

Yellowstone Currents
A Newsletter of the Yellowstone Presbytery
October 2017

Dan Holland, Elder at First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman, tells me he wrote this Psalm a few years ago and wishes to share it with the Presbytery.

Autumnal Psalm

Praise the Lord's holy name;
 hosanna to the Christ and to the Spirit.
From the throne they rule creation;
 from the throne they look into my soul.

Praise the Lord of the equinox,
 for it was God almighty who tilted the earth.
It was God who made the stars to bow before the throne;
 it was God who breathed upon the lands.

Praise the Lord of the harvest,
 for it was the God of plenty who filled our basket.
It was God that designed the squash, that kissed the head of grain,
 that filled the apple with sweet juice.

Praise the Lord of the fatted calf,
 for it was the God of abundance who filled our plate.
Kid and lamb, weanling and suckling,
 all have grown under the watchful eye and brand of God.

Praise the Lord of colors,
 for it was the God of palettes who painted for us.
It is God's brushstroke we see along the river bottom,
 we see on the hillside, and we see in the coulee.

Praise the Lord of light,
 for it was the God of angles who softened the summer sun.
Each frame in which golden leaves filter sunbeams
 pass first through the eyes of our mighty God.

Praise the Lord of the moon,
 for it is the God of moderation who brings cooler nights.
It is God that commands the heavens;
 the morning star and harvest moon hear God's voice.

Praise the Lord of creation,
 for it is God who provides this autumn feast.
My soul sings from brown grass prairies to snow-capped mountains;
 it sings to the God who made even me.

Our People

Currents editor Susan Thomas along with her husband Kurt are on vacation in Spain as the walk the Camino. While she is away, Susi Ennis is preparing the Currents for October and November.

Paul Krebill, Honorably Retired Pastor, will be celebrating his 90th birthday in October.

We celebrate with Rev. Jed Cauffman at the occasion of his retirement from First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown. Jed's last worship service was September 17, 2107. Jed, Nancy, and Michael will be moving to California.

Fall Youth Retreat

Yellowstone Presbytery is holding this year's Fall Youth Retreat for Junior and Senior High School Students at Rockhaven Camp October 19-21, 2017. The theme for this "Living the Christ Life in an Unsettled World".

Students will gather at the camp for Bible discussion, good food, singing, games, hiking, and fellowship.

To find the registration form, visit the Presbytery website, <http://yellowstonepcusa.org/documents/2017FallcampPublicityregformfillable.pdf>.

Presbytery Sunday

The Leadership Cabinet has designated the 2nd Sunday in October as our annual observation of Presbytery Sunday. This year that is October 8, 2017. On this Sunday congregations are encouraged to use this Sunday as a time to recognize that although we are individual and unique congregations, we are united in Christ through the fellowship of our Presbytery.

The Presbytery theme for 2017 is Ephesians 4:11-12, "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, . . ." Please consider using these verses as a part of your worship.

A responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession has been written by Jack Bell for your use. Please visit the Presbytery Website for the document. A bulletin insert will be available by Thursday for inclusion in your bulletins.

Presbytery Mini-Conference and Meeting

Yellowstone Presbytery will be gathering at First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman on November 3 & 4, 2017 for our Fall Mini-Conference and Meeting. We will begin with our first workshop at 10:30 am on Friday and continue through noon on Saturday.

Why are we calling this a mini-conference? Our theme for the Presbytery is "*Equipping and sending the gifted into ministry.*" The Leadership Cabinet is providing equipping workshops for churches that will help churches be sent into ministry in their communities. Yes, we will be doing some of the business of the Presbytery, however, most of the meeting will be focused on providing resources for your churches. Plan now to bring a team from your church to be equipped.

Friday night worship will feature some of our workshop leaders and teams as well as the message by Joel, one of the Whitworth Fellows.

There will be a plenary session on Saturday morning led by the Whitworth Fellows, some PresbyCats, and Westminster Spires staff. These college folks will share with us their insights from the work they have been doing and how churches can help young adults navigate through their faith as they look to honor and worship God.

You will be able to attend three of four offered workshops. Rob Hagen, from the Presbyterian Foundation will join us to provide a workshop on stewardship as it relates to your work on Friday morning. Friday afternoon you will have the opportunity to choose from these workshops:

John Patterson, Suzanne Bratsky, and others from First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman will present how they are using the Stan Ott materials from our February meeting to enhance the faith life of members of their church.

Holly Aloise, Debbie Funke, and team will help us see how music impacts our worship. This will include information on how to do music if you do not have a musician or the musician is away or such.

George Goodrich will lead us in understanding what it is to be a disciple.

Watch for the bulletin insert flyers with more detailed information on the workshops to be coming your way in mid-October.

The welcome letter from the team in Bozeman can be found on the Presbytery website at <http://yellowstonepcusa.org/documents/2017.11.03WelcomeLetter.pdf>.

Prayer Life In The Presbytery

Day of Prayer and Fasting: The Leadership Cabinet is asking you to join us for a day of Prayer and Fasting on Monday October 16, 2017. With all that has been happening in our communities, our country, and our world, we feel the call to prayer. Across the Presbytery churches are asked to have times of corporate prayer, encourage individuals to prayer throughout the day, and possibly join a Presbytery wide conference call. Watch for additional information by October 9.

Prayers for individuals in our Presbytery: Rev. Jim Kidd, pastor at White Sulphur Springs, is in critical condition following surgery that took place in August. As of this writing Jim has slipped into a coma. Please keep Jim, his wife Bethann, and their daughters in your prayers.

Rev. Leon Rathbun, honorably retired, has been having medical tests done recently. Please pray for Leon and his wife Neva.

We continue to pray for the churches across our Presbytery who are in some stage of a Pastor Search.

Presbytery Round of Prayer

October 1, 2017	World Communion Sunday Peace and Global Witness Offering Institute for Peace Studies
October 8, 2017	Rev. Marcia Muir, Pastor-at-Large, Billings Presbytery Sunday
October 11, 2017	Day of Prayer and Fasting
October 15, 2017	Rev. Priscilla Bell, Pastor-at-Large, Laurel
October 16, 2017	World Food Day – Food Banks throughout Yellowstone Presbytery St. Andrew Community Garden
October 22, 2017	First Church Poplar, Pastor Susi Ennis
October 29, 2017	First Church Deer Lodge, Pastor Teresa Kendall Reformation Sunday
November 5, 2017	Daylight Savings Time ends Rev. Larry Vandecreek, Honorably Retired, Grand Rapids, MI

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)

Meeting Oct. 3 at First Presbyterian Miles City

Billings Cluster – Dave Thompson (pastordave@fpcbillings.org)

Meeting Oct. 17 at First Presbyterian Billings

Butte Cluster – Teresa Kendall (teresakendall@mac.com)

Meeting Oct. 16 at First Presbyterian Butte

White Sulphur Spring Cluster – Debbie Funke (funkepastor@yahoo.com)

Meeting Oct. 16 by telephone

Calendar

October 3, 2017	Leadership Cabinet meeting in Bozeman
October 8, 2017	Presbytery Sunday
October 16, 2017	Day of Prayer and Fasting
October 19-21, 2017	Fall Youth Retreat
November 3-4, 2017	Presbytery Mini-Conference & Meeting in Bozeman

Items for the November issue of the Currents should be sent to Susi Ennis at slennis@nemont.net by October 26, 2017.