

"They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread." Luke 24:33-35..

One of the great gifts we give to each other is that of being the Christ-called, Christ-formed, Spirit-indwelt, Gospel-living and carrying Community of Faith. May we never grow weary of sharing where and how the risen Christ has appeared to us. In so doing we nurture faith, gain eternal perspective, and renew our hope. May all the blessings of the Easter Season be yours!

The New Presbytery Structure: We are beginning to live into our new structure! Thank you all for your work and contributions to these efforts. The Leadership Cabinet, the Pastoral Ministry Team, The Rep/Nom Ministry Team, and the Camping and Youth Ministry team – the basic elements of our new life together are up and running... Now to stabilize them and gather momentum.

And the pastor clusters are doing well. Hopefully, we can move towards a more regular schedule for each.

Phase 2 will be helping the Leadership Cabinet distill the vision into mission and interpret the elements of mission to the rest of the presbytery for the formation of mission task forces, but this will come.

Presbytery Prioritizing: We cannot do everything, and we certainly cannot do it at once. Where do you believe God would have us focus our efforts, short-term and long-term? Jody McDevitt has plans for us to prayerfully discuss and discern our priorities beginning at this meeting. For those who may be interested ahead of time, I have roughed out an outline of priorities which seem good to be. It is included in your packet which Jody sent out. My key ones are highlighted in yellow.

The Financial Picture: Dan Holland's report shows we are stable at this point in the year, but still on budget to expend \$54,000 more than we take in. This is not going to work long-term, and some adjustments will need to be made – looking where we can trim the budget further... And Kathy and I continue to note and discuss that our presence full-time will deplete the presbyteries funds. Therefore, with the assigned Personnel study group, we are considering options for scaling back our position. Suggestions and decisions will most likely be made at this Leadership Cabinet meeting.

Office Update: We have been informed that J and H will need our space by November 1, 2014. We are extremely grateful to Ric Tieman and the J and H Team for graciously providing our office home for many years. It may be time to go to a virtual office, or perhaps to find a smaller, one-room set-up to handle basic business.

Convocation: The Planning teams from Glacier and Yellowstone are working well and on track to produce another quality Convocation, November 6-7, at First Presbyterian, Bozeman. The Rev Dr. Joan Gray, past moderator of the General Assembly, noted author, and beloved by many of us will be speaking on the theme, "Sailing with the Winds of the Spirit."

Camping and Youth Ministry Team: Camp is in the planning for July of this summer. George will be the main speaker for Elementary Camp (July 13-17) and Senior High Camp (July 20-25). David Andrew will be the main speaker for Junior High Camp (July 27-August 1). We are looking for adult clergy and lay leaders to come this summer to observe the program and possibly assist in leadership in the future. Curt Kochner is doing a fantastic job leading this ministry!

To Report on the YP/UCC/ and Disciples of Christ Dialogue: Kathy and I were invited to attend a western ecumenical conference in Denver last week between the PCUSA-UCC-DoC. The 11 churches in the DoC conference in Montana and the 33 UCC congregations in Montana and Wyoming have formed a unique partnership. The questions were, "What can we learn from them? How might we work more closely with them? Would we want to partner officially with them? We already cooperate in six or seven ways with these conferences in our region. They have asked our help in understanding how to do the convocation and our discipleship pastor clusters. No plans exist to merge structures with them at this time.

Intermountain Childrens Services: George is on the Board, *ex officio*. The Agency continues to maintain its church affiliation with the Methodists, the UCC and both Glacier and Yellowstone Presbyteries. Intermountain has recently dedicated two beautiful new cottages for its residency program in Helena. Intermountain now serves over 500 children a week in its 11 program services in Helena, the Flathead and Butte. Ask George about this great work. Intermountain sees itself as an extension of the mission of the three supporting churches.

Rocky Mountain College: George is on the Board, *ex officio*. I am on Church Relations Committee, the Student Affairs Committee and the Investment Committee. The new president Bob Wilmouth has been in office for one year now. The college is stabilizing after some difficult years. The key priority is the building of a new science building. Enrollment numbers have been consistent for freshmen and transfers. The college's retention rate and graduation rate need work. Rocky's endowment has increased very well in the last four years allowing them to offer salary increases to faculty and staff.

Spiritual Direction: George continues working towards his certification in Spiritual Direction with Leadership Transformation, Inc. My next four-day retreat is May 30-June 2. Three YP pastors have joined me in spiritual direction as I learn the ministry and all of us have a deep sense of God at work among us in the sessions. I am coming to think that every presbytery should have two or three trained spiritual directors. And I finish the program in June of 2015.

Resourcing Opportunities for Pastors and Leaders:

- a. Whitworth Institute for Ministry (Presbyterian), July 7-11, in Spokane. Fantastic Speakers this Year:Co-preachers new seminary presidents, Craig Barnes, Princeton Seminary & Mark Labberton, Fuller, & Bible teacher, Marianne Meye Thompson, NT Prof. Fuller, <https://www.whitworth.edu/WIM>.
- b. Evangelism and Church Growth Conference for the PCUSA, August 11-15, in St. Petersburg, FL. George is on the planning team and offering two seminars. Keynoter:

Johannes Swart, new professor of Evangelism & World Mission at Pittsburgh Seminary - <http://www.pcusa.org/events/28633/evangelism-church-growth-conference-2014/>

- c. Convocation with Glacier Presbytery, November 6-7, Bozeman. The Rev. Dr Joan Gray will be speaking on nurturing our deeper Christian Spirituality. Theme: "Sailing on the Winds of the Spirit."
- d. Board of Pensions Regional Gathering in Dan Diego, May 7-8. Yellowstone Reps: David Thompson, Jim Tarr, David Andrew.
- e. WNLT – NOTE new dates – Sept 28-Oct. 1 in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.
- f. Spiritual Direction being offered by George in conjunction with his participating in the Certification program of Leadership Transformation (See Brochure)
- g. Creating a culture of Discipleship in the local Church. How can churches deepen their understanding of Disciple-making and Spiritual Formation? George continues to meet with sessions and pastors to help them create a personal vision for each church.
- h. New Engage: mission curriculum (ENGAGE Parts 1, 2 & 3)available—prepares people to be missionaries in their neighborhoods and communities. [Order from the church store now](#). You can also order parts one and two, [Engage: Gospel](#) and [Engage: Discipleship](#) from the PC(USA) church store.

Personal News: We are now proud and grateful grandparents! Charlie Goodrich was born on April 29 to our son, Chip, and his wife, Staci, in Spokane, WA. The young family is doing well.

Our daughter, Gillian, was accepted into the Masters/Ph.D. program in Spanish Literature and Linguistics at University Of Colorado in Boulder. She begins in August. Thanks for your prayers for her.