



First Light

Volume 28, Issue 10

January 2019

Upcoming Events

January 6, 2019

Session has called a Congregational Meeting, Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 12.35pm for the purpose of requesting the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest dissolve the call between Reverend. Dave Moody and First Presbyterian Church, Fairbanks, effective 15 January, 2019.

January 4, 2019

A Memorial Service to celebrate the lives of Eugene and Phyllis Bartels will take place on Friday, January 4, 2019 at 5:30pm. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Deacons are requesting help in providing salads, treats, cookies, etc., If you are willing to assist, please contact Barbara Nore or Nancy Dreydoppel.

January 6, 2019

You are invited to attend a Farewell Program and Reception for the Moody Family, immediately following the brief congregational meeting (12:30ish). A short program will be held in the sanctuary with the reception to follow in the Narthex. This is your opportunity to say thank you and to wish them well in their new endeavors. Yummy finger food is needed.

January 13, 2019

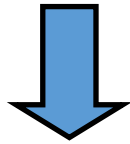
Welcome Pastor Don Baird

Please make plans to attend a Potluck planned for January 13 to welcome Pastor Don Baird on his first Sunday in Fairbanks. It will be at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite covered dish, hot food, salad, dessert, sides, etc. Let's turn out in force as we look to the future and greet Dr. Baird as he leads us.

January 19, 2019

Presbytery has called a Session Meeting to take place on Saturday, January 19, from 9am-12noon; 1-3pm. All former Elders are invited to attend; however, it is mandatory that all current Elders attend the meeting. POC is Dave Dreydoppel.

Office Closures



Tuesday, January 1, 2019
New Year's Day

Monday, January 21, 2019
Martin Luther King Holiday

Thank You

Dear FPC family,

Thank you so much for the generosity you showed to us this year through your Christmas staff appreciation gifts. We were overwhelmed. Thank you. We are forever grateful for our Fairbanks First Pres. family. If you're ever in the Boise, ID area, let us know!

God's continued blessings upon you in 2019 and beyond,

In His Grip,
Pastor Dave, for the Moody family

Behold,

I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19



Many sincere thanks to everyone for the thoughtful staff appreciation gifts received.

FPC Staff



Christmastide, 2018

FPC Saints,

This is the last newsletter article I'll be writing in the First Light. It's an odd feeling, let me tell you. Ten years ago if you had told me I'd be leaving Alaska after eight years of living here, I'd have thought you were nuts. Yet here we are - "Man plans his steps, but the LORD directs his path..."

The last year and a half has been marked by conflict. My portion of the conflict was that I did not lead well in the area of outreach and the congregation did not increase under my tenure. For that I ask your forgiveness.

My confident hope for the coming months, absent my presence, is that session and members of the congregation are able to drop agendas and embrace the life giving peace which the Prince of Peace has for his people. Indeed, I am confident of this. However, I do want to remind you of James' words, from which David McBooher so well preached several months back,

"So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell." James 3.5-6

Gossip eats away at peace and unity. Gossip creates a culture of mistrust. Gossip is not life giving. Most importantly gossip displeases our Lord who died for our sin. So, put gossip off as part of the old nature. It is not who you are, anymore.

Cultivate the fruits of the Spirit - peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self control- there is no law against these things. God has great things for you- embrace them!

Please remember and remind each other of the following truths in the coming months and years: Jesus is **for** his church. Jesus **loves** his church. Jesus **died** for his church. Jesus **rose** for his church. Jesus **reigns in, through** and **for** his church. And Jesus is **returning** for his church. And friends, Jesus **knows** his church- warts and all. He has no regrets in establishing, prospering and preserving FPC Fairbanks for

over 100 yrs. God loves you FPC- not for what you do for him, but because of who he is. And because of who he is, God loves you enough not to leave you as you are but to work kingdom transformation into your corporate life. Because- **you are his church and not your own.** Please remind each other of these things and embrace the changes Christ is working in you all, through these times of transition.

You are getting a tried, tested, true and terrific transitional pastor in Dr. Don Baird. Don is an able administrator and will serve Session and the Staff well. Pray for Don, get together with him for coffee, get to know him- it will be an enriching experience. He's excited about having an Alaska adventure! Don will be intentional on preparing you for the next permanent pastor. You're in great hands.

Marta, David and Heidi will be leading in new ways during this time of transition- pray for them, ask how you can help, encourage them. They are great servants and you are indeed highly favored to have them here. They love FPC and even better, love the Lord and are committed to his purposes for this part of the Christ's body. Support them even more than you have previously. Bring

them snacks! It helps! ;-).

