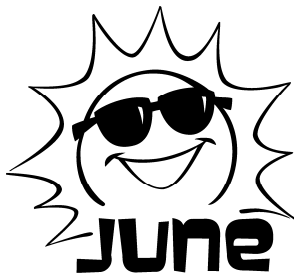



**THE CORNER
CONNECTION**

First Presbyterian Church
301 Central Avenue
Whitefish, MT 59937
(406) 862-2802

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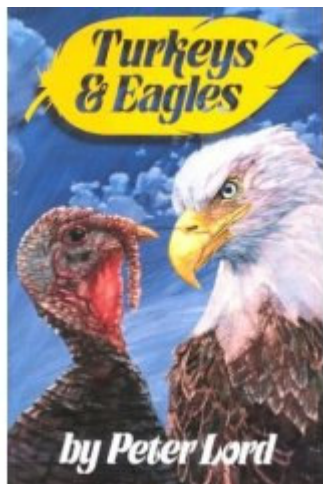

**MAY THE
GRACE
OF THE LORD
BE UPON
YOU**

**Expect Amazing Things
From the Lord This
Summer!**

LIBRARY NOTES

JUNE FEATURED BOOK

Turkeys & Eagles



~~by Peter Lord

"They that wait upon the Lord... shall mount up with wings as eagles." - Isaiah 40:31

This book could very well transform your life, for it has profoundly affected the thousands of Christians who have heard Peter Lord tell the story.

In the finest tradition of Christian story telling, which dates back all the way to the Lord's parables, this masterfully told tale contains the very heart - contains the highest truth of the gospel as it pertains to living the Christian life.

