



THE CALL

Nov/Dec
2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 22 - YOUTH SUNDAY,
Thanksgiving Dinner & Decorate Church for
the Christmas Season

November 25 - School Out for holiday break

November 26 - Thanksgiving Day

November 26 & 27th - Church Office Closed

November 29 - Hanging of the Greens

**November 30 - Special Meeting of the
Stewardship Commission @ 7:00 p.m.**

Dec. 1 - Handbell practice @ 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 6 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

**Dec. 7 - COMMISSIONS & BOARD
MEETING**

**Dec. 13 - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
9:00 AM - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL -Bring
your favorite "Finger Food" for Tasting Party**

Dec.14 - Elder's Christmas Dinner / Meeting

Church Staff:

Rev. Cynthia McBride, Pastor
Lois Koch, Business Manager
Kathy Winders, Secretary
Cyndi Trimmer, Nursery care
Annette Crain, Preschool Director
Amber French, Music Director
Lani McBee - Accompanist

Office hours:

Mon.-Thurs.

8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Fridays

8:30 AM - Noon



SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:15 Chapel Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Class

10:10 Worship

(307) 234-8964

www.fcccasper.org

fcccasper@gmail.com

Preschool hours (Sept-May)

Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM - noon

Preschool Phone

(307) 472-0649

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, DEC. 13TH

9:00 a.m. tasting party

**AND Annual meeting to approve
the 2016 budget, Board officers,
elders, & diaconate**

Pastor's Post

Holiday: Holy - Days

Following the Road of Lifelong Faithfulness....

I recently cooked cranberries for supper. No, it wasn't Thanksgiving yet, and it wasn't necessarily a special supper. I fixed pork chops and rice, a lettuce salad, sliced some bakery bread and wanted just a little something more to go with the evening meal I was serving to Charles and Peder Bakken, our Norwegian exchange student "son." I had some cranberries in the freezer I'd been planning on fixing for Thanksgiving, but we've decided to take a little road trip, so I won't be cooking a turkey and all the trimmings this year. (I'm sure glad we'll have our Thanksgiving dinner at church this Sunday!) Peder has been eager to get to visit Denver, and about the only time we'll all have a few days off from work and school is for Thanksgiving.... so, off we'll go - not "over the river and through the woods" - but down I-25 for our Norwegian to see the Big City!

Our suppers together are the best time we have to talk with Peder about his experiences in America - how school's going, what friends he's spending time with, how excited he is for the football ball, and what feels different about America from Norway. Placing cranberries on the table gave us a chance to talk about holiday meals.... perhaps more than any other dinner, Thanksgiving is when your family traditions come out. My Mom always cooked whole cranberries with just enough sugar to sweeten them and boiling water so they'd pop open. Charles' Mom would open a can of smooth cranberry jelly and put it on a plate, leaving it in the shape of the can so they could slice along the rings. His grandmother would cook whole cranberries but mixed them with orange rind and other flavors. What family tradition do you have that makes Thanksgiving special?

For me, it certainly doesn't seem time for Thanksgiving already. That means that Advent is just around the corner... one of the most "holy" (and most busy) times of the year for our church family. On November 29th, we'll have a Hanging of the Greens service during morning worship, with a series of readings and songs celebrating the beginning of Advent as we decorate the sanctuary for the season. For many of us, this time of year also means we'll be decorating our homes, making plans for parties and presents, exchanging cards, preparing special foods. It is easy to be overwhelmed by all the "trimmings" that come with the holiday season. In the midst of it all, I pray that you'll have time to be aware of God's presence with you EVERY day. Even mundane days are holy when we take time to notice God. The gift of a sunrise, the warmth of a hand to hold, shared laughter, a cup of tea with a friend, or the wagging tail of a puppy can speak to us of God's love if we pay attention.



