

" But Christians are defined by more than their reception of [Christ's] benefits [of justification and sanctification], as sure as they may be that these benefits are undoubtedly theirs. God's calling is not solely for the benefit of the called who are incorporated into the called-out people, the ecclesia. God's calling of a particular people is for God's saving purposes for the world, for Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. For God so loved the world, God was, in Christ, reconciling the world. And for the sake of that world, created and fallen, God's calling creates, forms, equips, commissions, and sends the church to carry out the witness for which it exists." Dr. Darrell Guder (Missional theologian, Princeton Seminary)

5 C's for churches and leaders, especially in times of change:

1. Clarity about our primary identity & mission as Christ's disciples, as disciple-making, disciple-sending communities
2. Calm & Centered in Christ
3. Connected as transforming Christian community in relationships/networks/partnerships
4. Courageous cooperation with the Holy Spirit transforming us into the image of Christ, *continuing the practices & behaviors* which promote this transformation (often counter-cultural) and lifelong learning.
5. Commissioned, sent as Christ's witnesses, joining in God's mission in the world

"If western societies have become post-Christian mission fields, how can traditional churches become then missionary churches?" Lesslie Newbigin (British missionary in India, then ecumenical, WCC leader)

Question for your congregation, for our presbytery: how are we to become missionary churches?

Current Foci include:

1. Assisting The Leadership Council and Committees to discern how to fulfill our Vision statement.
Thanks to all of you!!!!
2. Vision, Equipping Disciplemaking congregations & leaders -
 - a. Visiting with and running retreats for sessions/leaders on the Presbytery Vision Statement and how churches can become disciplemaking congregations. The Presbytery vision statement has the power to inspire, to expand thinking, to induce dreaming.
 - b. "Journeying Together." I am exploring a weekly, one-page, lectionary-grounded missive to the leaders in Yellowstone presbytery. Time constraints have made this difficult but the purposes:
 - i. More "personal" contact between churches and presbytery in this far-flung setting. Perhaps a blog with Paul Krebill.
 - ii. To interact with pastors creatively on the texts on discipleship themes.
 - iii. To show how the text may relate to our life together in Yellowstone Presbytery.
 - c. Convocation Planning Team (See George's complete report) – This year will be a good one. Planning team is on the ball.

- i. Plenary Speaker, 2012 – The Rev Dr. Tom Tewell, whom Ed Albright calls, “The best preacher in America.”
 - ii. Plenary Speaker, 2013 – The Rev Dr. Steve Hayner, President of Columbia Seminary and professor of Evangelism.
 - d. WNLT, October 3-5 in Jackson Hole, *Developing Leadership in Changing Times*. George has been asked to lead the Bible Study part with Dwelling in the Word again.
 - e. Cluster Fellowships: Billings is going beautifully; East Cluster needs redefinition; Butte is meeting regularly.
3. The Dream Team - Glacier-Yellowstone Presbyteries. Possible presbytery configurations within the Synod / Region. This effort is being pulled together. Breakfast meeting this morning. This is a great opportunity to dream *God's* dreams for new relationships and partnerships – or recommit to our current identity.
 4. Vision Structure Task Force – George is resourcing this team as it works to reframe a structure for the presbytery that better serves the presbytery vision and the mission of the churches. It hopes to report by May of 2013, if not sooner.
 5. The Task Force reshaping the presbytery's standing rules to conform with the New Form of Government. Dan Krebill ably leads this effort. George and Kathy are resourcing.
 6. The Fellowship of Presbyterians has launched initiatives which are stirring questions and dreams among several of our congregations. George meeting with sessions and leaders upon request to answer questions, lay out options and encourage continued allegiance to the PCUSA.
 7. CoM Concerns – I(George) find any church without pastoral leadership receives my pastoral concern and assistance as well as Neva's. Great job, Neva.
 - a. CPC, West Yellowstone is the main one presently. Assisting the Resolution team. CPC will likely request dismissal from the PCUSA / presbytery this year.
 - b. Various policies refurbished with personnel committee, too.
 - c. The most important work... Prayerfully searching for and bringing in quality pastoral / CRE leadership to vacant pulpits: St. Andrew (Aline Russell starting as Interim in August), Deer Lodge, Miles City.
 8. Mission – Robert Shy is the moderator of this committee, which is focused on the following:
 - a. Researching what each Church is prioritizing and pursuing in mission.
 - b. Wrapping up the Zimbabwe Project.
 - c. WNLT, October 3-5; New Scholarship possibilities. Lucy Ennis Coordinates.
 - d. Exploring Bakkan Oilfield ministry in cooperation with other judicatories.
 - e. Responding to the Crow Reservation fire.
 - f. Church Mission Trips. Encouraging and supporting.
 - g. Next Mtg. August 28, at St Andrew, Billings.

