

**God's Presence in the Present – a reflection**

An Eastern Orthodox Priest once mentioned to a friend of mine the following on the power of living in the moment. “The ‘demons,’ knowing that God is only to be encountered in the here and how try their best to pull us away from the present moment. Their weapons: (1) regret or guilt, which pull us out of the present and into the past; and (2) fear and anxiety, which pull us into the future, seen through the lenses of fear and anxiety, “what if...?”. Remaining fully alive and awake to the present moment is, then, important in our spiritual practice – and in the present moment staying aware and attuned to God is essential, and is how and where we find and receive God's strength, wisdom, perspective, guidance and hope for dealing with both the past and the future.”

At this point in my journey, I find myself drawn to learning better to live in the moments God brings my way. These are God-appointments, God-touches in my life, with others, with myself, like God's encounter with Moses in the middle of an ordinary work day as a shepherd at the burning bush or Jesus listening, noticing and stopping as he walked the paths of Palestine. God bless you as you travel with God in the present – in God's presence!

Thanks to each of you for all you are doing in service of Christ and the People of God!

I welcome your thoughts on the above.... [ghgoodrich@aol.com](mailto:ghgoodrich@aol.com).

--- George

**Presbytery Recap**, May 15 and 16 and hosted by Kristi Foster, Dave Kimball and Rocky Mountain College. Our huge thanks to all who helped out! Some Presbytery actions and items of interest:

**Worship:** Kathy Goodrich led the opening worship based on Luke 9 and 10, listening to the Spirit to make God's word alive for where God is calling and sending us today, as foundational for discovering and discussing by the presbytery as we discern God vision and joining Christ in *his* mission. Zane Buxton preached (Acts the evening communion worship and endeavored to help us understand the times in which we live and minister, and called us to be faithful in our time. George Goodrich, opened the Saturday morning with a meditation on God seeking out the lost (Luke 19:1-10), which was followed by small group discussion on the topic. The offering was allocated to the Chaplain's ministry at Rocky, receiving almost \$500.

**God's vision for Yellowstone Presbytery -** the active portion of our discovering phase was completed as we responded to and discussed the Vision Team's summary of the year-long discovering phase. We reviewed where we are in our process which will take us through the discerning and embodying phases in the next several months. Please save the date for our Vision Retreat led by Marianne Rhebergen for presbytery to gather September 18-19. Details to come.

**The Wine and Cheese Reception:** The presbytery seems to be craving and engaging in deepening fellowship. After dinner we gathered again in Rocky's great hall for informal fellowship.

**The Mission Committee** is looking for the next church which would like to host the Zimbabwe shed. Thanks to St Andrew for starting us out. The Committee is working to get Zimbabwe and church partners to visit in Yellowstone in the fall.

**Committee on Ministry** presented four nominees for the Pastoral Team to interface with the Springhill Session and congregation which has activated the dismissal process. These are: Phil Maxwell (Chair), Jody McDevitt, Sally Ralston and Freeman McCall. The presbytery staff serve *ex officio*. The presbytery elected these and voted to extend a covenant of prayerful discernment to the Springhill session. Thanks to these willing to serve!

**The Future Task Force for Camp Westminster Spires** presented its final report. With short-term suggestions for upgrading and revitalizing the camp. Presbytery voted its approval with thanks. Great Job Brent!

**Camping and Youth:** The Camp Committee put on a skit reminding all of us to help them enlist campers for the summer. They have a tremendous curriculum! Please help recruit!

**Budget and Finance** reported that adjustments will continue to be made as necessary, particularly in the Program Budget. Moderator Debbie Blackburn distributed forms for written feed-back on how and why congregations give to the program budget. Please respond to Debbie if you have not already.

**Council:** The presbytery voted to distribute the packets and minutes by e-mail and from the website in the future. A big step. Those not having access to e-mail may make other arrangements through the office for regular mailings.

**The Vocations Committee** has been meeting with folks who are considering calls to pursue CLP ministry and Cathy McLean was supported in her attempt to qualify for admission to Dubuque Seminary's distance learning plan. Cathy is pursuing inquirer status with the Vocations Committee in the next month.

**The Presbyterian Foundation:** Skip Herbert reported for the Foundation the opportunities for Churches to build financial mission through the Foundation.

**Synod:** Zane Buxton reported that the Synod will hold the support funding to presbyteries in 2010 at the 2009 levels. Thanks to the Synod! Thanks to our commissioners who served this year: Dave Kimball, Mary sue Costello, Jed Cauffman and Mary Davis

**Co-General Presbyters' Report:** We lifted up the Vital Pastors catch-up retreat on June 19-20 at Goodriches home. And the coming second retreat of four, this one to be held at Glacier Camp, July 19-21.

**Moderator's Tone:** Susan Thomas opened the meeting asking during roll call that we all share something we are grateful for, starting us off on a positive note, and many highlighted good things springing up in the various churches. Thanks, Susan.

Invitation for you, for your congregation – **Thursdays @ noon Prayer for God's transforming work in and through congregations** in Yellowstone Presbytery, in the PCUSA, and in the church of Jesus Christ around the world.