In a way, I've started my holiday early - by cooking cranberries for supper on an ordinary night - and by intentionally reminding myself that ordinary days are holy too. The current season of the church year, the liturgical time of these months between Pentecost and Advent, is officially called "Ordinary Time." The term reminds us that God has "ordered" or numbered all of our days. Each and every day of our lives is a gift from God. *Every* day is holy. If you're already feeling some pre-holiday stress in thinking about everything you want to get done, take a deep breath. Trust that God has given you just the right amount of time for what is really most important. May your holiday be holy - and every day too!

- Pastor Cynthia

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lyle Cox	Dec. 6	Rob Knaus	Dec. 14
Ted Purvis	Dec. 6	Holly O'Brien	Dec. 15
Mike Ward	Dec. 6	Dottie Gray	Dec. 17
Sharon Lansing	Dec. 7	Sarah Street	Dec. 17
Mena Pagett	Dec. 7	Terri Taylor	Dec. 21
Crystal Rodgers	Dec. 8	Virginia Braley	Dec. 22
Roger Cook	Dec. 9	Jolene Knaus	Dec. 23
Mark Hallock	Dec. 9	Rita Petersen	Dec. 25
Kelly Russell	Dec. 11	Dwayne Axworthy	Dec. 30
Charles McBride	Dec. 12	Lorna Cook	Dec. 31
		Sebastian Koehmstedt	Dec. 31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Carol Sage & Bruce Postema
Dec. 17, 1999

Roger & Lorna Cook
Dec. 22, 1953

Lyle & Jo Cox
Dec. 22, 1990

Ed & Mary Burgess
Dec. 24, 1974

Nicholas & Maggie Grooms
Dec. 27, 2003

Robert & Jacquie Cook
Dec. 29, 1951

REMINDER!!!

Commissions will meet for their December meeting on Monday, December 7th @ the regularly scheduled times. The Board will meet at 8:00 p.m. The 2016 Budget will be submitted to the Board for approval.

The 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, Dec. 13th. There will be a tasting party at 9:00 a.m. with the meeting to follow in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2016 budget, officers, elders & diaconate. Please plan to attend and bring a snack or your favorite holiday treat to share.

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
ON DEC 13TH.**

Change
of
address

**Darin & Crystal Rodgers**

1310 Hornchurch St.
Casper, WY 82609

Karen Huckfeldt

1020 SW 170th Avenue
Unit 201
Beaverton, OR 97003

Marj Haas

Anthem Senior Living
40401 N. Copper Basin
Trail
Anthem AZ 85086

**ELDERS DECEMBER MEETING
& CHRISTMAS DINNER**

WHEN: Monday, Dec. 14th

WHERE: Izaak Walton Clubhouse

TIME: Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

COST: \$16 per person

Business will be discussed following dinner.

All past, present & incoming elders & a guest are invited to attend. RSVP to the church office by 12/9



Thank you for helping us potentially save lives in your community. It is because of your generosity that Life Line Screening continues to be able to bring these health screenings into your area and for that, we are very appreciative. We look forward to working together again.

--Cheryl Porter, Life Line Screening

Dear FCC. Thank you for awarding me a scholarship for the Fall 2015 Semester. I appreciate the support as I pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

--Spencer Stupak

Dear Members & Friends of FCC: It takes a catastrophic health issue to realize how fortunate you are to have a church family praying for you. How can I begin to thank you for all the cards, calls, visits and prayers? A special thanks to Pastor Cynthia, Paul Hallock and Laura Glasspoole for visits and sitting with Darlene. I also appreciated Deb King bringing communion while at Elkhorn. Somewhere back in early September I received a pretty carnation from the church and I thank you for that kindness. Recovery is slow but I'm making progress. I look forward to joining in worship sometime soon.

--Stan McIrvin

Dear Church Family; Thank you so very much for all the cards, flowers and prayers during my "killer" headache and then finally my neck surgery. Although I'm not quite at 100% yet, I'm getting closer every day. Thank you all for being such a caring congregation. God has surrounded me with people who always look out for me. He has given me family & friends who bless me everyday with kind words and actions. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

--Randisue Davis

Thank you so much for all your cards, calls and prayers during my cataract surgeries. They were deeply appreciated. Love to you all, Laura Glasspoole

Thank you FCC Family for the card shower & gift cards in honor of October's "month of ministry" - what a touching gesture. It is truly appreciated! - Pastor Cynthia

SAVE THE DATE!

