



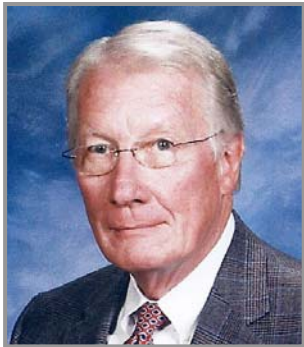
# White Rock Presbyterian Church

# Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

June 2012

## From the Pastor's Desk



I want to begin by making the following pronouncement...

It will not snow between now and the rest of spring and summer.

But I am not taking an oath on that...

In my type of work I have had the opportunity to live in at least three different climates: moderate, tropical, and desert. Moderate included a little bit of everything - rain in the spring and summer, snow in the late fall and winter, cold in January and February, and heat and humidity in the summer. Tropical included rain every summer afternoon at 3 PM sharp, and sun most of the rest of the time along with the need to change your shirt between leaving your house and getting to your car. Desert included HEAT from May to early July, followed by the "monsoon season" in August—not be compared or confused with the hurricane season in the tropics from June to November.

Living in the north of New Mexico at even a higher elevation is a marked change from living in the south. Living "up here" allows me to make jokes about snow. We hardly know what that is in El Paso. If and when it happens, it is usually gone by the end of the day, even on the mountains, where up here, it could last until Memorial Day?

I know I have a point to this conversation somewhere....

Perhaps it is this: in all the world, with all its differences in weather, geography, temperature and more, the one constant that always stays the same is the people who dwell within it. Now, that is not to say that everyone acts like a Presbyterian wherever I go, although you can find a lot in common with other Presbyterians no matter where you are, but I have found that we all want to be loved and be generally happy and useful in our lives. In our younger days we want to discover our purpose on this earth and hopefully find someone to share it with. In our older days we want to feel that we have accomplished something good to leave behind us and be thankful for the ones who have helped us along the way.

Life, from any vantage point, is simply an amazing experience. You can look around anywhere up here and see hundreds of millions of years of history right before your eyes. And you can turn around and look into the eyes of those whom you love and who love you back and see all the way into their souls and see the face of God.

Summer is coming. It gives us time to get away from the routine of life to discover, or rediscover, its hidden secrets. Good hunting. May you find something of what you are searching for.

DH

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*but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.*

*Isaiah 40:31*

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## WRPC Contact Information

White Rock Presbyterian Church is located at 310 Rover Boulevard, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544. The pastor, Dr. Harry Cole, can be reached at 443 253 3871 or by email at hcole3@aol.com. Our church office administrator, Gillian Erickson, can be contacted at the church office (672-3682) Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 AM - 12:00 noon. You may email her anytime at officemanager@wrpchurch.com.

Office Hours for Gillian Erickson  
Tuesdays and Thursdays only, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

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## Letter from the Editor



In our discussions about WRPC church history it became apparent that I am one of the “old timers.” By that I mean simply that I have been a participating member of our church longer than many others. This surprised me, not just because I’m still

struggling with the notion of being a senior citizen, but because there are a lot of other people who joined at about the same time that I did who are no longer members. To be sure, some have passed on and others have retired and moved away, but there are many who are still around but are no longer active participants in WRPC. So why am I still here?

I joined the church in 1980. At that time the church was still fairly young and it has undergone many important changes since then. Several pastors have come and gone; the building debt was paid off; Kachina Pre-School, which used to occupy Memorial Hall, has come and gone; our membership expanded and contracted, as did our youth ministry and our music ministry; and we now share our worship space with our Korean friends. Those are just a few of the changes. However, none of those are really that important.

Our church is much more than just a place to go once a week to worship and to be re-invigorated. Our church is a community. It is a community of believers for sure, but also a group of people that I admire and respect and with whom I share a common set of values and a common purpose. It is an extended family where people nurture and encourage one another. And it is a forum where we and our children can learn about and discuss things like ethics and cultural values, which are issues that simply are not addressed anywhere else.

The Christian community remains regardless of the pastor or the building or any of those other things. So I have never felt compelled to find another church or another congregation. This has remained the case even after I moved from White Rock to the townsite.

