

**Yellowstone Currents**  
**A Newsletter of Yellowstone Presbytery**  
**January 2018**

**A Prayer for the New Year**

O God,  
at the beginning of a division of time which we call years,  
we rejoice to worship a God to whom time does not apply.  
Thou art the same, yesterday, today, and forever.  
Thou knowest the end from the beginning,  
and from ancient times the things which are not yet done.  
Because Thou are not only timeless in Thy being,  
but are merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and plenteous in mercy,  
we would slip our hands into Thine  
and set forth fearlessly, joyously,  
upon the unknown and untrodden path of the New Year.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

from *Prayers for All Occasions* by Stuart R. Oglesby, published by John Knox Press in 1940.  
Rev. Oglesby was the pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

**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](http://www.yellowstonepcusa.org)) as well.

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

## Ministry Training Opportunity and Lay Leader Training Hopes

The ELCA Montana Synod is leading a program to train lay leaders for pastoral ministry leadership. This is an opportunity for those who are interested in exploring ways to be pastoral leaders in their congregations or in becoming Commissioned Ruling Elders. Rev. Katie Emery, pastor in Terry, is integral to this program. They plan to have a next training retreat in April 2018. If you are interested in learning more speak with Rev. George Goodrich.

In addition, George and Kathy, with the Leadership Cabinet, are looking toward training more lay leaders/CRE's to lead churches in team formats so that no one is overburdened and many people can use their spiritual gifts. They are looking at programs and materials to adapt in the new year. A well-supported and equipped lay team can keep a church moving forward when it no longer can afford a pastor. For questions or information, or to dream together about what this might mean for Yellowstone Presbytery, please contact the presbytery office at 406-586-7706.

## 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](mailto:msrev@midrivers.com))  
Billings Cluster – Dave Thompson ([pastordave@fpcbillings.org](mailto:pastordave@fpcbillings.org))  
Butte Cluster - Teresa Kendall ([teresakendall@mac.com](mailto:teresakendall@mac.com))  
White Sulphur Cluster - Debbie Funke ([funkepastor@yahoo.com](mailto: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:

January 9	Leadership Committee Meeting	FPC Billings 10 a.m.
January 9	Billings Cluster	FPC Billings 10 a.m.
January 10	Miles City Cluster	FPC Miles City 10 a.m.
January 11	Pastoral Ministry Team Meeting	FPC Bozeman 10 a.m.
January 12	White Sulphur Springs Prayer Cluster	Federated Church, Harlowton 9:30 a.m.
January 12	St. Timothy's Chapel Board Meeting	FPC Anaconda 6:00 p.m.
January 15	Butte Cluster	FPC Butte 10 a.m.
February 23-25	Winter Youth Retreat	FPC Billings
March 2 -3	Presbytery Meeting	St. Andrew, Billings

**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.

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

**Sunday, January 7    First Presbyterian Church, Dillon and Pastor Stephen Weber**

**Sunday, January 14    Rev. JP Carlson, Pastor At-Large, Bozeman  
Rev. Roderick Blair, Honorably Retired, Dallas, Texas**

**Sunday, January 21    Susan Seibert, Yellowstone Presbytery Administrative Assistant  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

**Sunday, January 28    Rev. James Bell, Honorably Retired, Laurel**

Please send news and announcements to Susan Thomas at [ckochner@mcn.net](mailto:ckochner@mcn.net).