MEN'S "SESSIONS 2016"

The General Church is busy planning! The date for the next "Sessions" for men is scheduled for July 22-24, 2016 and will take place at TCU in Ft. Worth, TX. The theme is "You Are Called BY Name." Mark your calendars and tell your friend. More info will be posted on bulletin board when available.



YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group packed 15 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Peg Jackson donated toys for the boxes and Anne Klocksien donated personal care items. What a blessing for these boys and girls! Thanks to everyone for the donations.

The youth will have a bowling party in early December.



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS
The 2015 Advent Devotionals, **Partners in Prayer** will be available for pickup on **Sunday, November 29th.** Please take one per family.

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA!!



The Auxiliary at Shepherd of the Valley Healthcare Community is hosting a Holiday Extravaganza. It will take place in the East Activity Room at Shepherd of the Valley, 60 Magnolia, Paradise Valley, Casper, on Friday, December 4th @ 1:00 p.m. It will feature a cake walk, refreshments and a mini silent auction. The auction will include a variety of items such as Theme Baskets and Art prints. We appreciate the donors of these items. All proceeds from the Auction benefit the Care Center residents.

ADVENT FOR FCC CHILDREN

Children, ages 3-Grade 4 will receive a gift to open on each of the 4 Sundays of Advent. Youth in grades 5-8 will receive an Advent Calendar. These will be distributed on Sunday, November 29th during worship service.

A BIG THANK YOU to Carmen Goodman and Laura Chipperfield for their leadership of our youth. They organize bimonthly meetings and activities including working in the Patch, putting together boxes for Operation Christmas Child and planning Youth Sunday.

THANKS

To Bob Meloy for sharing his gift of music
To Ted Grooms for rearranging the garage after Patch time
 To CWF for sending bees, chicks, a goat & other animals to people in need through Heifer Project International
To our A.V. crew for helping us hear God's word in worship
To Godly Girlfriends for tying blankets for homeless students
To Sandwich Ministry team for feeding the hungry
To Steve Huckfeldt for switching our building from a/c to heat
To the Woods family for baking homemade communion wafers.
To YOU (whoever you are) for helping behind the scenes at FCC in a special way! From a Christian Friend



SIGN UP SHEETS are on the bulletin board for snow removal and for scripture readers. Please help out as you are able. Remember to clean up your pews when you leave worship and to make sure bathroom lights are shut off and windows are closed. Let's all help care for God's house as we are able.

Christmas Eve Planning - FCC will host ONE Christmas Eve service this year at 6:30 PM. We are trying to get a count of people who would come to a service at 11 PM if offered. If your family wants to attend a LATE service this year, please notify the church office so we can plan accordingly.

Thank you so much for the baby shower to celebrate Rhys. I had a lot of fun and I appreciate it so much. Rhys has no clue how spoiled he is, and he is so lucky to have such an awesome church family! A big thank you to Trisha, Tassma, and Amanda for throwing the shower. Thank you also to all of you ladies who were there in person or in spirit!!



Michelle & Rhys Elser

Bible Trivia

Question: *What kind of man was Boaz before he met Ruth?*

Answer: Ruthless

Current Financials

Bal. on hand Oct. 1, 2015	\$ (27,492.11)
Income from	
Pledges & Gifts	\$ 20,669.32
Invested Funds	\$ 0.00
Total Cash on Hand	\$(6,822.79)
August expenses	\$ (28,831.03)
Bal. on hand Oct 31, 2015	\$ (35,653.82)
Special Offerings:	
Reconciliation	\$70.00

DECEMBER DIACONATE

The Schuetz family, Tom May, Dan Coey, Robin Nelson, Pat Seamands, Wanda Gochenour

COMMUNION PREP

Robin Nelson, Pat Seamands, Janie Nelson



DECEMBER Greeters

Chuck & Suzy Stewart

To volunteer as a greeter
call Pat Buck at 234-1829

December Offertory Steward Ted Grooms



The CWF Board recently purchased several Chicken Soup for the Soul books for the FCC Library in honor of Twilla Herrick. Twilla was a faithful member of FCC and served CWF for many years. Thank you to the CWF Board for these wonderful memorials to Twilla. Twilla often shared a "chicken soup" devotional at her CWF Circle meetings, so this is a perfect tribute to a dedicated woman!