Nevertheless, communities are composed of individuals and disagreements are likely to occur. Sometimes these differences become impassioned, particularly when they impinge on cherished beliefs or on perceived traditions. But disagreements need not be destructive so long as the focus continues to be on Christ. For all our internal troubles and disputes WRPC has always been a community of believers trying to lead Christian lives in the best way we know how. And that’s the way it should be.

Dick Heaton

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*A Meditation on Jeremiah 29:11*

*Sometimes life is difficult  
and puts us to the test.  
But if we stay close to the Lord  
He will give our soul sweet rest.*

*Life is made up of beauty and pain,  
tears and laughter and sorrow.  
But we’ve got to keep trying  
and always stay brave.  
Brighter days will come with tomorrow*

*So “keep on hangin’ on,” my friend,  
God has a plan. Believe it. It’s true  
—for a life of peace and abundance—  
especially designed just for you.*

*Patti Merrill*

## Session News

The regular May meeting of the Session was postponed to 3 June due to scheduling conflicts so there is no focus topic to report on until next month. However the Session and incoming Ruling Elders (new Session members) and newly elected Deacons did meet on May 19 for an officers' retreat and training hosted by Bettie and Vernon Kerr. New officers were installed on Sunday, May 20, and their terms of office begin on the first Sunday of June.

We give many thanks to Elders Susan Buxton and Vickie Teel, whose terms of office end on June 3. The entire congregation has benefited from their service on the Session and their fellow Ruling Elders have appreciated their good counsel. Susan and her good counsel won't get far away as she will continue to meet with the Session routinely in her role as Church Treasurer.

We welcome new Ruling Elders Terri Creager and Vernon Kerr to the Session as we celebrate the revival of the Board of Deacons with the installation of Bettie Kerr, Craig Kelley, and Selma Reinovsky.

The Session also held a special meeting on May 20 to examine and welcome Mark Gomez, who has expressed his wish to join our congregation. We will welcome Mark formally as a member of White Rock Presbyterian Church shortly and continue to welcome Mark, Christie, and Olivia as new friends of WRPC.

George Callaghan

## 'Julie's Helpers' Scholarship Awards

Before her passing from a brain tumor in December of 2009, Julie Meadows and her family got all kinds of practical help from friends, the community, and fellow church members, organized as 'Julie's Helpers.' Launched in May 2011, the Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship Fund seeks to provide, annually, the kind of practical help that Julie would have been proud of. Wife, mother of two young sons, respected LANL staffer, active member of Alpha Zeta Chapter of her Beta Sigma Phi sorority, and member of White Rock Presbyterian Church, Julie

had been tireless in doing good. Shortly before being stricken with the tumor, she had been especially moved to encourage and help young Navajo women, which in turn is now the aim of the scholarship established in her memory.

The recipient of this year's \$2,500 Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship is Samantha Lee, a junior at New Mexico State in Las Cruces majoring in pre-nursing. Samantha wrote to the scholarship committee that she aspires to become a public health nurse "to educate and provide direct health care service for disease prevention in my Navajo community." She hopes to "be seen as a role model to other Native American girls and women to complete and receive college education."

The scholarship committee is also excited to announce a second award this year for \$1,000 to Krysten Willie, a junior majoring in electrical engineering at New Mexico Tech in Socorro. She also aspires to be a positive role model for young Native American girls in her community as a practicing electrical engineer.

For more information about the scholarship, click on 'Julie's Helpers' at the WRPC website: [www.wrpchurch.com](http://www.wrpchurch.com).

Darren Meadows

## PW News

The Presbyterian Women organization is for all women attending a PCUSA church, either as a member or friend of the church. Currently White Rock Presbyterian Women (WRPW) is without a moderator since the death of our dear Betty Cox in February. Other officers are Ann Heaton, Treasurer, and Joyce Berzins, Secretary. Our purpose is to grow spiritually through Bible Study and Christian fellowship and to serve others.

The inspirational leader of our monthly Bible Study is Selma Reinovsky; this group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 9:30 A.M. Currently we are studying the Beatitudes. We also gather at the church for a potluck luncheon on the first Wednesday of each month from September through April with usually an alternative "outing" in May. In March our guest speaker was the Director of the Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico, serving Rio Arriba and Los

Alamos Counties. We presented her with tins of home-baked cookies and small personal hygiene items for residents at the shelter in Espanola.

