

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YELLOWSTONE'S
HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTRY
. March '09**

News Items of interest from the Higher Education Committee of Yellowstone Presbytery

— It is a pleasure to welcome The Rev. Kristi Foster to the Higher Education ministry of Yellowstone Presbytery as she begins her work as Chaplain of Rocky Mountain College in Billings. Rocky Mountain College, the only *Protestant Church Related* college or university in Montana, was established in the 1940s in Billings with the merger three predecessor institutions from each of the three denominations: Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational (United Church of Christ) We eagerly anticipate having our May 16, 17 Presbytery meeting at Rocky.

—Paul Krebill, Higher Ed Moderator

ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE in Billings.

What's Happening at Rocky Mountain College:

This has been a year of building and assessment at Rocky. Chapel is back on the weekly schedule on Tuesday mornings, with a daily meditation time on other weekday mornings. Student "field trips" to community churches affiliated with Rocky (PCUSA, UMC, & UCC) started in January and will continue on into next year. New student groups are forming this year--initiated by students and run almost entirely by students. We hope to have our Interfaith Council up and running this semester to help to coordinate all the activities by these new groups as well as the groups who have been around for awhile. Our first mission trip (still in the planning stages) will be Fall Break '09, with students traveling over a long weekend to Cody, WY to work with the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

---Kristi Foster, Chaplain

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY– BILLINGS.

United Campus Ministry has been busy already Spring semester providing many opportunities for persons on the MSU Billings campus to explore and live out the Christian faith.

To begin with, United Campus Ministry was a main partner with activities for MLK Day and the "Power of One" week, helping to plan activities that celebrated diversity, service and the legacy of MLK on the MSU Billings campus. Special events included the MLK Belling Ceremony, an interactive "Underground Railroad" simulation, a showing of the "I Have a Dream" Rally and a re-enactment of the march across campus, and service projects at the Women and Family Shelter and Montana Rescue Mission.

In addition, a variety of weekly gatherings have provided an opportunity for students to grow in faith. Each Monday we meet to make PBJ sandwiches for the HUB. We have a Bible Study each Tuesday, a small group discipleship and prayer gathering each Wednesday, and an evening "Food Fun Faith" each Thursday. Students have been attending worship at a different church each Sunday, including Holy Cross Episcopal, St. Pious Catholic Church, Temple Beth Aaron, and even St. Andrew and 1st Presbyterian.

As the semester continues, we are looking forward to hosting another "God Debate", assisting the God's Kids Club at First English Lutheran with Easter Eggs, helping with a World Water Day conference on campus, and participating in Habitat for Humanity's Box Town. I also look forward to numerous opportunities to hang out with students, to participate meaningfully with life on campus, and to be present and available for crisis assistance, friendly conversation and spiritual dialogue, as is so much a part of what I do from day to day.

In addition to my work with campus ministry, I also work as staff advisor for two student clubs. This provides many opportunities for students to serve others and put faith into action. I have been assisting with plans for a mission trip to El Salvador with Circle K Service Organization and a Collegiate Challenge Build Trip to Denver with Habitat for Humanity. Similarly, Circle K plans service projects each month and Habitat for Humanity works closely with the local affiliate, helping with build days, projects at the ReStore, and other efforts to advocate for safe, affordable housing.

In order to continue to provide funding for the important work of ministry at MSU Billings, United Campus Ministry is hosting a benefit event at the historic Babcock Theater on the night of Saturday, March 14th. The evening will include a variety of music performed by the Celtic band "Banish Misfortune" and by the Midlife Chryslers, with opportunities for the audience to enjoy dancing and a limerick contest. Tickets are \$15. More event information can be found online at: www.msubillings.edu/ucm

—Rev. Kim Woeste, United Campus Ministry

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY in Bozeman.