9. Youth and Camping Ministry continues to be blessed and to develop.
 - a. Camp is underway! George and Curt Kochner are leading Elementary and Senior High Camp; David Andrew and Curt are leading Junior High Camp.
 - b. General Summer Camp Goals:
 - i. Supporting the childrens' and youth ministries of the presbytery's churches.
 - ii. Developing deep relationship with and between the youth of the presbytery.
 - iii. Conducting basic discipleship appropriate to each youth level, discipleship & leadership training with staff.
 - iv. Seeding and strengthening the college ministries of the presbytery.
 - v. Building WSC spiritually, programmatically, collegially and numerically.
 - vi. Approximate budgeted support.
 - c. The first college weekend is planned for July 27-29, 2012.
 - d. Topics based on the PCCCC curriculum.

10. Yellowstone's generosity in the TOP TEN!! Congratulations, Yellowstone congregations! We are grateful for the generosity engendered by the Holy Spirit through the congregations, placing Yellowstone Presbytery as in the 2011 Top Ten Presbyteries for giving to Special Offerings! The annual "Top Presbyteries" are compiled in four categories: total giving, basic mission support, special offerings, and other appeals. The presbyteries are identified by total giving and by average per giving per member. Kathy arranged for each congregation to be receiving a personal letter & colorful poster to display for your whole church family to see. Jody McDevitt & Kathy represented all of you at a reception held during the General Assembly meeting.

11. Serving in the Councils of the Church and in the Wider Church
 - a. George: Intermountain's Board and Ownership Linkage com.
 - b. George & Kathy: Synod of the Rocky Mountains Staff Forum; (George) Coordinating Council
 - c. George: Rocky Mountain College Board of Trustees.
 - d. George: MAC Board and Judicatory Heads for ecumenical relationships across Montana
 - e. Kathy: Whitworth University Board of Trustees
 - f. Kathy: newly forming Evangelism Network to work with PCUSA's national Evangelism staff.
 - g. George was the ecumenical preacher for the ELCA Annual Montana Synod meeting in June.
 - h. George spoke as a panel speaker at the Abolition Coalition Convocation in April.
 - i. George will be the all-church retreat speaker for the First Presbyterian Church of Sunnyvale, CA over Labor Day Weekend.
 - j. Kathy attended the General Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA – June 30 – July 7, 2012 including:
 1. Top 10 giving Presbyteries reception - with Jody McDevitt (see above)
 2. Collegiate Ministries lunch 'Collegiate Ministry & Emerging Young Adult Faith Development research' & UKirk congregational initiative launching, & talked with GAMC staff coming to MT for Convocation - Rev. Gina Yaeger-Buckley & Rev. Adrienne McMullen
 3. Synod Rocky Mountains lunch & Katie Holland's birthday celebrated @ GA
 4. Assoc. of Exec Presbyters, presentation, discussion, networking on "Ideas, best practices for presbyteries to equip missional, healthy congregations"
 5. Office of Evangelism & Church Growth, New Church Development, 1,001 new worshipping communities - conversation & booth time

k. Kathy: July 9 - 13 Whitworth Institute for Ministry, Spokane WA. gave part of report on General Assembly. Valuable insights for adapting to better fulfill our missional vision here, including new form/structure from Rev. Tod Bolsinger (chair of GA's Mid Council Commission) - Canoeing the Mountains: Leading into Uncharted Territory; Insights from the Lewis & Clark Expedition on adapting as leaders and churches in our new, changing times. Also, what is the nature and calling of Christian leaders and the church integrating insights from Scripture, Ecclesiology, Reformed theology, missional church experiments in PCUSA, N. America & around the world, leadership and organizational studies. Implications for how do we lead, preach, train, organize, prioritize...?

12. Personally – We will be away on vacation August 6-18, 2012

- a. Gillian & Peter Cleary were married March 24 in Reading, PA, followed by a reception in Montana for those in the NW. They are living and working in Bozeman for the time being.
- b. Chip, 21, is doing well. Business internship in Coeur d'Alene this summer. Need supplemental insurance?
- c. Kathy and George will celebrate their 35th anniversary in August.
- d. To more accurately reflect that we are two people splitting one job, George will be attempting to take the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month off – in addition to Mondays.