

Yellowstone Currents
A Newsletter of Yellowstone Presbytery
August 2019

A friend of many years, Bill Medicine Crow, died a few weeks ago. Curt and I first met him when we worked at what was then Eastern Montana College. And our paths kept crossing over the years.

Bill's obituary was in the Billings Gazette, but the Gazette also featured him in a separate article, highlighting his military service, his generosity, his humility, and his ability to navigate different cultures. I attended his funeral service in Crow Agency and was touched by the singing and sharing and the tears and tributes. I was so honored to have known him.

I've been thinking about Bill. One thing I realized was this--Bill slowed me down. When you met Bill, whether at the university, or when he was visiting someone in the hospital, or at a high school or college basketball game, he always had a story.

Sometimes I felt I was too busy to stop and listen, but I did. And I was richer for the visit.

It's a reminder I still need. Sometimes my schedule seems so important when the important things might not on the schedule.

Jesus knew this. In the midst of his very busy days, he was interruptible--by a woman grieving the death of her son, by children, by people in need of healing, by those who were hungry for his teaching.

Loving God,
give me a heart that listens,
a mind that pays attention,
a soul that waits,
ears that hear,
and eyes that see. Amen.

--a prayer by James Martin, SJ

Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2019



A group of 13 youth and adults representing Yellowstone Presbytery attended the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University from July 16-20. We drove over 3,000 miles as we passed through six states and three time zones. We met up with over 4,000 youth and adults from all over the country, even world-wide. We all survived the heat and humidity as there were excessive heat warnings the week we were there!

Each day the worship and message focused in on the hymn "Come Thou Fount" lyrics and how we can tune our hearts to God. One day we were able to provide services to different non-profits supported by the Presbyterian Church (USA). On another night we had a concert with the Soul Children of Chicago and various performers demonstrating their cultures including Native American and Indonesian song and dances. We were also presented with different opportunities and projects in which we could share our prayers to God at different prayer stations. We came back with one question on our hearts: What calling has God given us in our hearts to impact our churches, community, and our world?

We also enjoyed some special places while on our journey to Indiana. We spent a morning assisting at Feed My Starving Children mission in Minneapolis as we packaged food for third world countries. We enjoyed a day in the Wisconsin Dells at Noah's Ark Waterpark and spent several hours at the Mall of America in Minneapolis.

Triennium was a life changing experience for all and we deeply thank you for your prayers and support along the way! The next Triennium Youth Conference will be held in July 2022 and we encourage all churches in our Presbytery to consider inviting youth to attend this great event.

--thanks so much to Dave Thompson for leading the Triennium trip and for this report!

September Gathering of Presbyterians--A time for deepening our walk with Christ

As we think of the hopes and desires of our hearts for ourselves and for our congregations, we might include these questions:

How can I deepen my spiritual life?

In what ways might my congregation grow in faith and fellowship?

How can we serve one another and our community?

In September, Yellowstone Presbytery will present workshops to encourage us and encourage our congregations. The workshops will be available in four locations across our presbytery:

September 14	10am – 2:30 pm	First Presbyterian Church in Butte
September 21	10am – 2:30 pm	St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Billings
September 21	10am – 2:30 pm	Community Presbyterian Church in Terry
September date to be announced		- Federated Church in Harlowton

The gatherings will include an intergenerational panel discussion and encourage interactive participation and the sharing of ideas and resources.

Everyone is invited!

A flyer with more information will be sent out to each church

Upcoming Events

Sept. 10 Leadership Cabinet FPC Bozeman

Sept. 12 Pastoral Ministry Team FPC Bozeman 10 am – 3pm

Sept. 14 Regional Presbytery Gatherings in Butte

Sept. 21 Regional Presbytery Gatherings in Billings and Terry

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)

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

Sunday, August 4: Community Presbyterian Church, Jordan
Glacier Presbytery
Sunday, August 11: Rev. Freeman McCall, Honorably Retired, Dillon
Sunday, August 18: Community Presbyterian Church of Treasure County, Hysham
Sunday, August 25: Rev. Susan Thomas, Billings

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