Fostering an ecumenical spirit among the four campus ministries at The Christus Collegium is the most significant accomplishment of the PMMSU (Presbyterian Mission at MSU). Collaboration on the mid-week dinner fellowship and Sunday evening worship service has been facilitated by our bi-weekly team luncheons. It is at these luncheons that ideas for new ministries often surface.

Less obvious but no less important is the continuing effort to establish a meaningful connection between the university and religious communities. There is reason to be encouraged regarding an openness to collaborative efforts addressing the spiritual and behavioral needs of students. The work of developing relationships with faculty and staff in Health and Human Services and Student Health Promotion is beginning to pay dividends. A joint meeting of university and campus ministry personnel is on the drawing board.

I would be remiss in not saying that being a member of the only denomination of the four at Christus Collegium that does not provide trained personnel for campus ministry is discouraging.

—Jerry Crabs, volunteer coordinator of

PMMSU

From the Higher Ed Committee: Sessions and Pastors, or congregational member are invited to send the names of their students attending one of our Montana schools to the respective e-mail address:

MSU-Billings: kwoeste@msubillings.edu
RMC-Billings: kristi.foster@rocky.edu
MSU-Bozeman: jcrabs126@gmail.com
Miles City: smckay@midrivers.com
Butte: church@bigskyhsd.com
Dillon: fpcdillon@bmt.net
UM-Missoula firstpres@fpcmissoula.org

News from our ministries in any of the college towns is always welcomed --pkrebill@mcn.net

Committee on Vocations

On January 15, 2009 the Committee on Vocations met at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church to develop their yearly goals. They are as follows: 1. Provide support and input to the Visioning of the Presbytery of Yellowstone in relationship to the processes for CLP training and Ministry of the Word Sacrament. 2. Explore various Inquirers/Candidates process models from other presbyteries 3. Begin drafting an Inquirer/Candidate handbook and guidelines, appropriate for Yellowstone Presbytery and in compliance with the Book of Order.

In addition, the committee recommends sending as 2009 Standard Ordination Exam Readers Elder Jim Tarr (primary reader)- St. Andrew Presbyterian Church and Rev. Susan Thomas (alternate) – St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. The Final Assessment was completed for Candidate Sally Ralston and the committee certified her to be ready for examination pending a call. Upon her request, we met with Teresa Kennedy, a Commissioned Lay Pastor in Training. She will remain in the Seeker phase of the process.

ST TIMOTHY STANDING COMMITTEE

Ed said that receipts from the Presbytery from Funds 1 & 2 had been received in a timely fashion this year. Someone asked about the cost to open and close the chapel. The answer was approximately \$600/mo.

Diana reported on her activities to secure the pastor for next summer. She has compiled a list of nine ministers, most of whom she has contacted. They are all highly thought of in the Presbyterian ministerial community. The committee felt that it would be best to have just one minister for the summer if possible. Among other reasons this would reduce costs significantly and administrative workload. Diana will be contacting her list to see whether the ministers can stay for the full summer. Bill Swanson suggested that Bruce Larson be considered. Diana will check into this.

The salary for the summer pastor remains at \$300/Sunday plus use of the manse.

Diana said that he has a commitment from Karen Herrin to be our organist for June and August. After some discussion about who we could get for July, it was decided that Diana should contact Marcia McLane to see if she would be available.

Diana and her music committee have five concerts lined up for this summer:

- 6/28 Eden Atwood
- 7/12 Muir and Guests
- 7/26 Jim Salstrom
- 8/9 Karen Herrin/Ruth Rotundi/Sutton Smith
- 8/23 Steve Hesta/Barbara Blegen

MilAnn gave her Buildings and Grounds report. The front porch at the manse is shifting away from the building and will need some remedial work. She suggested that when we have our clean-up day in the spring that we also clean up the grounds and the outside of the manse.

MilAnn said that ARCO told her they cannot begin work on our new access road and the parking lot until Southern Cross LLC completes the new county road to the north of the chapel. She will be coordinating all of this when construction resumes next spring. Also, MilAnn will work with Northwestern to see that the transformer in front of the Superintendents' house is relocated to it's originally intended spot behind the buildings.

