

2011 Annual Report Of Presbyterian Women of Yellowstone Presbytery

Yellowstone Presbytery is in the third 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. Yellowstone Presbytery has been planning a mission project before each presbytery meeting and many folks have participated. In Billings, we folded and sorted clothing that had come into the thrift shop.

In April, we planned for a Spring Gathering in Bozeman, with Gail Heimbeck as our guest speaker. Due to a big snow storm with lots of icy highways in the Bozeman area we had to cancel the meeting. It was a big disappointment.

In November we held two Cluster meetings, one in the east at Forsyth and one in the west at Dillon. Our theme was "Living in Humility", Matthew 5:5, Psalms 37. In Dillon we had the great pleasure of having Rev. Ray Jones, Office of Evangelism, Presbyterian Church (USA) speaking on "Engage" the new evangelism program of the Presbyterian Church. Rev. Kathy Goodrich, Co-General Presbyter of Yellowstone Presbytery, also presented with him. He has some wonderful, new ideas to make evangelism relevant for today's world. We also had great fun doing the Horizon's skit "Greatly Honored are the Humbled", taken from Lesson 3, "Confessing the Beatitudes by Margaret Aymer. In Forsyth, Kathy Goodrich, spoke again on "Engage". We also did the Horizon's skit, promoted the Churchwide Gathering and the Thank Offering. Since we had cancelled our Spring Gathering we also had to approve a budget and install new officers at both cluster meetings. Approximately a total of 50 women attended both meetings.

Neva Rathbun has resigned as Co-Moderator with me. She has taken on the leadership of the Committee on Ministry and has been doing a grand job and has had to deal with many areas of concern.

Suzanne Bratsky, Moderator of PW of Yellowstone Presbytery