

Visionary Prayer by Sir Francis Drake (c. 1544-1596), Vice Admiral of the English Fleet –

*“Disturb us, O Lord, when we are too pleased with ourselves; when our dreams come true because we dreamed too little; when we arrived in safety because we have sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, O Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life; when having fallen in love with time, we have ceased to dream of eternity; and in our efforts to build a new earth, have allowed our vision of heaven to grow dim. Stir us, O Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms shall show Thy mastery and, where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes and invited the brave to follow, even the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Through this prayer, what might the Holy Spirit be saying to each of us as disciples, as leaders about: 1. our own lives, 2. the congregations where God has called us, 3. this presbytery now and as we discern the ways and path to follow Christ into HIS future?

- I. Vision Implementation: The Vision Structure Task Force has completed its work, aside from possibly being asked to report to the new leadership cabinet, assuming its election. Huge thanks to Ric Tieman, Debbie Blackburn, Dan Krebill and Ron Hanson with whom we worked.
  - A. Rational for New “Interim” Structure which.....
    - a. Positions the presbytery to better fulfill its vision statement.
    - b. Concentrates the gifted leadership of the presbytery into fewer positions for stronger leadership and enhances relationships.
    - c. Allows the YP to more easily discern the leadings of the Holy Spirit and to follow.
    - d. Needs fewer participants and committees should mean financial savings.
    - e. As a smaller body, should mean better communication and “synergy.”
  - B. Apparent Response: Very Positive across the presbytery...
    - a. Presented and favorably received in clusters
    - b. The Rep/Nom Ministry Team indicates positive responses of those asked to serve.
  - C. Leadership Cabinet’s On-Going Call to Visioning – The Vision and the on-going visioning process is the responsibility of the Leadership Cabinet for and with the Presbytery
    - i. “The Fifth Strand” document – Possible ideas/suggestions for mission and ministry in the years ahead has included in the Vision Team Report.
    - ii. Listening to what is emerging (See “News from Churches” in Discipleship below), in mission-minded congregations and individuals.
  - D. What may be Ahead?
    - a. A Season of Change for Synods / Presbyteries, such as Mid Council Commission report & recommendations to the GA, possibilities generated by Synod leadership
- II. Pastor Cluster Groups
  - a. Miles City – Largest, Ecumenical, “Word, Share, Prayer” focused
  - b. “Billings Sibs” – Deep trust, “Word, Share, Prayer;” Some Spiritual Direction being integrated
  - c. Butte – Longest-running, free-form, deeply trustful, possible emerging emphasis on spirituality and theology.
  - d. White Sulphur – Emerging with a prayer emphasis?

- e. Summation: Each Team is distinct to the work of the Holy Spirit and passions in the group. Some real life and deep relationships here. Looking forward to see what the Spirit births.

### III. Presbytery Meetings

- a. Hope to see focus on:
  - i. Creating a Culture of Discipleship, per vision statement.
  - ii. Equipping and resourcing, Relationships and Net-working
  - iii. Holding up Mission/ Vision / what the Holy Spirit is doing in YP and elsewhere

### IV. Yellowstone Currents e-newsletter

- a. Begin again with a streamlined version for basic communication
- b. What's happening with Churches and Pastors
- c. Some pithy, probing questions for leaders to consider to help frame the ministry going forward.

### V. Forming Disciple-Making Churches

#### A. News From Some of the YP Churches

- a. St. Andrew has a new pastor: Susan Barnes; much enthusiasm and she will use the Engage material with the session.
- b. Hysham: Paul reports that he has been using Dwelling in the Word for about nine months with the session and it has caught on, forming leaders, guiding their meetings; Friday Kindergarten Daycare project, funded in part by presbytery mission dollars is thriving and may be expanding.
- c. White Sulphur is considering a Lenten study using the Dwelling in the Word & prayer Format
- d. Wolf Point: Had its largest Christmas Eve attendance in years.
- e. Miles City: Loving the pastoral leadership of the Willetts and the pre-school is developing, again with the help of presbytery mission dollars.
- f. Lewistown: Sensing a strong call for practice of and equipping in prayer. Wondering whether it is the time to offer to host a Prayer Conference
- g. Ennis has nearly finished their lengthy building program and the elevator is in.
- h. First, Billings is thinking again about a church plant in Red Lodge again.
- i. First, Bozeman: Presbycats have a retreat this weekend and go on a mission trip over Spring break; Adult class & optional weekly discussion group, on understanding the seasons/stages of our spiritual journeys, primarily based on the writings of Teresa of Avila and drawing upon other models, rooted in historical overview, taught by George Goodrich.
- j. *Others you know about?*

#### B. 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 forthcoming.
  - d. Board of Pensions Regional Gathering in Dan Diego, May 7-8. Yellowstone Reps: David Thompson, Jim Tarr, David Andrew and George Goodrich
  - e. Sexual Misconduct Training offered by the Synod in Denver on February 26 (George, Kathy( and hopefully Ron Hanson and others)
  - 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 Part 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.
- C. Camping and Youth- The Jr/Sr High winter ski retreat is February 7-9 at the Mizpah retreat center north of White Sulphur Springs. George, Traci Rushetti and Orrin Feddes will be the speakers.