Thank you to everyone that purchased cookie dough. It has helped me and KW Orchestra.....Amber Rouse

PUMPKIN PATCH REPORT



Once again, thank you to all who helped with the Patch this year. It truly takes a village to make the Patch a success. Thank you to CWF for the wonderful chili supper that fed our army of volunteers on October 6th. CWF's baked goods are often the reason many folk stop by the patch. Thanks to the men and women who brought 4 wheelers and a tractor to set up pallets and unload the pumpkins. Thanks to Dennis Baker for coordinating the addition of a fork lift this year to help with unloading. Big THANK YOU's to the following: Charles McBride, Jane Wallace, Lois Koch, and Rev. McBride for working the finances; Kathy Winders and her team of story tellers for sharing pumpkin joy in the patch with preschoolers from all across Casper; ALL who manned the Patch to sell pumpkins, gourds and baked good every evening and weekends; John Lansing for making the reminder phone calls; Carol Sage for making herself available to help out with whatever

needed to be done; Keith Rouse and Lyle Cox for working on our patch wagons; NCHS Leadership teachers and students for coming during the week to straighten the patch and move pallets; to the FCC preschool staff, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, leaders and boys for pitching in to put up and take down the tents, decorate, and work shifts in the patch; members of KW and NC Honor Societies & Student Councils, KW girls swim team and boys soccer team, Highland Park Youth and Haven on the Rock for their assistance in unloading pumpkins as well as representatives from Seton House.

Thank you to Stacy Ballard, our coordinator. Stacy was our liaison with the Patch suppliers; worked on printing of sales slips, was responsible for TV and newspaper marketing, picked up and retrieved hay bales for the gazebo area, arranged the banner on the front fence, ordered the Porta-potty, worked on decorations and on the removal of decorations, assisted with opening the patch when necessary and recruited and coordinated the youth volunteers from the community!

While our sales were down this year due to more pumpkins on sale elsewhere in Casper, we still covered our expenses, and provided a beautiful and safe autumn setting for preschoolers and our community, as well as for numerous families who come to our patch to take family photos. FCC's pumpkin patch supports the general budget of FCC by providing funds for youth activities, including camp registrations, mission trips, and VBS, which previously were funded totally by the general budget. Community outreach has also included preschool scholarships for families in need. The following is a financial breakdown of our profit, expenses, and the allotment of that profit:

Total sales	\$27,577.00
Pumpkins & Cost to patch suppliers	<u>\$17,925.05</u>
Net Profit to FCC (35% of sales)	\$ 9,651.95

Baked Goods (CWF)	\$ 488.50
Donations	\$ 367.85
Expenses	\$2,408.60
Preschool Allotment	\$1,025.00
FCC Boy Scouts	\$1,172.00
FCC Cub Scouts	\$ 732.00
Seton House	\$3,000.00
FCC Pumpkin Patch Fund	\$1,396.00

The **Seton House** is a non-profit transitional housing program for single parents and children in Casper. Seton House meets the immediate needs of homeless families by providing shelter, food, clothing, and laundry facilities. They provide family support services to meet the long-term goal of healthy, independent, and safe family living. *"Because no child chooses to be homeless"*

Please contact Jennifer Grooms (234-1138 or jgrooms11@bresnan.net) if you have questions regarding the financial information or about any other aspect of the Patch or if you wish to volunteer for working on, with or for the Patch next year.

