

## **2012 Annual Report Of Presbyterian Women of Yellowstone Presbytery**

Yellowstone Presbytery is in the fourth year of recreating our Presbytery and envisioning a new way of doing things. Budgetary constraints and decreasing numbers of Presbyterians required us to make some changes. It has been rewarding and frustrating. We have developed a vision statement which follows:

**Yellowstone Presbytery** – guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer – is a community rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.

**We will . . .**

**Gather Together** for God's glory and spiritual synergy\*.

**Equip and Encourage** disciple-making congregations and leaders for living the Gospel . . . intentionally becoming more like Christ; ably sharing our faith; impacting our communities; worshiping in loving response to God; and mutually supporting and training leaders.

**Go Out** to join Christ in Christ's mission in our communities, Montana, and the world . . . embodying and sharing Christ's Good News; loving and serving, as we are commanded, in our words, actions, and relationships.

PW of Yellowstone has been a part of this new era and we now have the task of developing our goals to reflect this new vision. One of the hopes we have for this new vision is to develop closer relationships between congregations. PW already has many connections between congregations that can support the presbytery in this new time.

In April, we planned a Spring Gathering in Billings, with Gail Heimbeck, PWS Moderator, as our guest speaker. Rev. Dan Krebill and Kate Olp spoke on the MAC abolition coalition legislation to abolish the death penalty. Gail spoke on Synod of the Rocky Mountain news, lead a PW Leadership Workshop and reported on her PW USA Mission Exchange trip to visit our sisters in the Dakota Presbytery. All of her presentations were very informative, very enlightening and helpful. Karen Van Haele lead an activity on *Horizons Magazine* logo and the 2 winners won *Horizons Magazine* subscriptions. Cathy McLean, CRE, lead us in worship and communion. We made new changes in the bylaws too.

A motion was made and seconded to set aside the bylaws for one year and allow myself, Suzanne Bratsky, to remain as Moderator so the Search Committee could continue their search for another Moderator. Merry Lee Hooks was chosen to be the delegate to the PW Churchwide Gathering business meeting. Since our meeting and after attending the Churchwide Gathering, Merry Lee Hooks has agreed to be PW Moderator of Yellowstone Presbytery providing she has some more training and can attend the PW Synod meeting in Denver. I will continue to assist her and will become the PW Vice Moderator.

In September we held two Cluster meetings, one in the west at Ennis and one in the east at Hysham. Our theme was "River of Hope" based on the scripture John 5: 2-9. Doug and Jane Malone from Wyoming gave their "Living Waters" presentation in Ennis and Hysham. There was great discussion on water issues in Montana as well as in other countries. We had PW 101 to educate the members on PW such as structure, Churchwide information and we answered questions. It was a great time together at both cluster meetings. About 65 total people were in attendance at the meetings.

Suzanne Bratsky, Moderator of PW of Yellowstone Presbytery