Barb, Liam and I are moving to Caldwell, ID (a bedroom community of Boise) where I will be Pastor at Caldwell Presbyterian Church (EPC). Barb will stick around Fairbanks until Liam finishes 8th grade in May. Pray that our house will sell. I will start in Caldwell at some point during the Spring, well

before school ends. You can also pray for that separation, which is never fun.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you over these last eight years. It's been a privilege. It is my prayer that I've been of some use to the Lord here, and have benefited his purposes in your lives and in the ongoing

life of First Presbyterian Church, Fairbanks. Thank you.

With much warmth and affection in Christ,

Pastor Dave



Prison Ministry Orientation

January 24, 2019

6-9:30pm

Conference Room

**Contributions Statements
will be mailed during the
month of January!**

**Year End Reports are
due January 15, 2019**

THROUGH NOVEMBER 2018

TOTAL RECEIPTS	532,152
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>497,531</u>
NET	<u>34,621</u>

First Presbyterian Church

547 7th Avenue

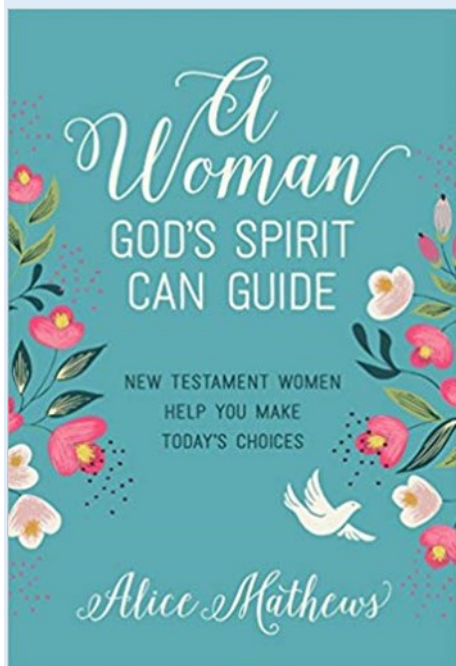
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Bible Studies



Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday Women's Bible study will be starting a new 13-week study on Jan. 15, 2019, using Alice Mathews book, ***"A Woman God's Spirit Can Guide."*** In this study we will examine the lives of Dorcas, Lydia, Phoebe, (and many other less frequently mentioned women in the New Testament). We will discover how these women surrendered their abilities and wills to God and the amazing ways the Holy Spirit was able to use them because of it.

God has given each of us our own unique blend of strengths, experiences, and

even weaknesses to use for His purposes. Whether you feel confused, called to teach or serve, lost, limited, or afraid, this study will help open your heart to the Holy Spirit's leading. Do you want to see your passion grow in living for Christ, sharing the Gospel and bringing glory to the Lord? If so, come join us as we learn to further seek God's guidance in how to use the gifts, abilities and opportunities He has given us.

Invite a friend and plan to join us in the FPC Conference Room each Tues. **(Jan. 15- April 9)** from 10-11:30 am. Child-care is provided. Please RSVP **Donna** ASAP if you plan to attend (so there will be a study book available for you). (Email: billand-donnabrewer@gmail.com or text: **907-378-3351**)

Bible Study

Do you ever wonder how the church got started? Come, walk through the Book of Acts and find out! Please meet us at 10am upstairs in the conference

room. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Cleworth.

FPC ROOTS

Roots, Bible Study and Fellowship for Grades 4-6, will break for the holidays and resume meeting on January 13, 2019.

Church Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, there are plenty of spots available throughout 2019. Please see the bulletin board in the Atrium to sign up. Flowers cost \$35 per week.

Children's Ministry Helpers and Parents!



It is such a blessing to have such dedicated group of people supporting our kids! If you are currently volunteering or feeling called to volunteer in our Children's Ministry, come join our:

Children's Ministry Potluck and Bible Telling Meeting with Mickie O'Donnell

- When:** Saturday, January 26, 11:00 p.m.
- Where:** Church Fellowship Hall
- What to bring:** A tasty dish to share for lunch
- What we'll discuss:** Children's Ministry Bible Telling with an online meeting with Mickie O'Donnell.



Sponsored by Sourdough Fuel A Fundraiser for Love INC.

**The cost will be \$15 per child.
The times of the event is Friday 5-9, Saturday 9-9, Sunday 10-5.
Adult admission free with paid child. There will be inflatables, laser tags, mini golf, games, toddler town, live entertainment, etc.**



2	Sarah Curtis
4	Dwight Morris
5	Denise Wartes
6	Beth Brummond
7	Benjamin Hull
8	Dave Stephenson
10	Mike Repasky

11	Dale Shelley
11	Matt Johnson
12	Joan Riggs
13	Jake Sirevaag
14	Sara Cogley
16	Jack Schnurr
25	Sheila Williams
26	Kari Nore
31	Karina Huffaker