

Camping and Youth Report
Yellowstone Presbytery
June 14-15, 2013

Westminster Spires Camp Season

Revamp the Camp	June 7-9
Camp Staff Training	July 5-6
Senior High Camp	July 7-12
Junior High Camp	July 14-19
Elementary Camp	July 21-25
Highland Holy Days	September 6-8 (Traditional St. Andrew weekend of study and fellowship open to Yellowstone Presbytery)

Staff

We have a veteran staff returning for the 2013 season.

Curt Kochner	Registrar and Logistics
George Goodrich	Staff Training, Senior High and Elementary Camp Leader
David Andrew	Junior High Camp Leader
Bill Scott	Cook (along with Belinda and Mara)
Cynthia Kessler	Counselor/Crafts
Kristin Kochner	Counselor- MSU- Presbycat
Dani Repka	Counselor- MSU- Presbycat
Hailey Muller	Counselor- Whitworth
Ruth Letson	Counselor- Earlham (Indiana)
Rebecca Jones	Counselor
Taylor Cashmore	Counselor- MSU Fall 2013
Heather O'Brien	Counselor- MSU Fall 2013
Stephanann Costello	CIT- Butte
Tanner Robison	CIT- Butte

All staff members have been on the Westminster Spires staff in the past, so we have a very experienced group. Russ Kline from First Presbyterian Billings will join us for the week of Senior High Camp.

Recruitment

We have a very high rate of return of campers from year to year. If all campers that have attended camp in the past return this year, we would have 27 campers for senior high camp, 12 for junior high camp and 3 for elementary camp. Promotion of Westminster Spires camps through all churches would be appreciated. Our promotion needs to include all camps, but particularly at the elementary camp level. I love the refrain from the song *Pass it On*, "That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it, you want to pass it on." Once campers have experienced living in Christian community in a camp setting, it becomes a part of their life and something they want to participate in again each summer and throughout the year.

We have an outstanding group of counselors, and it will be a very comfortable for new campers to attend. Slide shows are available for each of the camps that were held last year, and we would be happy to provide these to help promote camp through VBS programs or as a part of a Sunday school or youth program. Our counselors are from Dillon, Miles City, Butte and Billings, and we would be happy to visit churches to talk about camp.

The Holy Spirit is working through the fall and winter retreats and the summer camping program to bring the young people of Yellowstone Presbytery together. As we strive to build the strength of collegiate ministries throughout the state, we will need to continue to support strong youth programs in individual churches and supplement these with presbytery wide experiences for our youth. These young people will be the leaders in our Presbyterian churches in the future!

Facilities and Grounds

We still celebrate the installation of the well! Our caretaker Simon Hill has continued the cutting of dead and diseased trees and trees that are hazards. Some of the slash piles were burned during the winter when snow was on the ground. The Zimbabwe shed located at St. Andrew has been emptied, and we are working on plans to move the shed to Westminster Spires.

Fall Retreat

Planning will begin soon for our fall retreat to be held October 17-19!

Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) 2013

24 youth and three adults from our Presbytery will be traveling to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, from July 14-23 for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium event. Held every three years, this youth conference is expected to draw about 6,000 high school youth from around the world. We will be traveling by vans and spending some time in Minneapolis on our return trip packaging food for the Feed My Starving Children mission organization. We will also enjoy a day at Noah's Ark Waterpark in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Churches represented in our presbytery include Anaconda, First Billings, Bozeman, Miles City, Saint Andrew Billings, and Terry. The three adult chaperones will be Pastor Brandon Willett (Miles City), Jody Ferestad (First Billings) and Pastor Dave Thompson (First Billings). Special thanks to the presbytery for covering our transportation costs. We will be staying at Presbyterian churches along the way. We look forward to this high energy event and sharing with the Presbytery when we return.