Read this story and never be the same again.

~~~~~  
Sincere appreciation and grateful thanks for the library donations from Nan and Turner Askew



### Thought you might want to know

The Presbyterian Foundation, through planned giving and careful Investing, made \$72.3 million available to mission in 2005. Your faith can be turned into action by leaving a share of your estate as a legacy for the future of the Church and spreading the word of Jesus Christ in our communities and throughout the world. For more information on the Presbyterian Foundation, please contact the office or Hap Peters.

### *New Pastor Capital Campaign*

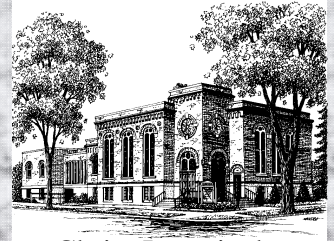
We have achieved 2/3 of our goal of \$60,000. The Pastor Nominating Committee has advanced to the stage of interviews and detailed review with COM of a select number of candidates. It is most likely that within the next several months we will have a new pastor. Our generous gifts and pledges to this Capital Campaign will help facilitate this process. Let's reach our goal **before** the new pastor is called.

Thanks, Hap

**LOUIS STOKER:**  
**406-862-4486**

At **Margarite Coopers** (disregard the message and leave your information if you get the answering machine)

# THE CORNER CONNECTION



Christ Jesus is the  
Chief Cornerstone  
Ephesians 2:19-20

JUNE—AUGUST  
2006

First Presbyterian  
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301 Central Avenue  
Whitefish, MT 59937  
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Louis Stoker

Youth and Family:  
Michelle Kuntz

Secretary:  
Jacqu Little

Treasurer:  
Deloris House

Organist:  
Kathy Murphy

Pianist  
Sarah McHale

Custodian:  
Donna Simpson



## *From the Pastor ...*

This month marks the end of my "interim year" with you, and it is very appropriate to ask, "What have we done together?" I ran across an anonymous poem which reads: First I was dying to finish high school and start college.

And then I was dying to finish college and start working.

And then I was dying to marry and have children,

And then I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school so I could return to work.

And then I was dying to retire.

And now I'm dying . . .

And I suddenly realize I forgot to live.

The greatest facet of our ministry of togetherness has been in the process of our living. We have worked through a process of ending unto "beginning again."

Some scholar has suggested that people live in the shadow of "Band-Aids" in that we live to "paste over our lives" by using many things with the exception of quality living with these words:

There is the Band-Aid of a big home, a big salary, and big spending,

There is the Band-Aid of frenzied jobs, frantic families and furious schedules.

There is the Band-Aid of loud friends, loud music, and loud parties.

There is the Band-Aid of lots of drugs, jewelry, and lots of food.

We have shared together the love, kindness, and graciousness of Jesus Christ, and again He has led us through brilliantly. We are ready for the next "jaunt of committed faith."

William Shirer, the great author and journalist, writes in his autobiography "Twentieth Century Journey" of a conversation he had with his friend Grant Wood. At the time of the conversation, 1926, both men were living in Paris and neither had made a name for himself. Shirer was working as a journalist but had not yet published anything of consequence. (He would later gain world acclaim for his huge work, *The Rise And Fall Of The Third Reich.*) Wood was painting but had not yet found the theme and style that would make him famous and

change the direction of American art. (Grant Wood is best known for American Gothic.) The two men had long been friends. They'd both grown up in small towns in Iowa and had known each other in school. Shirer records the conversation this way:

"Everything that I've done up to now was wrong," Wood said, "and I'm halfway through my life." Shirer replied, "You're only thirty five." "All those landscapes of mine of the French countryside and the familiar places in Paris. There's not a one that the French impressionists didn't do a hundred times better! ... All these years wasted because I thought you couldn't get started as a painter unless you went to Paris, and studied and painted like a Frenchman. I used to go back to Iowa and think how ugly it all was. Nothing to paint. And all I could think of was getting back here so I could find something to paint--these pretty landscapes that I should have known--Cezanne, Renoir, and Monet and others had done once and for all."

Shirer offered some lukewarm encouragement: Maybe Wood will do well someday in Paris. But Wood plunges on: "Listen, Bill, I think that I've learned something at last. All I really know is Iowa--the farm in Anamosa, milking cows, and Cedar Rapids, the typical small town where everything is commonplace--neighbors, quiet streets, clapboard homes, drab clothes, dried up lives, hypocritical talk, silly boosters, poverty of culture. Bill, I'm going home for good, and I'm going to paint those cows and barns and barnyards, cornfields, and little red schoolhouses, and all those pinched faces and women in their aprons and men in their overalls and the storefronts and the look of a field or a street in the heat of summer or when its ten below and snow is piled up six feet high. I'm going to do it!"

Grant Wood said "Yes to God, and that's what we have said, too! And both of us are set for the unfolding of the next vestige of the journey. God richly empower you in your selection of your next Pastor!

Louis



## JUNE SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Day of Pentecost— June 4

Acts. 2:1-21 or Ezek. 37:1-14  
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:22-27 or  
Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