In April we, along with the entire church family, hosted a church wide “Souper Supper” buffet in lieu of our usual soup luncheon for hunger relief missions. The event was attended by many throughout the community. Approximately 90 people were served. We gratefully thank everyone involved for their huge efforts, which made the event possible and so successful. The event was dedicated in the memory of our long-time PW Moderator, Betty Cox. We were blessed with the attendance of Betty’s daughters from Colorado and California. Over \$1,100 in donations were received at the event. With other memorial gifts in Betty’s name, approximately \$3,200 will be disbursed to various hunger relief missions.

Our May luncheon was a delightful trek to Rancho de Chimayo. Eight of us enjoyed the gorgeous New Mexico scenery as we drove through Nambe to Chimayo! We will break for the summer but gather again in September. We may also do some type of luncheon during the summer; we’re open to suggestions (and organizing)!

We continue to collect Campbell’s products labels and General Mills “Box Tops for Education,” which are donated to Menaul Mission School in Albuquerque. They apply these towards purchasing educational equipment. Thank you for your support.

Joyce Berzins

## Save the Date!

The Journeys in Faith Dialogue is a small group that meets Thursdays at 7:30. Contact Bob Reinovsky for more details.

PM in the AM, a breakfast group for men, continues to meet each Friday at 6:30 AM at the church.

Friday, June 15: Mark your calendars! We have the convergence of three great things happening in one fun-filled evening at Ashley Pond!

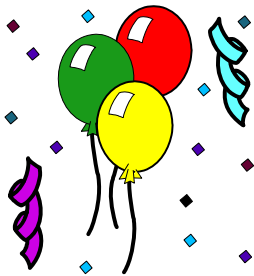
The Relay for Life (RFL) event starts with the Opening Ceremony at 6 PM and the Survivor’s Lap kicks off at 6:30 PM. The Julie Meadows Grey Matters Team is currently in third place in fundraising with a total of \$555 so far. Go us!

The Julie’s Helpers Memorial Scholarship Committee will be sponsoring a Navajo Taco Concession (featuring Lorraine Thomas’s new concession trailer) with setup starting at 4:00 p.m. and taco sales starting at 5:30 and going until 8:30 or 9:00 p.m. (or until we run out). Watch for sign-ups to help support this event, including bringing non-perishables and working shifts at the concession. All proceeds from the taco sale benefit the scholarship. This year’s scholarship winners, Samantha Lee of New Mexico State University and Krysten Willie of New Mexico Tech, have been invited to attend. Please plan to attend and support Julie’s wonderful legacy!

The Gordon’s Concert starts at 7:00 p.m., featuring The Police Experience, a tribute to the British rock band known as The Police. Bring a lawn chair!

All this means we can contribute to some meaningful causes and enjoy some great food and great music at the same time! Not to mention the free waffle breakfast at the pond Saturday morning for RFL participants!

## June Birthdays



Margie Lehman	1
Reuben Goettee	4
Wayne Meadows	5
Paul Edelmann	13
Sabrina Kelley	16
Joyce Haven	18

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**Go Paperless!** Save a stamp! If you would like to receive your copy of the Overlook electronically rather than through the mail, just let the WRPC Office Manager know and make sure she has your correct e-mail address. She’ll send you a PDF file at the beginning of the month. You’ll get your Overlook quicker and it will be in glorious color as well.

## Grace Notes

In last month's "Grace Notes" column, a definition of God's grace was supplied in order to help get us in the mindset that it is only through the grace of God, given as His merciful, undeserved blessing to us that we are able to make music for Him in worship at all. In fact, it seems to me that God's Word makes it clear that we cannot expect to come to Christ in any way unless we are granted this special grace from the Father. *"...no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."* (John 6: 65b)

So with that understanding, I stand humbled by His grace that we have such a glorious and active music program at WRPC, which strives continually, through the efforts of all of you, to make melody to the Lord, which indeed will bring God the glory He so richly deserves.

I also use this phrase, "Grace Notes," as a title with multiple meanings for the heading of our column on the music ministry at WRPC. Let me explain to any of you not already familiar with the expression, that "grace notes" in music refers to the tinier notes written on a page that a composer may add to embellish certain principle notes in the piece. Musically speaking, they add beauty and attract interest but really are non-essential. The music can stand on its own without the embellishments.

