

IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec. 4 - Worship Service with Communion
- 24 - Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service with a Cantata
- 25 - Christmas Day; Carols Around the World Worship Service
- Jan. 22 -- St. Andrew's Annual Meeting

December Preachers

- 4 - Rev. Priscilla Bell
- 11 - Rev. John Pugh
- 18 - Children's Service
- 24 - Christmas Cantata by Choir
- 25 - Christmas Carols of the World
- Jan. 1 - Rev. John Pugh

December Liturgists

- 4 - Mary Wood
- 11 - Curt Kochner
- 18 - Children's Service
- 25 - Christmas Carols Around the World
- Jan. 1 - Patti Johnson

THANK YOU TO OUR PEOPLE FOR ALL THEIR EXTRA HELP

by Jim Tarr

We have filed our Church Information Form (CIF) to the Committee on Ministry (CoM) at Presbytery which says quite a few things about St Andrew. In preparation for calling an Interim Pastor we are opening ourselves to some serious self-examination. It will be very easy at a time like this to become anxious and begin to wonder if we can afford to delay in getting on with hiring a new Pastor instead of going through a process which could increase our chance of failure. I submit, it is easy to fall into a series of negative thoughts about this process, but we need to become aware of a few things before we go in this direction. As listed here we have much to be thankful for:

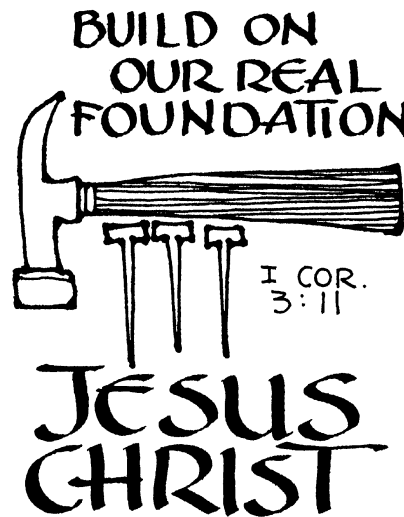
1. First, the Presbytery and our denomination has vast resources to help churches in our situation. We are already being helped by getting advice from the CoM mentioned above. We have Rev. Dave Thompson acting as a Moderator of our Session for which we also owe a great deal of thanks to First Presbyterian Church, Billings for their support. We have found out-

that the Rev. Carol Shellenberger is now residing in Bozeman and she has been affiliated with a training unit for interim ministers called (the Association Presbyterian Interim Ministry Specialists) and through our contacts there we can network with many candidates which are not necessarily in the PCUSA data base. Some of these candidates are not needing full time positions and welcome part time affiliations. We need to

be thankful for our church connections.

2. Second, once a pastor has been involved with a church for more than 3 or 4 years our denomination feels we need to look at all the things we do and determine if changes need to be made. The church can become rooted in policy, procedures, and practices which drift away from goals and

missions set earlier but not completed or become altered due to size changes or simply a lack of continued interest. In other words it is easy to fall into a rut and assume changes are not needed. Because this is a natural thing we are now going to be challenged to look forward and decide what St



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FINANCIAL REPORT



	<u>Oct. 2011</u>	<u>2011 YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>Income</u>	\$ 7,430	\$ 86,197	\$ 82,968	\$ 3,230
<u>Expense</u>	\$ 8,296	87,169	\$ 86,370	\$ 799
<u>Difference</u>	\$ (866)	\$ (972)	\$ (3,402)	\$ (2,430)

PRAYER AND MESSAGES FROM THE HEART

Mary Dick
Don Johnson
Sandy Welch

Your news concerning St. Andrew and the congregation is always welcome. Regular mail or drop off at the office. E-mail to: office@standrewbillings.org

Deadline for the January NET is December 27. You are encouraged to submit your news before the deadline. Thanks, Susan Dickson, editor



Andrew needs to be in the future. Interims are trained to help us with this process. Fortunately for us, the 5 fruitful practices study we just worked on this year could act as a beginning point. We can look at these ideas and decide if we want to engage in making some of the suggested changes. We need to be thankful for past leadership and the opportunity we have to look forward to new leadership.

