

**Yellowstone Currents**  
**A Newsletter of Yellowstone Presbytery**  
**May 2018**

**Meet Jim Tarr, our new Stated Clerk of Yellowstone Presbytery!**

**Currents: Jim, you have served the church as an elder, on committees of Presbytery, as a commissioner to Synod and to General Assembly. What experiences stand out to you in your years of service?**

Jim: Top on list was being on the steering committee when we decided to start a new church in Billings that became St Andrew United Presbyterian Church in 1968. Work to form a church started much earlier with a lot of help from the Synod and Rev. Dee Safford who had a lot of foresight and was a great help in wanting to plant a church in West Billings and he helped by getting the Synod to buy some land 10 years earlier. Second would be the GA experience after which I became an advocate for the higher councils of the church. One thing for sure we need a lot of worker bees and that is how I see myself.

**Currents: Beyond your service to the church, what are some of your interests and hobbies?**

Jim: I like to camp, boat and fish in summer and ski in winter. My art work stinks but I like to work at it when I am out in nature.

**Currents: What inspires you as you seek to serve God and God's people?**

Jim: The people you get to meet and fellowship with are great and they come in all shapes and colors. When you see how wonderful God has been to give us all these great people to work with and help, most often, it is very satisfying. I learned something from my Dad at a very early age. He was a steel mill worker and so was I for a while when in college. Unlike other metals such as aluminum, titanium, tin, gold, zinc, silver, steel is composed of many metals. To make steel you have to mix these metals. Melt them, mold the mix, reheat it, beat the crap out of it, roll it, forge it, coat it, pickle it, basically treat it rough to make anything good out of it. This is how I see the church, so nothing surprises me or worries me I just see God at work making us like steel is made. Like steel, we will have many uses and we will meet many needs. Just don't sit still or you will rust away.

**Currents: What are some of your goals for the next year as you serve as Stated Clerk?**

Jim: I follow a long line of great people who did this work and it will be a challenge just to measure up to what they have done for this presbytery. In the short time I have left on this earth I want us to find ways to grow in fellowship and connections. I want the church to find ways to give the youth opportunities to serve and feel they count and are needed to take on work and serve as God's instruments for goodness. We need to change our funding ideas and help people find ways to be more generous with their time and talents. Once engaged they will not resist helping with the funding needed. It is easy to not see the needs we have if you are not engaged way beyond Sunday Worship.

## **St. Andrew Celebrates 50 Years!**

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Billings celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday!

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration begins Saturday, June 9 with a concert at 4:30 p.m. Currents and past church musicians will present works on the organ, piano, harpsichord, and chimes. Vocal soloists and the choir will also participate. The concert will feature works by J.S. Bach, Maurice Ravel, Antonin Dvorak, Scott Joplin, Ed Harris, and Hal Hopson.

An anniversary dinner will be held following the concert at 6 p.m. The celebration continues on Sunday, June 10 with a community garden tour and labyrinth walk at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m.

For more information, or to make reservations for the anniversary dinner, please call the church at 656-9256.

## **Westminster Spires Camp Update**

We are finalizing plans the 2018 Summer Camp Season at Westminster Spires. Revamp the Camp will take place on June 1-3 as we get the facilities ready. This year will focus on the painting of the Craft Cabin and cleaning of all the buildings.

Camp registrations are arriving each day. We have funding available for scholarships from Yellowstone Presbytery thanks to the Presbytery offering and donations from a number of individuals. Contact Curt Kochner at [ckochner@mcn.net](mailto:ckochner@mcn.net) or at 406-672-4547 if you have a camper that needs financial assistance to attend camp.

As we build for the future of our program, we are offering scholarships for friends of Elementary campers. If a camper has a friend they would like to bring along to camp, we will cover the registration fee for their guest. We have a very experienced staff returning this summer and we are looking forward to another great camp season! Please encourage your youth to consider joining us for camp at Westminster Spires. Camp brochures and registration forms are available on the Yellowstone Presbytery website. Contact Curt Kochner if you would like copies of the brochures to distribute to youth in your congregation.