In a similar way, while music is a deeply meaningful component to our worship experience, it is not the main focus. When music begins to take center stage in a worship service, something has gone seriously amiss.

Although I believe that the Lord would ask each of us to do our very best to hone our gifts for His glory (as opposed to putting in the minimal effort and leaving it all to chance), we must bear in mind that our "mission" in music ministry is to keep the focus on Jesus, His gift of salvation, His holiness, His forgiveness to us, and how we can all experience our relationship with Him more fully through our worship.

God, who created all of us as well as giving us the talent and ability to make music, surely knows our fragile frame well enough to know that there is a profound and extraordinary connection that occurs in the believer's mind, ears, and heart when music helps us to transcend the words we hear, speak, and see, and takes us to a special place in His Spirit that can be reached in a

manner unlike any other I know of on this earth. That is why the Lord Himself loves to be praised in music, and why He tells us so in His Word. Here are just a few of the biblical references to music:

*All the Levites who were musicians—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives—stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets. The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang:*

*"He is good;  
his love endures forever."*

*Then the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.* (2 Chronicles 5:12-14)

*When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.* (Matthew 26:30)

*About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.* (Acts 16:25)

*...so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:*

*"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;  
I will sing hymns to your name."*

(Romans 15:9)

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.* (Colossians 3:16)

*He says,*

*"I will declare your name to my brothers;  
In the presence of the congregation I will sing  
Your praises."*

(Hebrews 2:12)

*And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb:*

*"Great and marvelous are your deeds,  
Lord God Almighty.  
Just and true are your ways,  
King of the ages."*

(Revelation 15:2-3)

Surely, these are the "grace notes" of a believer's life!

Eileen Green

# Treasury Notes

When you are leaving for vacation this summer put a vacation-hold on your mail delivery and newspaper but do not let your church giving take a break. We are counting on your regular donations and pledges to underwrite our expenses of a little over \$10,000 each month.

Due to additional giving by two of our church families through the United Way and partially matched by the Laboratory, our non-pledged income was 199 percent of the amount budgeted. This offset a 6 percent shortfall in our pledges. Expenses were 100 percent of the budgeted amounts. The budget shortfall was only \$629.14 for January through April.

Our January through April financial summary is:

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Pledged	32,357.72	34,313.32	-1,955.60
Non-pledged	3,553.36	1,788.00	1,765.36
Facility	488.15	764.00	-275.85
Interest	267.55	316.00	-48.45
Applied Surplus	3,601.68	3,601.68	0.00
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>40,268.46</b>	<b>40,783.00</b>	<b>-514.54</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>			
	40,897.60	40,783.00	114.60
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>629.14</b>		

Your pledged and non-pledged gifts are so important to our church. Thank you for your continued and faithful financial support.

Susan Buxton

# Facilities News

## Spring Work Party

On Saturday, May 5, we had an extremely successful Spring Work Day. Friends of all ages participated. Since it was spring, most of the activities took place outside.

The Work Day actually started weeks before the official day with work on the Prayer Garden and Rock Garden. Al and Mary Medendorp and Joan and Sumner Barr have been weeding, planting, transplanting, and watering. These folks have

been working many, many days both before and after Work Day. Take a few minutes in the peaceful, beautiful surroundings to enjoy their handiwork.

Andrew and André Green disassembled and removed deteriorating toys in the Tot Lot since repairs would be cost prohibitive. They then worked to fix computers in the office that have become too slow.

Jeff Goettee replaced the old exit signs, which had required frequent and expensive light bulb replacements, to more economical LED exit signs. Reuben Goettee and Dr. Harry applied protective paint coating to the exposed wood on the underhang near the office area exit door.

Jeff Kelley and Al Medendorp removed a dying tree next to the Prayer Garden.

Lots of scrub trees were cut down behind Memorial Hall. Broken file cabinets and other junk were taken to the dump. Max Goettee, Ken and Jennifer Holmes, Bob and Selma Reinovsky, Joyce Haven, Vickie Teel, and George Callaghan worked on these projects.