3. Third, I have seen several people in this fellowship who have been willing to step up their involvement to help get things done that Brent was doing for us. Many are doing this without being asked. Volunteers have been filling the pulpit, working in the office, helping with the Taizé Service, and helping Rev. Dave Thompson set up agendas for Session Meetings and other administrative duties. Things are operating as they must to keep our church functioning. For sure we need to be grateful and thank these folks for the help they are providing.

And not last and not least, we have the power of the Holy Spirit, the grace of Christ and the Gift of God's Word to guide us forward to a new future which can be a wonder to behold. We need to know it is not all up to us. Never forget what an awesome God we serve. With His help we can become something beyond our current imagining. It can start with being grateful.

Thanks be to God!



NOT JUST A "CRAFT" SALE, CHRISTMAS SALE!

Cindy Kunz

Institute for Peace Studies

Quilts, placemats, napkins, table runners, hand painted ornaments, and so much more. All items from a single donor, all with an artistic, professional appeal. Prices are low and quantity is impressive.

Friday, December 2nd

7:30 am until 5:30

Bair Student Center

RMC Campus

Proceeds benefit Institute for Peace Studies children's programs. Free parking in upper lots off Rimrock Road. Please join us for some relaxed holiday shopping and support vital community programs.

NOVEMBER 15TH SESSION NOTES

*By Dave Kimball
Acting Clerk of Session*

Rev. David Thompson continues to support us as Session moderator.

Financial Report

A deficit of \$2,191 exists for the year as of the end of October. Year-end giving and the end of pastor salary expenses should bring us close to a balanced budget by year's end. Honorariums for individuals filling the pulpit will be significantly less than a full time pastor.

In lieu of an honorarium to Bruce Whearty, a mission gift was approved to a mission co-worker in South Sudan.

Joint Yellowstone-Glacier Presbytery Convocation

Dave Kimball and Rev Thompson gave reports on the recent Convocation held in Great Falls. Ray Jones from the PC(USA) office of Evangelism and Church Growth was the key note speaker and presented a program called "Engage" that supports building discipleship in our congregations to have a greater impact on our communities and grow our congregations.

Discussions are taking place throughout our denomination of possible realignments of councils and governing bodies. The role of synods is being examined. Yellowstone and Glacier Presbytery are discussing ways that we might be more integrated.

Interim Minister Search

The Session approved a Church Information File position description

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(prepared by Jim Tarr, David Kimball, and Grady Skaggs) will be submitted to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. It will be posted on the PC(USA) pastor search website. We anticipate it will be a part-time position.

Jim Tarr, Grady Skaggs, and Jeanne Castberg were elected to serve on an Interim Minister Search Committee. Jim Tarr will serve as chair.

New Business

The Sandwich Makers reported that the Food Bank will no longer provide cheese for this project. This will increase the cost to produce 150 sandwiches each week (75 for the Rescue Mission and 75 for Salvation Army). Session approved continuing the sandwich making through the end of the year while costs, budget and other sources of support are researched.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was set for January 22, 2012.

A Special Session Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, to establish the budget for 2012.

The Nominations Committee, co-chaired by Bob Wood and Sandy Welch, will begin work identifying candidates for vacancies in Session, Deacons and other leadership positions.



IN DECEMBER

Facilities
6th at 6:15

Education
7th at 5:30

Session Budget Mtg.
13th at 6:15

Deacons
19th at 5:30

Worship
20th at 11:00

Session
20th at 6:15

Fellowship
21st at 5:30





BON APPÉTIT

by Susan Dickson

Whenever St. Andrew has a potluck or a special meal, someone in the congregation makes a delicious dish and many people request the recipe. So, please send me recipes you would like to share. Following is a recipe used at St. Andrew's Celebration Sunday Potluck made by a couple of our congregation's great cooks: Patti Johnson and Sandy Welch

"Mexican Chicken Bake"

- 4 small boneless skinless chicken breast halves (1 lb.)
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped (optional)
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped (optional)
- 2 cups water or chicken broth
- 1 cup thick and chunky salsa
- 2 cups Minute® White Rice, uncooked
- 1/2 cup reduced-fat cheddar cheese, shredded

Put chicken in oil glass casserole dish. Spread evenly.

