

**Camping and Youth Committee Report
Yellowstone Presbytery Meeting
May 14-15, 2012**

Winter Retreat

We had 24 youth and 7 adult leaders participate in the Winter Retreat at Rockhaven Camp on February 24-26. This was a great retreat with talks by Curt Kochner, Traci Ruschetti and George Goodrich, sledding and indoor games on Saturday and skiing at Bridger Bowl on Sunday. Many thanks to Jody McDevitt for coordinating the promotion, registration and logistics for the weekend!

Westminster Spires

Planning for the Summer 2012 season is underway. Staffing is in place at all levels. We were very happy to receive twelve applications for counselor and counselor in training (CIT) positions with applications from five different churches. We will be hiring five counselors and five CIT's for this camp season, and we see this as a very positive opportunity to continue the development of leadership for the future. This will stretch our staffing budget, but we believe the investment will help us continue the growth of youth ministry in Yellowstone Presbytery. Camp registration information is available on the Yellowstone Presbytery website.

Westminster Spires Facilities

Well and Water Supply: We will finalize installation of the well and water system in May. Most of the major installation work has been completed. Last steps are actual connection to the existing water supply, covering trenches, installation of chlorination system and receiving approvals for water quality.

Dead Trees: The forest around the camp has experienced an infestation of spruce beetles over the past several years which have killed many trees in the valley. We are working closely with the Forest Service office in Red Lodge to remove dead trees that are threats to buildings and to the health of the forest on the camp property. The Forest Service has provided professional resources to remove eight trees that are near buildings. In addition, they have identified thirty additional trees for removal.

Our caretaker, Simon Hill, has experience in working with the Forest Service, and he is coordinating the removal of these additional dead trees. Much of this work will be completed during the month of May. We will compensate Simon for the additional work since this is beyond the scope of his caretaker responsibilities. Moving branches from felled trees to slash piles will be a project for volunteers helping with our Revamp the Camp weekend.

Revamp the Camp

We will open camp on June 15-17 with our annual Revamp the Camp weekend. Cleaning of buildings will be a priority and brush removal will be a major focus this year. George Goodrich will join us this year and lead a couple Bible study sessions on Saturday and a time of worship on Sunday. This will be a very nice addition to our schedule. We had 25 people attend this weekend last year, and we expect a large group again this year.