

Yellowstone Currents
A Newsletter of Yellowstone Presbytery
February 2018

Almost ten years ago, Norway's public broadcast TV station, NRK, pioneered the concept of "Slow TV." The first Slow TV broadcast was of a seven-hour train ride from Bergen to Oslo. The response was overwhelming! Since then, NRK has broadcast more Slow TV, including reindeer migration and knitting on Norway's National Knitting Night. If you want a taste of Slow TV, watch a broadcast at nrk.no/presse/slow-tv-1.12057032 or just google "Slow TV."

C. Christopher Smith, who wrote *Reading for the Common Good*, advocates "slow reading", reading meditatively and contemplatively. It sounds like our "Dwelling in the Word", which we have practiced at committee and presbytery meetings.

Scripture, of course, lends itself so well to slow reading! Other books are best read in a lingering fashion as well. I have been reading Dallas Willard's *The Divine Conspiracy* for weeks, underlining and pondering. It's such a rich book about the Sermon on the Mount and discipleship. Each page is deep with wisdom.

So, that's my slow reading. How about you? Is there something you are reading over time? If you feel like sharing, please email me (ckochner@mcn.net) and we can share our resources with one another.

Winter Youth Retreat February 23-25

The Yellowstone Presbytery Winter Youth Retreat will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church, Billings from February 23-25. The retreat begins Friday evening at 6:30 with fellowship and games. Skiing at Red Lodge Mountain is the highlight for Saturday. Sunday activities will include worship with the First Presbyterian congregation. The retreat ends after lunch on Sunday.

Each church has been sent information and registration forms and they are available on the presbytery website (www.yellowstonepcusa.org) as well.

For more information about the Winter Youth Retreat contact:
Dave Thompson, Pastor Email: pastordave@fpcbillings.org
First Presbyterian Billings Phone: 406-252-3434
2420 13th Street West Cell: 406-696-4913
Billings, MT 59102

Zimbabwe Update



Last year (2017) FPC-Stanford and FPC-Billings worked together in a Mission Project to aid the Makokoba Presbyterian Church in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. We sent them \$5,000 to be used for a children's education fund, as education is not free in Zimbabwe. We also collected sewing machines and cloth for them to create a sewing room at the church, allowing church members to sew clothing items for resale and keep the profits. I recently received several photos showing some of the women working in their sewing room and some of the products produced as well as some of the profits being divided up. Here in Stanford we so enjoyed seeing what had been a sewing machine owned (but not used for several years) by our "Sharon Nelson" being used to create income for church members on the other side of the world.

Peace & Blessings
Pastor Jack Bell
FPC Stanford

Great Ideas!

First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman celebrated "Piety Sunday" a few weeks ago. Piety Sunday, the vision of church member Rachel Minter, has become a tradition in Bozeman. Pies are baked and donated for fellowship time between services. The pie eaters give a donation which goes to the work of the Deacons. The effort not only support the work of the deacons, but brings together worship groups from both services.

Let us know creative ideas from your church!

Yellowstone Presbytery Clusters

Our clusters typically meet each month. If you have not been a part of a cluster and would like to explore the idea of joining in, please contact one of the following coordinators.

Miles City Cluster - Neva Rathbun (msrev@midrivers.com)
Billings Cluster – Dave Thompson (pastordave@fpcbillings.org)
Butte Cluster - Teresa Kendall (teresakendall@mac.com)
White Sulphur Cluster - Debbie Funke (funkepastor@yahoo.com)

Presbytery Meetings for 2018:

March 2 – 3 St. Andrew Presbyterian, Billings
May 4 – 5 Harlowton Federated Church, Harlowton
Nov. 2 – 3 TBA

Upcoming Opportunities:

February 23-25	Winter Youth Retreat	FPC Billings
March 2 -3	Presbytery Meeting	St. Andrew, Billings

Washington Island Forum Continuing Ed Opportunity

We have been asked to publicize the Washington Island Forum which will be held June 25 - 29, 2018. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, the Forum consists of worship, workshops, discussion, and contemplation in an ecumenical retreat setting on Washington Island, just north of Door County Wisconsin.

This year's presenter is Anna Carter Florence and the theme is "Reading the Verbs: Finding the Script in the Scripture". Florence is Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). More information can be found at www.wichurches.org/calendar/event-list/2018-washington-island-forum-2.

Keeping one another in prayer:

Please pray for our churches in transition as they seek new pastoral leadership and for all those who have lost loved ones this last year. At this time we particularly remember Susan Barnes and her family in our prayers after the recent death of Susan's mother.

Remember our Round of Prayer as we keep our churches, ministries, and leaders in prayer:

Sunday, Feb. 4 Rev. Dick Davis, Pastor, Community Presbyterian Church in Whitlash, MT

Sunday, Feb. 11 First Presbyterian Church Wolf Point and Jeff Harada,
Lay Person in Ministerial Service, Dakota Presbytery

Sunday, Feb. 18 Church of the Big Hole, Wise River and Pastor Mary Davis
First Presbyterian Church, Anaconda and Veva Larson, CRE

Sunday, Feb. 25 Debbie Blackburn, Stated Clerk, Yellowstone Presbytery.

Please send news and announcements to Susan Thomas at ckochner@mcn.net.