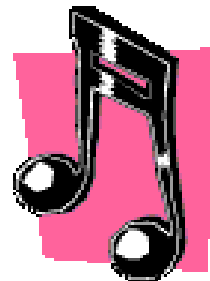
Mix rice, chicken broth and salsa. Add to chicken.

Bake at 350 for 30 minutes until chicken is cooked.

Add cheese to top. Bake for about 15 minutes more or until melted.

Sandy used regular rice and pre-cooked the rice until it was half done and then added it to the mixture.

GLORY TO GOD ON HIGH



by Betty Whiting

St. Andrew music rings throughout the building. Chimes and songs fill the air. Advent and Christmas worship services overflow with musical yearnings and praises.

Advent begins with trepidation: will the darkness of this world be overcome? "Fear Not, the Lord is With You" the choir sings. And we begin to understand, "Emmanuel," **God with us.**



On December 11, a guest harpist, Daisy Eddy, will play soothing music for us, just as David did for Solomon. **Our soul restored.**

The youngest among us will lead the service on December 18, reminding us of our Jewish family tree, "The Jesse Tree." Jesse was the father of David and from that lineage our Lord and Savior came. Our youth will also be singing and playing chimes.

Christmas Eve, we gather at 5 pm to wish each other a joyous Christmas Day before we celebrate at 5:30, Jesus' birth. Rev. Susan Thomas narrates "Lead Me Back to Bethlehem," a cantata by Pepper Choplin written in 2011. The choir and congregation respond throughout the story with carols and musical messages.

Christmas Day is on Sunday this year! And so, we return at 11 am to celebrate Christmas with a worship of carols from around the world -- joining Christians in town squares, huts, and apartments in every corner of every country. From China, we sing "Glory be to God on high, Blest are all beneath the sky." **The Light comes into the world and removes all darkness.**

MISSION STATEMENT

WE ARE BUILDING A
SERVANT COMMUNITY
SEEKING TO BE
CHRIST'S HANDS
AND HEART

standrewbillings.org

Calendar updates

Resources

THE "JESSE TREE" SUNDAY, DEC. 18, 2011

by Cynthia Kessler

"A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of



his roots." The Jesse Tree is a vehicle used to tell the Story of God in the Old Testament. It also connects the Advent Season with the faithfulness of God across 4,000 years of history.

On December 18, 2011, the children, youth, and older youth of St. Andrew will be leading us in worship. The program will be centered around the Jesse Tree.

Music, instrumental and vocal, will also be performed by the group.

We hope you plan to attend the morning worship to learn more about the Jesse Tree and the talents of our children.

CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN

by Cynthia Kessler

The youth and children will meet at the church on Dec. 3, at 10:00 am for their annual shopping trip to K-Mart. They will be purchasing clothing and gifts for three children to help their Christmas be a little brighter.



The shoppers will return to the church for refreshments.

This year, we are requesting donations to help pay for the clothing and gifts, instead of doing the Sunday School Bake Sale. Donations will be accepted throughout December and may be given to Sandy Welch, Patti Johnson or Cynthia Kessler.

The Christian Education Community would like to thank you for your continuing support.

Usher and Greeter Schedule

- 1st Sunday - Dec. 4th
Olive Edwards
June Bashor
Vilma Bartel
Frances Hargis
- 2nd Sunday - Dec. 11th
Jim Whiteside
Betty Whiteside
Jeanne Castberg
Chris Chauvin
- 3rd Sunday - Dec. 18th
Sandy Welch
Larry Apple
Tom Erskine
Zach Kessler
- 4th Sunday - Dec. 25th
Mike Paterson
Fran Paterson
Clayton Croff
Jan Croff
Don Johnson

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec. Birthdays

- 7 - Marion Cain
- 8 - Don Johnson
- 12 - Zach Kessler
- 17 - Betty Whiting
- 24 - Patti Johnson

Dec. Anniversaries

- 22 - Grady & Sonya Skaggs

A LETTER FROM LARRY AND BARBARA MOIR IN ETHIOPIA ENTITLED “NOISE IN THE CLASSROOM”

October 2011

*Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy! –
Psalm 47:1*



Larry and Barbara Moir

I got in trouble today. Those who know me understand. Well, maybe they’re a bit puzzled as to how a man my age can get into trouble for disrupting a classroom. It’s not hard really. You see, I think that learning and education ought to be fun. So I am a cutup in class—

my own English class at that. A few other teachers at BESS (Bethel Evangelical Secondary School) were “concerned” that my class and I were making too much noise. The students were speaking loudly and clapping their hands and laughing. OK. I admit I started it. But, really, a text message, to ask me to be quiet? Oh, well.

