

Rev. Jill VanderWal, Associate Pastor

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THE INSPIRE is published quarterly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about First Presbyterian's members and friends. Send address changes to: **THE INSPIRE**, 220 West 10th Street, Pueblo, CO 81003

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