

LEADERSHIP CABINET
Presbytery of Yellowstone
Report to Presbytery November 2015

2015 Goals
Improve communication within and beyond the presbytery
Focus on spiritual nurture of pastors and leaders
Build community in the presbytery
Make and carry out staff transition decisions (stated clerk)

A BIG THANK YOU to these Task Groups whose jobs are completed:

1. Search Committee for Stated Clerk

Neva Rathbun (chair), Dan Holland, Debbie Funke, Terry Johnson

This task group successfully identified a new Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Yellowstone, Ruling Elder Debbie Blackburn of the Manhattan Presbyterian Church. RE Ron Hanson will complete his work Dec. 31, 2015 and Debbie will begin her new role on Jan. 1, 2016. This was voted on by the Presbytery in a special meeting by conference call on Sept. 16, 2015.

2. Presbytery Sunday – first annual (?) was October 11, 2015

Teresa Kendall (chair), Dan Holland, Kristin Willett, Mary Davis, Mike Ferguson

These Task Groups continue:

3. Re view Team – hearing feedback from presbytery on new structure

Debbie Blackburn, David Andrew, Jim Tarr, Gayle Holland

4. Glacier-Yellowstone Covenant –Will continue discussions as per covenant.

Jody McDevitt, Debbie Blackburn, Teresa Kendall, George Goodrich

5. New Worshipping Communities Task Group

Jack Bell (chair), Jed Cauffman, Dan Krebill, Mary Davis, George Goodrich

And furthering our communication within the presbytery,

6. Many thanks to Susan Thomas for her work compiling and sending out **Yellowstone Currents!**
If you are not receiving this monthly e-newsletter, contact susan.seibert@yellowstonepcusa.org.

Actions taken by the Leadership Cabinet on behalf of the presbytery, since June

1. Approved sale of the Mildred Church for \$3500. Sale is now finalized.
2. Approved the transfer of monies received from the sale of the presbytery's portion of the Christus Collegium to the Higher Education Grant Fund. Amount of transfer - \$5760. Expected future revenue approximately \$2000/year.
3. Approved Teaching Elder JP Carlson as the Yellowstone Presbytery representative on the board of Intermountain.
4. Forwarded \$4800 received for Vanuatu Cyclone Relief to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. This is in addition to the \$5000 grant from the presbytery and \$2000 from FPC Bozeman which was sent earlier in the year, making a total of **\$11,800**. Thank you to all who contributed!!!

5. Received reports from 3 higher education ministries, from Pastoral Ministry Team, and from Camping and Youth Ministry Team.
6. Received correspondence from other governing bodies. A note of support was sent to New Covenant Presbytery, affirming support for a balanced approach to responses to climate change.
7. Set presbytery meeting dates for 2016:
Fri-Sat, March 4-5 Billings, First Presbyterian Church
Fri-Sat, June 10-11 Miles City
Fri-Sat, Nov 4-5 (west)
8. Reviewed the budget for 2016.

Decisions requiring action from the presbytery

1. Approval of per capita of \$45 for 2016.
2. Approval of presbytery's 2016 Administrative and Program Budgets

Next presbytery meeting:

March 4-5, at Billings First

**Presby Cats Collegiate Ministry at Montana State University
First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman, Montana
Update for the Leadership Cabinet - September 29, 2015**

The Presby Cats collegiate ministry began its 4th year in August. After promoting Presby Cats at the summer freshman orientation events as well as at the Catapalooza semester kick off event, we have enjoyed the participation of 20 new students this fall in at least one event. Of these, 13 have become part of our ongoing weekly events of Sunday morning worship with First Presbyterian Church or in our weekly luncheon, fellowship and Bible study meetings. Thirteen continuing students remain a regular part of our fellowship.

The centerpiece of our ministry is our weekly gatherings where a meal is provided by a church member after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday. After eating, we play a game before our Bible study. This fall's Bible study theme is "God's forgiveness."



In addition to our weekly gatherings on Sunday, we have already had a number of other events, including a movie night, 9/11 commemorative service and dinner, and a fall retreat at Rockhaven. Upcoming events yet this semester include a murder mystery dinner and party, a couple more movie nights, a night at the hot springs, the leading of worship at First Presbyterian Church on November 22, and a Christmas party at the end of the semester.

Our upcoming spring break mission/study trip to the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland continues to generate a lot of interest, energy and enthusiasm. On October 4, students will be given the details of this trip. They'll be asked to commit to the trip in early November. Because the actual cost of this trip approximately \$2,500 per participant, and because each person is being asked to contribute \$550 toward that cost, there is a lot of fund raising that is already taking place to make up the difference. One of the most successful projects is our Rent-a-Cat service where students will help someone with just about anything they need in exchange for a donation to the mission/study trip fund. Grant funding requests will also be submitted to the Presbytery of Yellowstone and to First Presbyterian Church.

One interesting spin-off of last year's mission/study trip was the invitation by the First Presbyterian Church in Butte to send a group of students to lead worship and share about last spring's trip. A group of 5 students did just that on September 27. They were well received. The Butte church had provided a large financial donation to the cost of the trip.



The leadership team for Presby Cats is a group of 5 students who work closely with me in planning and carrying out the Presby Cats program. It is a blessing to work with them as they provide leadership within the church.

Many thanks to the Presbytery of Yellowstone for this support of this ministry that is carried out on behalf of the presbytery by First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman.

Dan Krebill, co-pastor

United Campus Ministry at MSU Billings
Fall 2015 Report by Rob Kirby

The new semester has started and we have seen a lot of new faces at our first few programs of the year. Starting in August a group of UCM students started meeting at Off the Leaf on Sunday evenings about twice a month for tea. The cost was negligible and it was good for some of the student to connect through the summer.