Since September I have been teaching eight sections of Conversational English to 11th and 12th grade students at BESS in addition to English as a Second Language at Gidada Bible School. My experience with two years of ESL at Gidada has helped me to develop a rather noisy approach. I clap my hands to beat out the time for multi-syllable words. Since hand clapping during worship is encouraged—these are *not* Presbyterians—it is natural that students will begin clapping as soon as the teacher does. Of course I must speak louder to be heard over all that hand clapping. So the students follow my lead and repeat their English phrases as loud as they can. You

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should know that the teachers at Gidada, most of whom are pastors, have not yet complained. It should also be said that they close their classroom and office doors when I enter the school compound on my teaching day—a strictly reflexive response. I understand.

Helping students learn English pronunciation and sentence structure requires repetition and creativity to keep one’s head in the game. Repetition can be boring. And the one most susceptible to boredom is the English teacher. We think we are going overboard with repeating the vowel sounds 20 times. In reality the students, especially those who are anxious to learn correct pronunciation, stay with us. We are the ones who need the variety. So I sing the vowel sounds, a, e, i, o, u, in a five-note scale, up and down with key changes.

This gets these musically oriented students rocking and clapping their hands with each note. We sing the “Alphabet Song,” and once I did a rendition of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” I can’t wait until we do the days of the week and the months of the year. “Saturday, in the park, I think it was the Fourth of Julyyyyy . . .” (from *Chicago*).

There is a payoff in all of this. There is one 12th grade girl who has not said one English word in school for all of her four years here. She can read and understand English. She can understand what we are saying. But she cannot speak English because she is afraid she will be wrong. Yesterday, after I took her economics notebook away from her and asked her to get out her English notebook, she got with the

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RESCUE MISSION
SANDWICH MAKERS—
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT
9:00AM
~~~~~  
FOOD BANK SUNDAY  
FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH  
MONTH: BRING YOUR  
CANNED GOODS TO  
CHURCH



(Continued from page 6)

program. Speaking, repeating, clapping, singing, smiling and laughing. When I asked the students to repeat the sentence, "Learning English is fun!" she was the loudest of them all, even adding a "Whoop!" at the end. And this morning, for the first time, she called out to get my attention, "Hello, Teacher Larry. Good morning. How are you?"

"I am well, Fasica, how are you?"

"I am well also, Teacher. Thank you."

Now that's one of the reasons Barbara and I are doing what we are doing. We teach English in a way that is fun, and a bit noisy. And thanks be to God for the fun of it.

Larry Moir

Bethel Evangelical Secondary School  
P.O. Box 25  
Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia

## STEWARDSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

by Sandy Welch

Thank you to everyone for your 2012 pledges. We appreciate your financial considerations for our future at St Andrew Presbyterian Church. If any one missed our Celebration Sunday and have not turned in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. The church office has extra pledge cards available.

The session will be establishing our budget for 2012 soon. Currently, we are behind on our budget by \$2,191.36 as of 10/31/2011. We are thankful for your financial support and encourage you to give an extra payment (if possible), in order to balance our budget by the end of the year.

God Bless all of you.

### Thought You'd Want To Know

*The word "beneficiary" shows up in a life insurance policy. Think -- do you have an old, paid-up life policy? Ever thought about contacting your insurance company and adding the church as a partial or full beneficiary? Think of the blessings on this church!*

### HOLY HUMOR



There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.



Address Service Requested

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*Christmas Eve  
Fellowship at 5:00 pm*

*Candle Light Service with  
a Christmas Cantata  
At 5:30 pm*

**Taize**

A Service of Worship  
In Prayer, Silence,  
Scripture and Song

**December 17**

*Third Saturday of each  
month at 6:30pm*



*Christmas Day  
Worship Service with  
Christmas Carols from Around  
the World at 11:00 am*