### Trinity Sunday— June 11

Isa. 6:1-8; Ps. 29; Rom. 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17

### 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time— June 18

1 Sam. 15:34— 16:13; Ps. 20; 2 Cor. 5:6-10  
(11-13) 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

### 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time— June 25

1 Sam. 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49 and  
Ps. 9:9-20; or 1 Sam. 17:57- 18:5, 10-16 and  
Ps. 133; 2 Cor. 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

## JULY SCRIPTURE READINGS

### 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time— July 2

2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27; Ps. 130; 2 Cor. 8:7-15  
Mark 5:21-43

### 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time— July 9

2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps. 48; 2 Cor. 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

### 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time— July 16

2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps. 24; Eph. 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

### 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time— July 23

2 Sam. 7:1-14a; Ps. 89:20-37; Eph. 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### 17 Sunday in Ordinary Time— July 30

2 Sam. 11:1-15; Ps. 14; Eph. 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21

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## AUGUST SCRIPTURE READINGS

### 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time— August 6

2 Sam. 11:26—12:13a; Ps. 51:1-12  
Eph. 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

### 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time— August 13

2 Sam. 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Ps. 130  
Eph. 4:25—5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

### 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time— August 20

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Ps. 111  
Eph. 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

### 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time— August 27

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43; Ps. 84  
Eph. 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

## MISSION STATEMENT

The main purpose of the First Presbyterian Church is to glorify God and enjoy God forever. To fulfill this purpose, we affirm three God-given responsibilities:

- ⇒ To know, love and worship God through Jesus Christ
- ⇒ To serve and build up one another in love as members of the body of Christ
- ⇒ To go into our community, our country and the world, empowered by God's Holy Spirit to make disciples, teaching them all that Christ commands

## **Exploring Prayer- Our Communication with God**

We have just completed an interesting six week study on prayer. We met every Tuesday evening to share our personal thoughts and feelings about prayer after indulging in a variety of delicious soups and tasty salads. We used Bill Hybels' book "Too Busy Not To Pray" as a resource to stimulate and expand our thinking about prayer. This book has been around since 1971 and continues to be a popular book among Christians in spite of the fact that Bill Hybels is currently a controversial figure within the Christian community. Although we disagreed with some of his ideas regarding prayer, we also felt there were timeless truths expressed that we needed to be reminded of.

God's greatest desire is to have communion with us. That implies a dialogue between us, not a monologue. We all agreed that our prayer time is often too heavy on the "honey do list" and meager on listening to Him. The hustle and bustle of our lives leave little room for silence and it is only in that silence that we learn to hear and experience His presence. Clearing a space within our busy lives, and calming our hearts and minds to move into that space, takes continual effort and discipline on our part. All of us shared with one another the special sacred places in and outside our homes where we meet with our Lord.

Much like our relationships with one another, there are light breezy interchanges with our Lord, and there are also serious deep sharing of ourselves with Him. God wants us to be our authentic selves, embracing all of who we are, whether we cry or rage before Him, or dance and sing to Him. Our communion time is one in which we honestly open ourselves to our creator asking for direction, protection, or healing. It can also be a time of ministering to our God in worship and praise. Prayer, with all the elements of give and take, listening and speaking, praise and worship, whether silently or verbally, marks a mature Christian.

What makes it difficult to pray? Unforgiveness was cited as perhaps the biggest deterrent to praying. Blaming God for the misfortunes in our lives is common. Accepting our own free will, the place of suffering in our lives, sin, the atonement and incarnation through our Lord Jesus Christ, is fundamental to our faith. However, there is mystery in all of these concepts. How we find meaning in them is intensely personal and unique for each one of us. We cannot control the gospel by our own view of it. We need to embrace the fact that we aren't the final authority, God is. Let him be God in our lives and in the lives of others. Our mandate is to love God. Bringing that Love to others may be the first step in helping others move towards forgiveness and reconnect with God.