After finishing with oiling the sanctuary wood, Jeanne Callaghan worked with Mary and Al Medendorp on the Prayer and Rock Gardens.

Craig Kelley cut grass and edged, while Terri Creager swept up all the cuttings from the sidewalk. Thank Anthony Haven for his hard, hot work burning out weeds with the propane torch.

Fellowship was shared over the hard work and the pizza lunch.

There will be some work evenings over the summer and there are always chores available to anyone looking for a way to spend a couple of hours. Contact Terry Buxton.

## Plumbing Updates

The front outdoor faucet has been replaced by Waller's Plumbing. At the same time a long needed emergency water cutoff was placed inside the church (in the Nursery where water supply enters the building). A leaking faucet in the janitors closet will be replaced as soon as the parts come in.

Terry Buxton

## Important Contacts

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## ARTA 101

### **(Appropriate Rural Technologies Association)**

A short retrospective by a retired board member  
(by Tim Stepetic with Kathrina Clark)

I made my first trip to San Juanito, Las Tinajas, and Sicachique in the Sierra Tarahumara in the late spring of 1997 with Jack Frost and Walt Lance - meeting up with Jim Shibley when we arrived in San Juanito. At that time, we were probably more compliant with our name "Appropriate Rural Technologies Association" because we were mainly distributing fertilizer and looking at corn, teaching farmers to build cold frames, running water lines, and undertaking a few minor construction projects at the school at Las Tinajas. To be honest, I never really understood the "Appropriate" in our name. "Appropriate" applies whether it means improvement in the food or water supplies, support of education, or the provision of transportation for education and medical care. In fact, when I used to give mission presentations at Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian church, I said that ARTA could stand for "A Really Terrific Adventure".

The nature of our activities has changed a lot since 1997, but our compelling desire to help these needy and wonderful friends has never faltered. With the departure of Jack Frost we've moved away from some of the engineering and facility work, and with the later departure of Jim Shibley we'll also be leaving potential agronomy projects behind, although not completely. With the help of two new volunteers from Las Cruces, Chris and Mike Lilley, in November 2010 we've laid a foundation for a new bodega and sleeping quarters in Sicachique. We are also continuing to support the fertilizer distribution activity, although from a greater

distance. Without Jack and Jim's particular expertise in these areas, it is difficult to evaluate "appropriate" projects.

We've transitioned into some social action activities, like starting the twice a year trip for eye and dental patients from San Juanito to Guerrero to be cared for by a Rotary medical team from Houston, Texas. Initially we established the necessary contacts to get patients scheduled. Now they are able to handle the process themselves and it will become cheaper and easier with the school bus that ARTA purchased and delivered to the school in 2009. Some of our other recent activities include helping the school by providing computers, guitars, and chemistry equipment, and hosting a couple of Christmas gift parties for the children. So while the "Technologies" part of our name may be taking a hit, certainly the "Appropriate" will continue to describe our work.

Anyone who is involved in charity work will tell you that they get much more out of it than they put in. My ARTA work has certainly rewarded me in that regard. It was extremely interesting to see how a small charity works—the gathering, balancing, and commitment of resources, the determination and planning of activities and projects, and the interaction of personalities, talents, and agendas. Then there is the excitement of learning to work within another culture—this prompted me to take several Spanish courses to help me communicate in Mexico. Lastly, and most importantly, are the relationships that you make and the deep satisfaction of building on these relationships and becoming a positive and enabling force in the lives of other people. There is really nothing better in life than this.

Since 1997 I've also seen many people of varying talents and capabilities pass through the program. Right now our active membership is somewhere in the 4 to 5 range, with very little technical know-how but a lot of desire and enthusiasm! While we still have a lot of ideas for new and meaningful work projects, we remain in dire need of additional people and funding. As one can imagine, in these very tight days our donations are down considerably, the possibilities for new funding sources are limited, and our budget projection only gives us about 4 to 5 more years of life. It is my hope that someone out there will sense a calling to the work of ARTA and will join up with us in person or financially. It is a calling to A Really Terrific Adventure!

This was originally published in December 2010 by Tim Stepetic in the ARTA Newsletter. It was modified and updated by Kathrina Clark and then further modified by the Overlook editor.