

Yellowstone Currents
A Newsletter of Yellowstone Presbytery
May 2018

Words from Betty Skinner. . .

Jesus is not primarily a teacher of information or morals. His teachings go much deeper than that. He is a teacher of a way or a path that leads to change and transformation and a new heart brought about by a surrendered life deeply centered in God. Jesus challenges us to abandon the wide, easy path of conventional wisdom and embark on the long, difficult, and narrow path of divine wisdom that leads those of us who choose to follow away from temporal values centered in ourselves toward eternal values centered in God. He is always lovingly and compassionately inviting His followers to a different way of seeing and living.

*Love is never merely following suit.
Love is always taking the initiative.
Love reaches out, but love accepts.
For love is seeing as God would see.
Love provides the spark, it turns the switch.
Love cleans, deepens, fills, breathes new air
frees another life
to know God's heart
to find love there.*

These insightful words were written by Betty Skinner as quoted in *The Hidden Life: Revelations from a Holy Journey* by Kitty Crenshaw and Catherine Snapp, PhD. The book centers on Betty Skinner's life with God.

Yellowstone Presbytery Gathers May 4 – 5 in Harlowton

Our presbytery community will gather May 4 – 5 at The Federated Church of Harlowton. Registration will begin Friday at 11 a.m. with a light lunch served before our meeting which will begin at 1p.m.

We will worship together, install our new Stated Clerk Jim Tarr, and hear reports of our teams and committees. The focus of our time together will be following up Stan Ott's presentation on "People Eyes", thinking about developing our awareness of God's nudges and invitations, deepening our listening skills, and developing eyes that see people as Jesus did.

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.

Laughing in Worship!



This year is the fourth year First Presbyterian in Deer Lodge celebrated Jesus' victorious resurrection with Holy Humor Sunday on the Sunday after Easter. This is becoming a favorite Sunday for First Presbyterian in Deer Lodge! In fact, this year I (Pastor Teresa Kendall) had two parishioners ask for more of these Holy Humor Sundays.

Holy Humor Sunday is built on the tradition of Bright Sunday, when the church spent the week after Easter laughing at Satan and death by telling jokes, singing silly songs, and playing practical jokes on one another. When I prepare these services, I keep the basic order of worship but insert jokes before each "section." For example, I'll find a joke about "confessing" to read before the Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession and I'll find a joke about "money" or "stewardship" to read before the offering.

For the first two years I found all the jokes and preached a sermon that was a mix of jokes and commentary on the scriptures. This helped set the tone for the jokes - clean jokes and jokes about church stuff are best. For scripture, I usually used Psalm 37:1-13 or Psalm 126 and Jesus' words to his disciples in John 20:19-21 or Sarah laughing at God from Genesis 18:1-15. The third year, I asked particular people to bring jokes to share at various "joke breaks" in the service. This year, I put in the announcements a few weeks ahead to "bring your jokes for Holy Humor Sunday!" I brought a few myself and continued to find the jokes before each section in worship. I trusted there would be enough jokes to make a sermon and I was not disappointed! We had jokes from one of our youngest, at 5-years-old, and from a woman in her 80's. We had jokes that helped us laugh at ourselves and silly songs that renewed our faith in a God who brings us great joy.

Thanks to Teresa Kendall for this report!

Upcoming Events

May 4-5	Presbytery Meeting	Federated Church of Harlowton	
May 10	Pastoral Ministry Team	Bozeman	
June 1-3	Revamp the Camp	Westminster Spires Camp	
June 9	St. Andrew 50 th Anniversary Celebration		4:30 p.m.
June 10	St. Andrew Celebration continues		9:30 a.m.

Whitworth Fellows for Summer 2018

Joel Schroeder
Luke Ekstrom
David Henderson
Daniel Roberts

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)
Billings Cluster – Dave Thompson (pastordave@fpcbillings.org)
Butte Cluster - Teresa Kendall (teresakendall@mac.com)
White Sulphur Cluster - Debbie Funke (funkepastor@yahoo.com)

Presbytery Meetings for 2018:

May 4 – 5 Harlowton Federated Church, Harlowton
Nov. 2 – 3 First Presbyterian, Bozeman

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

Sunday, May 6 Rev. George Goodrich, Yellowstone Presbytery Co-Presbyter
Sunday, May 13 Rev. Paul Krebill, Honorably Retired, Bozeman
Rev. John Dyce, Pastor At-Large, Billings
Sunday, May 20 United Community Church, Colstrip, CLP Robert Shy
Sunday, May 27 Rev. Neva Rathbun, Honorably Retired, Terry

Please send news and announcements to Susan Thomas at ckochner@mcn.net.