The busyness in our lives was cited as a common reason not to pray. Interestingly, a few of us admitted we did have time to pray, but it was still difficult to actually do it. For many of us, a certain resistance has to be overcome to pray. This resistance comes in many forms and manifests in our bodies and/or minds. We say to ourselves, "I have to do this or that before I can pray" or there are preoccupying thoughts that keep us from getting into a "prayerful mood". We practiced some contemplative exercises in our group which were helpful in emptying and focusing our hearts and minds on God. Many of us had experiences of being with God where time melted and eternity seemed to touch our soul and spirit. Some reported rare and moving moments that were difficult to describe in words.

What about unanswered prayer? God doesn't always answer our prayers. There were many reasons that were cited that might account for unanswered prayer. Not taking the time to listen to our Lord is one reason. We do not see the whole picture when we pray for ourselves or another and therefore determining how we should pray is important. Looking at our motivation in prayer is equally important. Are our prayers self-serving or God inspired? Finally, because of our low tolerance for pain and suffering, we may negate how God can use suffering in healing soul and spirit. A prayer of, "Lord come down and reveal your love to .....as he/she struggles with ....." may be more powerful than praying for a physical healing. Needless to say, we need discernment in how to pray. Healing covers the whole person not just the body. God desires a complete transformation in us, not just a partial bodily restoration.

When prayers are answered, we sing for joy and it boosts our faith, but when our prayers are not answered, or the space we have allotted for his presence appears to be empty, we are discouraged. It is during these times that we begin to doubt the Christian journey or question God's love for us. Ironically, it is precisely here that our commitment to Him is tested and strengthened. In one sense, doubt is a companion to faith, forcing us to choose again and again between one or the other. By choosing faith, we strengthen our commitment to our Lord. Without doubt, our faith would lack that strength.

There are many unknowns in the journey with our Lord. Even when we feel we are coming before him in all honesty, He may still remain silent. We yearn for answers we can understand, but sometimes there are none. Perhaps we could apply the verse Mathew 16:25 which states, "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever will lose his life for Me will find it". Sometimes we just need to lay down our "why" questions and our incessant need to understand. We come before him in humbleness and say, "Here I am Lord.... into Your hands I give my life.... I choose to trust You again regardless of what I can see or experience of You." Isn't this what faith is all about? Mysteriously, it is in this relinquishment of self that he often touches our spirits.

Do continue to pray for our church, the session, Pastor Louis, and the Pastors Nominating Committee during the summer months.

May God bless your summer.  
Ada Casazza

## SESSION HAPPENINGS 5/10/06

- ✠ A time of recognition for Milah Gano will be May 14 during worship.
- ✠ On May 28 graduating seniors will be recognized. Youth Missioners and Advisors will be commissioned. They will leave from Spokane for New Orleans June 10 and return June 18.
- ✠ Louis and Ella will leave June 7 for Wisconsin, returning June 13.
- ✠ Vacation Bible School with the Methodist and Episcopal churches will be held at our church June 26-29.
- ✠ Bob Laird and his family will be visiting the area July 7-9.
- ✠ A motion was passed to transfer the membership of Janis Walburn to Christ Lutheran Church, Whitefish.
- ✠ A motion was passed to receive Patti and Tom Burke by Confession of Faith from United Church of Canada.
- ✠ Presbytery will be meeting June 23 and 24 at Glacier Camp. Possible delegates are Claire Strickler or Don Montgomery.
- ✠ 65% of the goal of the New Pastor Campaign has been reached with \$16,000 in the account and \$39,000 in pledges.
- ✠ Jacqy Little has been hired to replace Milah Gano as church secretary.
- ✠ A motion was passed to have a clean-up day May 20.
- ✠ The next regular meeting will be July 12 at 6:30 P.M.

### To "Let Go" Takes Love

- To "let go" does not mean to stop caring, it means that I can't do it for someone else.
- To "let go" is not to cut myself off, it is the realization that I can't control another.
- To "let go" is not to enable, but to allow learning from natural consequences.
- To "let go" is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.
- To "let go" is not to try to change or blame another, it is to make the most of myself.
- To "let go" is not to care for, but to care about.
- To "let go" is not to fix, but to be supportive.
- To "let go" is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.
- To "let go" is not to be in the middle arranging all the outcomes, but to allow others to effect their own destinies.
- To "let go" is not to be protective, it is to permit another to face reality.
- To "let go" is not to deny, but to accept.
- To "let go" is not to nag, scold, or argue, but instead to search out my own shortcomings and correct them.
- To "let go" is not to adjust everything to my desires, but to take each day as it comes, and cherish myself in it.
- To "let go" is not to criticize and regulate anybody, but to try to become what I dream I can be.
- To "let go" is not to regret the past, but to grow and to live for the future.
- To "let go" is to fear less and to love more.

## Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women held their regular scheduled meeting on May 19th at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Lynda Nelson was the hostess and she decorated the tables with colorful water cans filled with red geraniums and served a delicious dessert, "The next best thing to Robert Redford" which can be found in the dessert section of the Presbyterian Women's recipe book. Thank you Lynda for your wonderful hospitality.

