

THE SESSION IN ACTION.....

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena met on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the Church. Rev. Scott Wiperman opened with worship and communion in the sanctuary. Reverend Wiperman (Scott) moderated the meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present: Linda Bench, Marvin Carpenter, Kathy Chambers, Marsha Davis, Marshall Gingery, John Gneckow, Dianna Goodman, Matthew Richards, John Warren. Excused were: Judy Birch, Melissa Stiles, and Mary Craige. Also in attendance: Clerk of the Session Elaine Gingery and Deacon Joy Edgar,

PASTOR'S REPORT: Printed report attached. First Presbyterian Church is busy with Advent plans with a theme of "Angels Among Us". There will be some changes to worship during Advent. Financially October was a weak month with a YTD shortfall of \$12,381.

Advent begins on December 3 and an Advent Service and supper will be December 6. As spiritual leaders of the church, Session is encouraged to participate in the supper and service.

Let us project the "Christmas Spirit" to all we encounter in the church – and the world. If you need help with this read: (1) the first 2 chapters of Matthew, (2) the first 2 chapters of Luke, and (3) Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" (read it, the story is a fast read)!

CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk read a thank you note from Special Olympics for the spaghetti dinner served to them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: Elder John Gneckow reported. Printed report contained in the packet. The credit cards will list the church and the name of the person to whom the card is assigned. There will be cards for Scott, Bruce, Lexsey, Les and Marvin.

Lexsey Carpenter has resigned from the Finance Coordinator position. The position requires 20 hours per month and will pay \$3600. Per year. The new Finance Coordinator position has been filled by Jill Lloyd, a CPA.

Bills must be paid in a timely manner. There have been some problems in getting this done.

Building and Grounds: Elder Marvin Carpenter reported. Printed report was distributed. The Fall Workday will be December 2 beginning at 9 am. A new shed has been purchased for Building and Grounds and Education will take over the old shed. The cost was \$4100 with Education contributing \$1000.

Education Committee: Elder Marsha Davis reported. Printed report was distributed. The total sales from the Pumpkin Patch were \$9453.50 with expenses of \$5000. Profit is then \$4453.50 with \$534.50 to be paid to Boy Scout Troop 228 for their help.

Trunk or Treat was not well attended this year by participants and church members.

The Sunday School and Youth Group will participate in the December 10th church service.

Congregational Fellowship: Elder Linda Bench reported. A printed report is attached. Scheduled activities include the Special Olympics Dinner, Thanksgiving Dinner, Advent Soup and Service on December 6 and Christmas caroling on December 15. The BINGO parties have gone very well, and all are having a great time.

Mission Committee: Elder Kathy Chambers reported. Printed report is attached. The Family Promise benefit paid \$415. A donation of \$500 was made to Good Samaritan Mission and \$200 to Glacier Presbytery. The Angel Tree this year will benefit the school district's Angel Fund.

Nominating Committee: Elder Marshall Gingery reported. A printed report was distributed. The nominating committee will present the following nominees to the congregation at the annual meeting: Elders for the class of 2021: John Coefield, Joe Steffens, John Warren, and Mary Wright. Deacons for the Class of 2021: Julie Chaffee, Candace Coefield, Corky Lord, Jim and Charlotte Meyer.

Personnel Committee: Elder John Warren reported. The printed report is attached. Personnel is working to contract grounds services.

Worship Committee: Elder Dianna Goodman reported. Printed report is attached. Preparations are underway for Advent. There will be an Advent Service on the first Wednesday in Advent preceded by a soup supper. Hanging of the Greens will take place after worship on November 26.

ACTION ITEM: To serve communion on Christmas Eve. Motion was voted upon favorably.

Deacon Report: Deacon Joy Edgar reported. A printed report was distributed detailing hospital visitations and home communion served as well as cards sent, and meals served. Discussion of Shepherding Program.

Unfinished Business:

Organ Upgrade update: The organ upgrade meeting did not happen as the blower went out on the organ. Mike Davis, Mike Swisher, Marvin Carpenter, Les Cramer, and Scott worked on getting the blower working again. We'll look at the organ upgrade again in December.

Basin Church update: A church does not have to be a 501c3 to act like a 501c3. Consequently, the Basin Church does not need our assistance with this financial issue at this time.

New Business:

2018 Budget Finalization Meeting: There will be a called Session Meeting for the purpose of finalizing the budget on January 9 at 7:00 pm.

Stewardship Update: There are presently 40 pledges for a total of \$137,500 pledged. This is close to last year, but the budget is higher. More pledges are needed.

Next Session Meeting: December 19, 2017 at 6:30 pm.