Bill Montgomery will be back next summer. Judy Taylor and Avalee Thomas will be custodians.

Diana said that posters will be printed in Butte to advertise the Chapel and its summer ministry. They will be posted throughout the area. Anyone with ideas about where they should go up should let Diana know or get some posters and put them up.

Art gave the nominating committee report. The committee consisted of Cal Boyle, Rusty Craig, Ed Leipheimer and Art Neill.

Presbyterian Members

- 2009 Cal Boyle, Moderator
- Rev. Warren S. Craig
- Art Neill, Secretary

2010 Jan Christiansen
Jane Baker
Rev. Bill Swanson
2011 Ed Leipheimer, Vice Moderator
Barbara Beardslee
Jim Babcock

Ecumenical Members

R. D. Corette
Ed Eck
Ed Forwood, Treasurer

Family Members

Diana Neely
Bowman Neely

St Timothy Management Team

Cal Boyle
Ed Forwood
Art Neill
Ron Hanson
Rev. Dick McNeely
Rev. Rusty Craig (Replacing Jean Johnson)
Ted Williams (Resource Person)

It was moved, seconded and passed that these committee members all be approved and recommended to Presbytery. (Management Team Presbytery members are nominated and approved by Presbytery, not St T's standing committee.) Rusty will represent Cal at the Presbytery Council meeting and pass all of these approved recommendations on to them.

In the future we must have our nomination process completed and approved at our September meeting.

Finally, Cal appointed the following subcommittee chairs:

Nominating--- Cal Boyle
Personnel--- Cal Boyle
Program--- Diana Neely
Buildings & Grounds--- MilAnn Combs
Finance & Investing--- Ed Leipheimer
Publicity--- Diana, MilAnn and Cal
Long Range Planning--- Art Neill

Subcommittee chairs will have the responsibility to select the members of their subcommittees.

Next year's meeting schedule was set as follows:

13Jan2009 6pm @ Anaconda Church
31May2009 1pm @ Chapel—Grounds clean up and business meeting
16Sep2009 6pm @ Chapel

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PRESBYTERY OF YELLOWSTONE

Future Events of PW and Others. Mark your calendars.

Presbyterian Women of Presbytery of Yellowstone Spring Gathering

WHO: All women who worship with PC(USA) congregations - YOU

WHEN: Friday, 1:00 P.M. to Saturday, Noon, May 1 and 2, 2009

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church
Bozeman, Montana

SPEAKERS: Wanda Beauman, Moderator of Presbyterian Women-Synod of the
Rocky Mountains

Rev. Neva Rathbun - Global Exchange Presentation

More information to come!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHURCHWIDE GATHERING

WHO: YOU

WHEN: July 11-15, 2009

WHERE: Kentucky International Convention Center
Louisville, Kentucky

THEME: God Will Do Wonders Among You

EARLY REGISTRATION: Before May 15, 2009 Save \$50.00

Late Registration: On or after May 15, 2009

10 reasons to attend the PW Churchwide Gathering

1. To nurture your faith
2. To be in community with other women
3. To broaden your PW involvement
4. To gather resources and learn skills as a PW Leader
5. To learn about current issues in the church and the world
6. To learn about missions and mission opportunities
7. To be part of an exciting churchwide event
8. To participate in the business meeting as a voting representative
9. To meet international participants
10. To participate in Bible Study

To register online, visit www.pcusa.org/pwgathering

BOUNDARY/ETHICS TRAINING - Presbyterian Church, Springhill, MT & First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman, MT. Mandatory for Clergy and CLPs

Must attend all three sessions to receive certificate.

Encourage your pastor and others to attend.

Tuesday, March 3, 2009, two sessions - 1:30 - 3:30 P.M. & 4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.