## **Westminster Spires Camp Dates**

June 1 – 3    Revamp the Camp  
July 5 – 7    Camp Staff Training  
July 8 – 12   Elementary Camp  
July 15 – 20   Junior High Camp  
July 22 – 27   Senior High Camp  
Aug. 31 – Sept. 2   Highland Holy Days sponsored by St. Andrew Presbyterian

If you need camp registrations, please see the presbytery website or contact Curt Kochner at [ckochner@mcn.net](mailto:ckochner@mcn.net).

## **Yellowstone Presbytery met together May 4 – 5 in Harlowton**

We were welcomed warmly by Pastor Vicki Waddington and members of the Harlowton Federated Church! We are grateful for their kind hospitality—for meals, snacks, housing, and care.

We worshipped and sang and prayed.

We pondered Luke 10 and I Samuel 16, each of us with our own ideas and insights.

Susi Ennis introduced our theme of “People Eyes.”

Teresa Kendall spoke to us about how Jesus listened. .

--with respect

--with interest

--with focus

--with love.

George Goodrich talked to us about the Holy Spirit, whose voice may call to us in many ways. .

through nudges and impressions and an inner witness,

through scripture,

through music,

through people,

through circumstances.

Kathy Goodrich used the image of the Wizard of Oz to remind us that “we are not in Kansas anymore” and that our world and church are changing. Despite how the world continues to change, seeing with “people eyes” remains crucial.

Diane White shared stories of getting to know Lewistown, of coffee with congregants, and of going out in the community with people eyes.

We celebrated the work of the presbytery

in new leaders raised up,

a season of ministry concluded,

camp and college ministries,

and the work of our congregations in our communities and beyond.

## **Upcoming Events**

June 1–3	Revamp the Camp	Westminster Spires Camp	
June 9	St. Andrew 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration		4:30 p.m.
June 10	St. Andrew Celebration continues		9:30 a.m.
June 12	Leadership Cabinet	Bozeman	10:00 a.m.

## Yellowstone Presbytery Clusters

Our clusters typically meet each month. If you have not been a part of a cluster and would like to explore the idea of joining in, please contact one of the following coordinators.

Miles City Cluster - Neva Rathbun ([msrev@midrivers.com](mailto:msrev@midrivers.com))  
Billings Cluster – Dave Thompson ([pastordave@fpcbillings.org](mailto:pastordave@fpcbillings.org))  
Butte Cluster - Teresa Kendall ([teresakendall@mac.com](mailto:teresakendall@mac.com))  
White Sulphur Cluster - Debbie Funke ([funkepastor@yahoo.com](mailto:funkepastor@yahoo.com))

## Presbytery Meetings for 2018:

Nov. 2 – 3 First Presbyterian, Bozeman

## The Cannon Family Singers



The Cannon Family Singers Music Ministry is available  
for Sunday morning worship  
to provide special music (piano, trumpet, vocal), testimonies, and sermons.

For Scheduling or Questions, call Paul Cannon at (406) 679-2252

*Donations Appreciated to Cover Travel Expenses*

## Remember our Round of Prayer as we keep our churches, ministries, and leaders in prayer:

Sunday, June 3: Rev. Dick Davis, Community Presbyterian Church, Whitlash, MT  
Sunday, June 10: First Church Miles City, Pastor Garrett Mostowski  
St. Timothy's Chapel, Georgetown Lake  
Sunday, June 17: First Church Dillon, Pastor Stephen Weber  
Sunday, June 24: Federated Church of Forsyth, Pastor Cathy McLean  
Rockhaven and Westminster Spires Camps

Please send news and announcements to Susan Thomas at [ckochner@mcn.net](mailto:ckochner@mcn.net).