December 2015

November 2015							December 2015							January 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	5					1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14			6	7	8	9	10	11	12			3	4	5
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			13	14	15	16	17	18	19			10	11	12
22	23	24	25	26	27	28			20	21	22	23	24	25	26			17	18	19
29	30								27	28	29	30	31					24	25	26
																		31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 FIRST SUNDAY ADVENT 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM Sun School 10:10 AM Worship	30 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM STEWARDSHIP MEETING	1 7:00 PM Bell rehearsal 7:00 PM AA	2 9:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 10:00 AM CWF Board Mtg 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Potluck 2:00 PM Circle of Caring 6:00 PM NAMI dinner F.H.	4 	5 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry 9:00 AM Scrapbooking 2:00 PM Amy Black Shower
6 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM Sun School 10:10 AM Worship 5:00 PM Hallock Shep. Group	7 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Spiritual Growth 6:30 PM Elders 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Commissions 8:00 PM Board Meeting	8 7:00 PM Bell rehearsal 7:00 PM AA	9 9:00 AM Quilters 12:00 PM CWF Group #2 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 10:00 AM CWF Group #1 11:30 AM CWF Group #3 6:30 PM BSA Committee Mtg	11 	12 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry 10:00 AM State Quilters
13 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM ANNUAL CHURCH MTG 10:10 AM Worship	14 11:00 AM CALL DEADLINE 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Elders Christmas Dinner 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	15 7:00 PM Bell rehearsal 7:00 PM AA	16 PRESCHOOL ON CHRISTMAS BREAK 9:00 AM Quilters 9:30 AM CALL FOLDERS 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 10:00 AM Munch Bunch Coffee	18 	19 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry
20 CHRISTMAS SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sun School 10:10 AM Worship	21 NCS D CHRISTMAS BREAK PRESCHOOL ON CHRISTMAS BREAK 12:00 PM STAFF CHRISTMAS LUNCH	22 7:00 PM AA	23 9:00 AM Quilters	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 12:00 PM OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED	26 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry
27 PULPIT GUEST 8:15 AM Chapel 9:00 AM Sun School 10:10 AM Worship	28 NCS D CHRISTMAS BREAK PRESCHOOL ON CHRISTMAS BREAK OFFICE CLOSED	29 7:00 PM AA	30 9:00 AM Quilters	31 	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Sandwich Ministry 9:00 AM Scrapbooking

First Christian Church
520 CY Ave
Casper WY, 82601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE

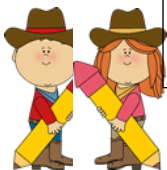
PAID

CASPER WY
PERMIT NO. 129

The Mission Commission will be serving at the Mission on November 19th. We have postponed making fleece blankets for those in need until January. We are asking if anyone has clean, gently used blankets that they would like to donate to bring them to the church anytime and we will deliver them to agencies that serve people in need. For our Christmas project we are collecting mittens, gloves, hats or caps, scarfs and socks for seniors, homeless and those in need. They will be given to the nursing homes, Healthcare for the Homeless, Mission, Sandwich Ministry and Interfaith. We will be placing a tree and a basket by the church office for you to place your items in. You can either give money to purchase the items or you can bring items starting November 29th.

The Sandwich Ministry continues to serve lunches at King's Corner each Saturday. We are going to be doing lunches on Friday, December 25th (Christmas). If anyone would like to help, please contact Debbie Mestas.

Alternative Gift Idea: This Christmas, consider making a donation to Heifer Project International. If you have a 'hard to shop for' friend - why not give an animal, in their honor, to truly bless the life of someone in need?



NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL

Every time we think that we're getting caught up...we have something new to do. It is always busy at the preschool. This week we will have our Thanksgiving feast and first music program "So Very Thankful." We are very thankful for this time of year! Pre-K has made Thankful trees, the 3-4 class made Thankful wreaths and the young 3's made Thankful turkeys. These will not only be table decorations for the feast but will also share with our families what they are thankful for. We are also having a book fair this coming week. Since Christmas is just around the corner, visit the book fair for Christmas gifts! Every Friday we are thankful for Pastor Cynthia leading chapel with the children and sharing God's blessings. We are so thankful for everything that FCC does for the preschool and we appreciate you every day. We hope that you all enjoy your holidays and God Bless you all! - Annette Crain