**PRESBYTERY OF YELLOWSTONE**  
**Nominating Committee**  
**Action by Presbytery – 5/16/2009**

- 1.** Amendment of Nominating Committee “Administrative Functions”  
(Administrative Manual – page 2.12.1)  
See proposed amendment attached
- 2.** Elected Ted Williams to a one-year term on Synod Coordinating Council and Mike Gapay to a three-year term on the Synod Nominating Committee
- 3.** Elected Jody McDevitt to the Camping & Youth Committee (class of 2011 – filling unexpired term of John Dyce) and Jean Johnson to the Personnel Committee (class of 2011 – filling unexpired term of Chuck Dennison)
- 4.** Approved waiver of term limits for Cathy McLean (Camping & Youth) so she can continue to serve (class of 2012). She served 2005-2006 (filling unexpired term) and is serving (class of 2009)
- 5.** Approved waiver of term limits for Cal Boyle, Rusty Craig and Art Neill (St. Timothy's Chapel Committee) so they can continue to serve (class of 2012)
- 6.** Approved changing the procedure for selecting Elder Commissioner and Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly effective with the 2012 General Assembly. For the 2010 GA Colstrip will be invited to nominate an elder commissioner and Harlowton will be invited to nominate a YAD.

**Coming Events:**

**Vital Pastors Catch-up Retreat**, June 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>, Noon to Noon at George and Kathy's Home. It's not too late – please call! For info: Kathy, [kagoodrich@aol.com](mailto:kagoodrich@aol.com); or George, [ghgoodrich@aol.com](mailto:ghgoodrich@aol.com).

**Butte Pastors Cluster** meets at First, Butte on Wednesday, 5/27 at 10 AM. Rusty Craig facilitates, [rcraig@in-tch.com](mailto:rcraig@in-tch.com).

**Healthy Congregations** / Evangelism Conferences (and others) at the Big Tent in Atlanta, June 11-13. Thanks to Sally Ralston who will be going from CoM to the Healthy Ministry Conference. George will be attending the Evangelism Conference.

**Synod Staff Forum:** The EP's of the Synod are hosted in Yellowstone Presbytery, June 21-23. George coordinates this, [ghgoodrich@aol.com](mailto:ghgoodrich@aol.com).

**Higher Education Committee** meets on July 1 at 10 AM at St. Andrew. Paul Krebill moderates, [pkrebill@mcn.net](mailto:pkrebill@mcn.net).

**Westminster Spires Camp Dates:** Cathy McLean Moderates the Committee, [kurtcathymclean@bresnan.net](mailto:kurtcathymclean@bresnan.net).

Camp Staff Training begins July 6.

Elementary Camp begins July 13.

Middle School Camp begins July 20.

Senior High Camp begins July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Committee on Ministry** meets on August 7 in Billings. Phil Maxwell Moderates, [pemaxwell@bresnan.net](mailto:pemaxwell@bresnan.net).

**Presbytery Council** meets on August 14 in Billings. Council will not meet on June 12 as previously scheduled. Fran Babcock Moderates, [jkbfab@q.com](mailto:jkbfab@q.com).

### **Other News You Can Use:**

**Clergy Ethics and Boundary Training was offered to all Yellowstone Clergy and CLP's** in March, 2009 following the presbytery meeting. Credit for those attending is on file. Those who were not able to join us at that time should contact George Goodrich, [ghgoodrich@aol.com](mailto:ghgoodrich@aol.com), for clarification of requirements.

**Blog with us!** The Vision Coordinating Team is very interested in what you are thinking about the future and direction of the presbytery. Go to the website and click on the Vision Blog and you'll get right in.

**Continuing Ed Next Summer:** It's too late for this summer, but you might consider applying to the School for Pastors at Omaha Seminary in Hastings Nebraska, [www.omaha-sem-found.org](http://www.omaha-sem-found.org). This week-long event is hugely endowed. Check with Sherwood McKay for an experienced take on this event.

**Pastors, did your salary change this year?** Don't forget to register that change with the Board of Pensions. You can go to their website and select the salary change form, enr. 111, to access this form. Or call 1-800-773-7752.

**The Academy for Missional Preaching:** A unique opportunity for homiletic continuing education will be offered the Theology and Worship Unit in Seattle, June 28-July 3; in Allenspark, Co. August 9-14; and in Malibu, CA July 19-24. This event will be offered free to 75 pastors in the west over the next two years. For info: [teresa.stricklen@pcusa.org](mailto:teresa.stricklen@pcusa.org); or 1-888-728-7228, ext. 5022.

**Interim Ministry Training** offered by the Synod of Alaska, NW August 2-7, in the Seattle Area. Carol Schellenberger will be one of the faculty. For info: Alma-jean Marion, 1-206-448-6403; [ajmarion@synodnw.org](mailto:ajmarion@synodnw.org)

**The Annual APCE Conference for Christian Educators** will be held in Nashville, TN January 27-30. For info or to register: 1-866-338-7737; or [apcenet@aol.com](mailto:apcenet@aol.com).

**People in Our News:**

**Robert Shy graduated from college May 7! Congratulations Robert!**

**Leon Rathbun** had successful shoulder surgery in Billings last week. God be with you, Leon and Neva.