

Camping and Youth Report
Yellowstone Presbytery
February 22-23, 2013

Fall Retreat 2012

The Fall Retreat was held at Rockhaven on October 18-20. We had 11 adult leaders including 3 students from MSU (Kristin Kochner, Dani Repka and Shawn Pattee). 36 young people from six churches in the presbytery participated in the retreat. We had three participants from Miles City. We have not had youth from Miles City come to retreats for many years, and these three had a great time. The program included talks by Traci Ruschetti, Curt Kochner and George Goodrich, a trip to Bozeman Hot Springs, great recreation and hiking and closing worship. The involvement of college students is a wonderful addition to the retreat experience where younger participants can see older role models continuing their walk with the Lord. Many thanks to Pam Jackson from White Sulphur Springs for providing amazing snacks and meals!

Winter Retreat 2013

The Yellowstone Presbytery Winter Youth Retreat was held at Mizpah Christian Retreat outside of White Sulphur Springs on the weekend of February 15-17. The Winter Retreat included several talks and times of worship and study, and concludes with skiing at Showdown on Sunday. Pam Jackson from White Sulphur Springs provided meals and snacks. This retreat included 63 participants from seven congregations. The group included three students from Montana State University, 25 middle school, 23 high school, 2 pastors and 10 lay leaders.

Westminster Spires 2013

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 |
| Parallel 49 (Youth Leadership) | July 30- August 2 |
| MSUB Housing Staff Training | August 19-23 |
| Highland Holy Days | September 6-8 |

Staff Applications for camp staff are available at the Yellowstone Presbytery website.

Curt Kochner, George Goodrich and David Andrew will provide adult leadership.

We expect strong interest from youth interested in joining the camp staff.

Bill and Belinda Scott have expressed interest in returning as camp cooks.

The camp schedule has been adjusted to allow senior high youth to attend camp and to participate in the Presbyterian Youth Triennium trip. David Thompson from Billings First will provide leadership for the Triennium Trip.

We will keep camp fees at the same level as last year. Senior High \$260/ Junior High \$235/ Elementary \$210

We have noted in previous reports the progress on cutting down dead and hazardous trees on the grounds of Westminster Spires. Our caretaker, Simon Hill, has done an outstanding job of working with the Forest Service on identification of trees that need to be removed. We have paid Simon beyond his caretaker duties for the additional work at a rate of \$10 per hour. To this point, we have been able to cover the additional compensation for Simon's extra tree cutting duties with donations. I expect we will be able to keep this project on track without an additional request to Presbytery.

I will be exploring the possibility of adding a tree seedling planting program to our summer camp schedule so we can begin to renew the forest. We will work with the Forest Service to gain their approval and support. This would be a great way to get our campers directly involved in the stewardship of our environment.