The program was the installation of the new officers: Arline Nelson as moderator and Lynda Nelson as vice-moderator and Phyllis Bjorness as treasurer. Evelyn Peterson presented the installation and Susan Tate and Flossie Fletcher were thanked for their service to P.W. Also Susan Tate thanked the outgoing officers and presented them with red geraniums for their years of support and friendship. Congratulations and many blessings to the new officers.

Susan Tate would like to thank Presbyterian Women for their kindness and dedication over the past six years. The flower basket presented to me in church was gorgeous and I will enjoy it for the summer days. Thanks for all your help with the many meetings, the Bazaars, and the Rummage Sales and the other social events. I look forward to the new year in September and the events next year.

The Birthday Offering which was collected during the church service of May 21st added \$89.00 to the projects which were selected to receive the grant monies. Thanks you to everyone who participated. Enjoy the summer and God bless each one of you. (Susan Tate, moderator)

## News From Tom & Ann LePage

Greetings from Nairobi!

I hope this finds you well and enjoying a gorgeous Montana spring!

Thanks to my mom in Kalispell I tracked down this email address. We wanted to let you know of our plans to visit Sunday, June 18th. We are available for any speaking or sharing that you would like, but no pressure; only to use us as needed.

We get into Kalispell on the evening of June 16 to my parents at 756-0474. June 22 we will take off for Bozeman and Billings where we have supporters to catch up with. We will be around again in early August and leave to come back to NBI August 13. It is a whirlwind summer starting in Florida, up the coast to Conn. then flying to Seattle, visiting old church in Vancouver then on to Montana. In July we will go to Minnesota for 2 wks to be with Tom's family and church. Amidst these travels we hope to visit colleges for our daughter, Claire, to check out. She will be a senior next year.

Much is happening here! The rains have arrived and are bringing relief in most parts of the country...a huge blessing! But northern Kenya, traditionally dry, is still suffering and parts of Masailand in the SW. World Concern is distributing relief aid in Masailand and will for some months, thanks to WFP(World Food Program of UN). Despite the arrival of rain many masai lost 80-90% of their cattle and goats.

Tom just got back from a week in Burkina Faso visiting our 2 couples working there. It was 110 degrees a couple days!! Our staff there work in agriculture, theological training and one gal is a nutritionist at a clinic. We so admire them for working in those tough conditions.

Thanks for your dedication to the Lord's work and for your encouragement!

See you soon,

Ann and Tom

## **Graduation!**

Our High School Youth Group continues to welcome teens from all churches and all backgrounds. We draw them in, we love them, we cherish them and we introduce them to our Savior Jesus Christ. We provide a place for them to be together in a Christian environment. We are sending many of our fold off to college in the fall! May God bless them as they begin a new chapter in their lives! Congratulations to our 2006 High School Graduates!

**Riley Workman:** University of Montana

**Rebecca Washer:** Montana State University

**Tracy Schwada:** Whitworth College

**Bjorn Peterson:** Flathead Valley Community College

**Molly McConnell:** Montana State University

**Mike McCracken:** Montana State University

**Nellie Lutz:** University of Montana

**Jaime Kuntz:** Chapman University

**Brad Kuntz:** University of Southern California

**Daniel Jones:** Montana State University

**Chris Hicks:** University of Montana

**Erin Greiner:** Gonzaga University

**Ben Fagan:** Flathead Valley Community College

**Dustin Cummins:** High Tech Institute of Phoenix

**Chris Conners:** Montana Tech

## **New Orleans 2006**

Please pray for us as we begin our journey June 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be staying in a tent city in City Park in New Orleans. Our work will include construction, inner-city food distribution, helping the displaced people of the city, prayer walks, and sports evangelism. We will return on June 18<sup>th</sup>. To follow our progress: [www.adventures.org](http://www.adventures.org), click on the side link "Mission Trip Reports"; "2006 Trip Reports"; "US Urban - Katrina Relief"; "June 11-17 Youth Group" and you'll find updates by our Project Leader in New Orleans! Thank You for your support of this very important ministry in the life of our church.

### **Our 2006 New Orleans Mission Team:**

Dustin Cummins

Amanda Shaw

Courtney Ferda

Kali Schmidt

Mike Ferda

Bill O'Leary

Colin Fuller

Kaitlin O'Leary

Kellie Kalbfleisch

Amber McDonald

Al Kuntz

Frank Leftwich

Brad Kuntz

Shelle Kuntz

Jaime Kuntz

Kevin Kuntz



# Vacation Bible School

June 26-29, 2006

from

9:30 – 12:30

*Join us as Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> graders  
become Treasure Seekers!*

*Our Vacation Bible School is four days this year and filled with plenty of fun and meaningful activities. We are teaming up with the Methodist Church and the Episcopal Church for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row!*

*Registration forms are in the church office. We encourage everyone to pre-register so that Monday morning is an easy transition into our classes!*

*Your help is needed! We have head leaders for each of our activities. We need you to come along side the children as we lead them on a treasure seeking adventure. See the Sign Up Sheet in Fellowship Hall to sign up for a specific age group or specific days or just come to the church and help us for a few hours. All ages and genders are welcome!!*