

**Camping and Youth Report  
Yellowstone Presbytery Meeting  
March 2-3, 2012**

Winter Retreat

- Dates: February 24-26, 2012
- Location: Rockhaven Camp and Retreat Center
- Speakers: George Goodrich, Curt Kochner, Traci Ruschetti
- Activities: Snowshoeing and sledding on Saturday/ Skiing on Sunday at Bridger Bowl  
Carol Berg will provide snowshoes and possibly cross country skis.
- Brochure and promotion: Save the Date info out before Christmas by email  
Brochure and registration forms sent out in early January
- Expected Attendance: 30 young people and adult leaders have registered as of 2/15

Westminster Spires

- Dates of camps for 2012:
  - Staff Training: July 5-7
  - Elementary Camp: July 8-12 (Students entering 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades)
  - Junior High Camp: July 15-20 (Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades)
  - Senior High Camp: July 22-27 (Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades)
  - College Weekend: July 27-29 (New event)
- Other dates: for 2012:
  - Revamp the Camp: June 15-17
  - Wedding: August 17-19
  - Wedding: September 14-16
  - Possible Wedding: August 3-5
  - St. Andrew Highland Holy Days: September 7-9
- Staffing for Summer Camps:
  - George Goodrich: Training/Elementary Camp/ Senior High Camp/ College Weekend
  - Curt Kochner: All camps as camp manager
  - Curt to contact David Andrew IV on Junior High Camp leadership
  - Registration forms and Staff Applications are available online for 2012 Camp Season
- Camp Fees: Maintain same rates as 2011
  - Elementary Camp: \$210
  - Junior High: \$235
  - Senior High: \$260
  - College Weekend: TBD
- Scholarship Fund Raising:

We offered \$1,003 in scholarships from the Yellowstone Presbytery Scholarship Fund in 2011. This fund has been depleted. First Presbyterian Billings has made a generous donation of \$500 to the Westminster Spires camping program. This contribution has been added to the Scholarship Fund.
- Curriculum: We have ordered a copy of the new camp curriculum from Chalice Press for 2012. This is titled Secrets of the Kingdom The Parables of Jesus. I have attached a brief overview of the daily "Discoveries".
- PCCCA Membership: We have renewed our membership in PCCCA for 2012. (\$275)

### Additional Camps

-George and Curt will plan a College Weekend for July 27-29. This will be on the weekend following the end of Senior High Camp.

### Well-water supply:

Most of the work on the well connection to the water supply system has been completed. Many thanks to Chuck Beck for taking leadership of this project and the good weather in November and December! A gift of \$3,000 was made in early January to help cover the costs of this project. Remaining costs are expected to be minimal.

### General Notes

As we have noted several times in the past, our Youth Retreats and Summer Camp Program at Westminster Spires would not be possible if we did not have generous volunteer support and leadership of people from throughout Yellowstone Presbytery. If you know anyone that would be interested in serving as a part of the leadership for retreats or camps for any period of time, please contact Curt Kochner or George Goodrich. We will be hiring college students as counselors and a few high school students as Counselors-in-Training. Let us know if you know people that would be interested in any of the camp staff positions.

Westminster Spires operates on a minimal budget. At this point our primary financial needs are in the areas of facilities and camp scholarships. Our refrigerator is ancient, and when it finally gives out, we expect replacement costs to be around \$3,000. The camp is on leased Forest Service land, and we are experiencing significant loss of large trees due to beetle infestation. Although we can utilize volunteer labor to clear smaller trees and brush, we will need to hire professionals at some point to cut down the larger trees that are near buildings and power lines.

Please contact Curt Kochner at [ckochner@mcn.net](mailto:ckochner@mcn.net) or by phone at 406-259-7368 (home) or 406-672-4547 (cell) if you have questions, suggestions or comments about the Camping and Youth Committee.

### **Secrets of the Kingdom**

#### **The Parables of Jesus**

Curriculum themes for 2012

#### Discovery 1- Mark 4: 1-9, 13-20

##### We Are the Soil

Campers hear the parable of the sower and consider how open we are to receive and respond to God's Word at camp.

#### Discovery 2- Luke 11: 5-10

##### We Can Ask Boldly

Campers hear the parable of a friend in need and discover that when we earnestly seek love and grace from God we will receive. Likewise, we are called to provide love and grace to others.

#### Discovery 3- Matthew 20: 1-6

##### God is Generous

Campers explore the parable of the workers in the vineyard and discover that God's grace is not determined by anything we do, but through God's love alone.

Discovery 4- Luke 15: 1-10

God Treasures Us

Campers explore the parables of the lost sheep and lost coin and discover that no matter how far we have strayed God always cares for us and will always look for us because every one of us is precious to God.

Discovery 5- Matthew 25: 31-46

Jesus Is in the "Least of These"

Campers hear the parable of the sheep and the goats and will consider ways we can open our eyes to the needs of the world and respond to them with compassion and generosity.

Discovery 6- Matthew 13: 31-35

God Plants Us in the World

Campers hear the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast and learn that God can use our smallest acts to grow the kingdom.