

Committee Report Form - -Yellowstone Presbytery

Committee Name: Camping and Youth

Committee Report for Council Meeting, scheduled for: January 24, 2012

Submitted By: Curt Kochner and Susan Thomas

I. For Council's Information:

a. The Committee's Three Stated Goals for 2012:

- i. Priority 1: Increase participation in Fall and Winter Retreats
- ii. Priority 2: Increase participation in Summer Camping Program
- iii. Priority 3: Recruit leadership for Summer Camping Program

b. Date of Committee Meeting: December 6, 2011

Date of Next Meeting: TBD

c. Members Present: Chuck Beck, Carol Berg, Jody McDevitt, Curt Kochner, George Goodrich, Cynthia Kessler (Guest)

d. Main agenda Items: **See Attached**

e. Decisions we made: _____ Who will follow Through: _____

II. We Request Council's Input on the Following:

III. We request Council's Action on the Following:

IV. Council desires the Committee to consider the following:

**Camping and Youth Committee
Minutes of 12/6/11 meeting
First Presbyterian Church Bozeman**

We opened with prayer and a time of Dwelling in the Word focusing on I Thessalonians 5: 16-24.

In Attendance: Curt Kochner, Chuck Beck, Carol Berg, Cynthia Kessler, Jody McDevitt, George Goodrich

Winter Retreat

-Dates: February 24-26, 2012

We initially thought we would need to move to February 17-19, but Rockhaven is available for February 24-26. The 2011 retreat was held on February 25-27.

-Location: Rockhaven

-Speakers: George Goodrich, Curt Kochner, Traci Ruschetti

-Activities: Snowshoeing and sledding on Saturday/ Skiing on Sunday at Bridger Bowl
Carol Berg will provide snowshoes and possibly cross country skis.

-Brochure and promotion: Save the Date info out before Christmas by email
Brochure and registration forms sent out in early January

-Budget: TBD

-Food: Carol will check with Pam Jackson to see if she can organize food and cook. Pam did a fabulous job with food at the Winter Retreat last year at Mizpah. If Pam is not available, Jody will arrange to have a cook hired to prepare meals.

Note: Showdown worked out very well for the 2011 Winter Retreat. Mizpah Christian Retreat Center is not available due to facility problems. Carol Berg will check on possibilities of housing in other locations near Showdown (Niehart or White Sulphur Springs) for 2013.

Westminster Spires

-Dates of camps for 2012:

-Staff Training: July 5-7

-Elementary Camp: July 8-12 (Students entering 3rd through 6th grades)

-Junior High Camp: July 15-20 (Students entering 7th and 8th grades)

-Senior High Camp: July 22-27 (Students entering 9th through 12th grades)

-College Weekend: July 27-29 (New event)

Other dates: for 2012:

-Revamp the Camp: June 15-17 (George will plan to attend and offer evening meditation time)

-Wedding: August 17-19

-Wedding: September 14-16

-Possible Wedding: August 3-5

-St. Andrew Highland Holy Days: Tentative Dates September 7-9

-Staffing for Summer Camps:

-George Goodrich: Training/Elementary Camp/ Senior High Camp/ College Weekend

-Curt Kochner: All camps as camp manager

- Curt to contact David Andrew IV on Junior High Camp leadership
- Applications for counselor staff available in January
- Camp Fees: Maintain same rates as 2011
 - Elementary Camp: \$210
 - Junior High: \$235
 - Senior High: \$260
 - College Weekend: TBD

-Scholarship Fund Raising:

We offered \$1,003 in scholarships from the Yellowstone Presbytery Scholarship Fund in 2011. This fund has been depleted. Curt received a phone call from First Presbyterian Church Billings indicating that they will be sending a check to support Westminster Spires in the amount of \$500 as a part of their mission program. These funds will be deposited into the Scholarship Fund.

-Curriculum: We have ordered a copy of the new camp curriculum from Chalice Press for 2012. This is titled Secrets of the Kingdom The Parables of Jesus. I have attached a brief overview of the daily "Discoveries".

-PCCCA Membership: We have renewed our membership in PCCCA for 2012. (\$275)

Additional Camps

-George and Curt will plan a College Weekend for July 27-29. This will be on the weekend following the end of Senior High Camp.

Well-water supply status

Chuck Beck has been working closely with the engineering firm and contractors to complete the connection of the new well to the water supply system. At this point, the best estimate of remaining cost is as follows:

- Remaining Costs- \$17,586
- Funds Available- \$14,751
- Short- \$2,835

It appears that weather (snow in Red Lodge area) may require the work to be completed in the spring. As we determine a more specific amount of remaining costs, we will request Council to consider allocating funds from the Program Budget General Mission Fund. At this point we anticipate this request to be not more than \$3,000.

UPDATE 1/17/12- Most of the work on the well connection to the water supply system has been completed. Many thanks to Chuck Beck for taking leadership of this project and the good weather in November and December! A gift of \$3,000 was made in early January to help cover the costs of this project. Remaining costs are expected to be minimal.

General Notes

As we have noted several times in the past, our Youth Retreats and Summer Camp Program at Westminster Spires would not be possible if we did not have generous volunteer support and leadership of people from throughout Yellowstone Presbytery. If you know anyone that would be interested in serving as a part of the leadership for

retreats or camps for any period of time, please contact Curt Kochner or George Goodrich. We will be hiring college students as counselors and a few high school students as Counselors-in-Training. Let us know if you know people that would be interested in any of the camp staff positions.

Westminster Spires operates on a minimal budget. At this point our primary financial needs are in the areas of facilities and camp scholarships. We expect that we will need approximately \$3,000 to complete the installation and connection of the water supply system to the new well. Our refrigerator is ancient, and when it finally gives out, we expect replacement costs to be around \$3,000. The camp is on leased Forest Service land, and we are experiencing significant loss of large trees to beetle infestation. Although we can utilize volunteer labor to clear smaller trees and brush, we will need to hire professionals at some point to cut down the larger trees that are near buildings and power lines.

Please contact Curt Kochner at ckochner@mcn.net or by phone at 406-259-7368 (home) or 406-672-4547 (cell) if you have questions, suggestions or comments about the Camping and Youth Committee.

The meeting was closed in prayer by George Goodrich.

Secrets of the Kingdom
The Parables of Jesus
Curriculum themes for 2012

Discovery 1- Mark 4: 1-9, 13-20
We Are the Soil

Campers hear the parable of the sower and consider how open we are to receive and respond to God's Word at camp.

Discovery 2- Luke 11: 5-10
We Can Ask Boldly

Campers hear the parable of a friend in need and discover that when we earnestly seek love and grace from God we will receive. Likewise, we are called to provide love and grace to others.

Discovery 3- Matthew 20: 1-6
God is Generous

Campers explore the parable of the workers in the vineyard and discover that God's grace is not determined by anything we do, but through God's love alone.

Discovery 4- Luke 15: 1-10
God Treasures Us

Campers explore the parables of the lost sheep and lost coin and discover that no matter how far we have strayed God always cares for us and will always look for us because every one of us is precious to God.

Discovery 5- Matthew 25: 31-46
Jesus Is in the "Least of These"

Campers hear the parable of the sheep and the goats and will consider ways we can open our eyes to the needs of the world and respond to them with compassion and generosity.

Discovery 6- Matthew 13: 31-35
God Plants Us in the World

Campers hear the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast and learn that God can use our smallest acts to grow the kingdom.