VI. Changes Coming in Presbytery Staffing and our Role with you:

- a. *A faith challenge of financial concerns and opportunities- The Presbytery of Yellowstone faces a serious budget crisis this year: While budgeted expenditures have remained remarkably steady for ten years, presbytery income has fallen:*
  - i. *Synod/GA partnership funds- In 2004, the year we joined you in ministry, the Synod/GA partnership funds contributed \$75,000 to the annual administrative budget. Since then these annual funds have decreased to about \$30,000 per year, coming from the Synod. Further decline may be expected in coming years.*
  - ii. *Goodrich fundraising – Thanks to God’s grace and the generosity of many of you and folks around the country, we fundraised \$15,000 the first year to cover part of our salary, housing medical pension and ministry expenses. Since then the budgeted amount we are to raise for our ministry among you has risen to \$40,000 per year.*
  - iii. *Per Capita – The membership of churches in the presbytery has declined through the years, but per capita has been increased to cover much of this cost. Thank you all!*
  - iv. *The leadership Cabinet is asking you to approve a 2014 administrative budget that relies heavily on endowed funds to balance the budget, some of those funds have been received from the dismissal settlements of departing congregations – funds which, it was hoped, would be used to spawn new mission in the presbytery. A concern to us.*
  - v. *Increased funding, new opportunities must be explored including new worshipping communities, studying and reaching out to our communities, grants and more. Might there be a new, more adequate way of funding the presbytery ministry? Who interested in working with Goodriches in this important area? We can’t do our job*

*and add all these new needs too. Coming together for God's Glory and Spiritual Synergy*

- vi. *We are grateful for the Leadership Cabinet for desiring to keep us in place full-time through 2014. However, the clear realities may be calling for exploring options for adaptations such as hours worked, a different staff structure... There are several possibilities, which we will be asking the Leadership Cabinet to consider which will minimize the reliance on balance sheet fund balances. Details to come from the Leadership Cabinet in the near future. But we will likely need your insight, ideas and would deeply appreciate your prayers.*

### Going Out to Serve Christ

- A. Importance of Mission Interpreting by Leadership Cabinet to presbytery – In the new structure, the leadership cabinet researches and holds up to the presbytery and its churches possible mission opportunities and encourages churches/leaders to pursue God's promptings in them.  
1001 New Worshipping Communities: Starting and Growing new churches is one of the *best* way to both reach those who are outside the church and to grow other churches & a presbytery.
- B. The leadership of the PCUSA has adopted the goal of planting 1001 new worshipping communities in 10 years. How will Yellowstone participate? <http://www.onethousandone.org/Home.aspx> to download and show a a brief, informative & inspiring video click here - <https://www.pcusa.org/resource/1001-worshipping-communities/>
- C. Possible Emerging areas for Task Forces
  - a. Prayer within YP
  - b. Peace Initiative
  - c. Others which might?

### Other Service on Behalf of the Presbytery

- A. George continues to serve:
  - a. On the Board of Intermountain Children's Services
  - b. On the Board of Trustees for Rocky Mountain College
  - c. On the Synod Staff Forum with other GP's.
  - d. On the MAC Board and Judicatory Heads Forum.
  - e. On the National Planning Team for the PCUSA Annual Evangelism and Discipleship Conf.
  - f. On the planning team for the Glacier-Yellowstone Convocation
  - g. As a preacher/speaker. For the Western Colorado Presbytery Pastors Retreat in March; filling the pulpits of Yellowstone Churches across the presbytery; an Adult Sunday School Teacher for FPC-Bozeman.
- B. Kathy continues to serve:
  - a. On The Board of Trustees of Whitworth University
  - b. On the Synod Staff Forum with other GP's
  - c. On Intermountain President's Council

d. On the PCUSA's Evangelism Network/Advisory Board for Louisville staff in this area. e .  
As a preacher/speaker. For the Western Colorado Presbytery Pastors Retreat in March with George;  
filling the pulpits of Yellowstone Churches across the presbytery;

Goodrich 2013 Fundraising Update – We are deeply grateful that God enabled us to meet the budgeted goal for our fundraising of \$40,000 for 2013, headed into 2014 with \$200 to spare. Thanks so much to those who contributed individually and the church mission budget's supporting us! Your love, friendship prayers and partnership in the gospel mean more than words can convey.

#### Personal Developments in the Goodrich Family

Chip Goodrich married Staci Stephens – a joyous ceremony, celebration and reunion with family and friends from near and far. They are both at Whitworth University.

Gillian Goodrich Cleary – Prayers for application to Univ. Colorado for this fall to become a Spanish professor. She is presently on a medical mission trip in Mexico (along with Dr. John Patterson, FPC, Bozeman) as a translator and record keeper for the Doctors.

We are grateful for a quiet 2 months for our parents after the end of year with a move for George's parents and Kathy's mother's spinal surgery with very slow progress and remaining uncertainties. Prayers and wisdom always welcomed.

#### Interesting Developments:

- A. More Churches are finding per capita as "non-understandable" and will only pass along what they receive in designated donations yet little or no interpretation is shared.

What are we to learn?

What might be more effective ways to sharing what the Holy Spirit is doing, new ways for folks to understand and benefit from as well as contribute to the equipping, encouragement, community and partnering opportunities and to support what makes this possible - the leadership, resourcing and administration people need and expect from the presbytery but which most members and some leaders do not understand the funding of?

Might there be a new, more adequate way of funding the presbytery ministry? *Who interested in working with Goodriches in this important area? We can't do our job and add all these new needs too. Coming together for God's Glory and Spiritual Synergy*