Welcome Week

We took a group of 24 students on a Red Lodge hiking and shopping trip (low water forced us to cancel rafting). They spent some time up the West Fork hiking and then went to town for an art show and general shopping. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the students were new international students. On Tuesday we connected with new students as we tabled at the campus wide BBQ. On Wednesday we had our first fellowship night with 10 students including a number of new faces. Thursday's International Coffee was well attended with about 20 students from 9 countries. The Sunday church visit unfortunately was a complete flop as no students showed.

Upcoming Events

I am excited about our new outreach to Non Traditional students that will meet on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2pm. It is a very underserved demographic that has some very clear needs. I am hopeful that this NonTrad coffee hour will be well received and the students will take ownership of this program. The international ministry is off to a great start with both a lot of students and a lot of energy.

Weekly activities this semester will include:

- Sunday Morning Flavors of Faith 10ish
- Monday Hiking and Rest on the Rim 8:10am
- Tuesday Famous Parables Bible Study 10:30am
- Tuesday OUT student group 6pm
- Wednesday NonTrad Coffee hour 12:30
- Wednesday Fellowship 8:30p
- Thursday International Coffee 4pm

Some other activities I have been or will be involved in this semester include an Residence Assistant Training, Interfaith Council at MSUB, Phoenix Center, Not In Our Town, Billings Faith Connect, Billings Clergy Association, Mayor's Committee on Homelessness, Rainbow Coffeehouse, and Denominational Meetings.

Some upcoming events and projects at UCM include:

- Sept 23rd Hot Dogs and Smores in the Park 8:30pm
- Oct 6th Dessert at the golf course
- Hiking at Zimmerman Trail
- Retreat at Eagle Rock and Hiking at Four Dances
- Tumbleweed Art Show
- Corn Maze/Haunted House
- Jan 9th - 17th Winter Service Trip to San Francisco

Some events and typical attendance numbers. (Low/Typical/High)

Regularly Scheduled

Flavors of Faith Sun Worship (0/0)

International Coffee (20/20/20)

Famous Stories Study (3/3/3)

Food, Fun and Faith (10/10/10)

OUT Student Group (8/8/8)

Annual

Red Lodge Hiking (24)

Typical Total Weekly Program 41

Typical Weekly Meaningful Contacts 52

Fall 2015 Report to Presbytery
Kim Woeste, Rocky Mountain College

The mission of the Chaplain and Office of Spiritual Life at Rocky Mountain College is to provide for the spiritual growth and well-being of the College community. Objectives include addressing the diverse spiritual needs of the College community, supporting the exploration and practice of faith, and representing Rocky Mountain College's denominational heritage. Goals include:

- Offering presence and programs that address students as whole persons.
 - Support the integration of faith with academic pursuits.
 - Create opportunities to put faith into action.
 - Build a supportive spiritual community.
 - Enable students to take initiative for spiritual growth and programming.
- Serving as a spiritual resource for the College community.
 - Provide spiritual support for the College community.
 - Support collaborative institutional programming.
 - Provide oversight for spiritual activity on campus.
 - Celebrate the church-related heritage of Rocky Mountain College.
- Strengthening and maintaining denominational relationships.
 - Meet denominational obligations and expectations.
 - Inform denominational partners about the College & the ministry of the chaplain.
 - Enhance partnerships between the College and the Billings community.
 - Link local church resources to the needs of the College community.

During the past year I've continued to establish spiritual life programming. It's been my goal to provide a consistent weekly presence as well as monthly and occasional special opportunities. This semester, these include:

- Offering the Cookie Table every Monday.
- Making PBJ sandwiches for the HUB every Tuesday.
- Meeting with "Lunch Out Loud" every Wednesday. This student-led group gathers during lunch to discuss and plan service projects. They have partnerships with the HUB, Special Olympics, and Eagle Mount, and volunteer regularly with other agencies and organizations.
- Meeting with a small group for Bible Study every Thursday afternoon.
- Supporting weekly GSA meetings.

- Supporting the integration of faith with academic pursuits, including "Coffee and Conversation" gatherings every other Tuesday, planned in collaboration with Student Activities. We encourage conversations about issues that matter.
- Creating opportunities for students to put faith into action, including the partnerships listed above and additional projects like volunteering at Saturday Live, planning the "Halloween for Hunger" food drive, assisting with set up for the Veterans Stand Down...

- Building a supportive spiritual community, including monthly “Faith and Fun” activities on the 4th Thursday, usually involving discussion, games, arts and crafts, food, conversation and community, monthly chapel services, and visits to diverse churches/worshipping communities...
- Supporting collaborative institutional programming, including the “Stand Up RMC” group – meeting and planning, staffing the event booth, offering programming around student wellness initiatives each week.
- Celebrating the church-related heritage, including RMC events – Black Tie Blue Jeans, Yule Log, Lessons and Carols, Candlelight Dinner, Baccalaureate and Commencement...
- Strengthening and maintaining denominational relationships, including meeting with clergy, sending newsletter/bulletin updates, and an upcoming mailing project

Some additional things worth noting:

- Helped with Student Leadership Summit, New Student Orientation.
- Updated the technology and sound system in the Chapel.
- Teaching Campus Compass classes.
- Working with Work Study students to encourage student initiative for programming.
- Planning a “Community Conversations” Interfaith forum featuring students, originally scheduled for October 1st and now (hopefully) rescheduled for October 22nd.
- Working with the Debate Team and the Office of Community Involvement to plan a collaborative community forum for Spring semester.
- Working on plans for a Spring Break or May Service Trip in 2016
- Continuing to work on the puzzle of effective communication with denominations, local churches, national events and regional gatherings....