



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

July 2012

From the Pastor's Desk



Here is a silly question that I planned on asking on July 1st at our meetings after church: Do they have a Fourth of July in England?

Think about it....and as you come realize that if they did not, there would be no July 5th, read on about

what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence that led to the freedoms, under God, that we have and allow us to observe our July 4th with the parades, the music, the BBQ's, and the fireworks (no flying rockets please) to highlight our celebration. As you learn about the fates of these men, you will see that the liberties we take as our natural birthright came to us at a terrible price for those who risked (and often lost) their lives to fight for them.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large

plantation owners—men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

These men were not wild-eyed revolutionaries. They were men of substance and education with a passion for justice. In signing at the bottom of the page, they pledged to one another "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor".

Some of them lost their lives, almost all of them lost their fortunes, but all of them kept their honor.

This is a lesson to be learned and taken to heart in the difficult times in which we are living. May we as Americans, but more so as Christians who believe in human dignity and justice, find some place in our world to do our small part in providing liberty and justice for all.

DH

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

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:4-7

Letter from the Editor



As I began to write this column I was thinking about the upcoming July 4th holiday and other patriotic sorts of things. In my musings I discovered that the motto, "In God We Trust," was adopted as the official motto of the United States quite recently, in

1956. It replaced or became an alternative to the older, unofficial motto, "E Pluribus Unum," which dates to 1782. The words may have originated from The Star Spangled Banner, which contains (in the fourth stanza) the phrase, "And this be our motto: 'In God is our Trust.'" (Did you know that The Star Spangled Banner has more than one stanza?) The motto has appeared sporadically on coins since 1864 and on paper bills since 1957.

The adoption of this motto has not been without controversy. It has been challenged in court on the grounds that it violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and the Separation of church and state. However, the courts have held that the nation's "institutions presuppose a Supreme Being" and that government recognition of God does not constitute the establishment of a state church, such as the Constitution's authors intended to prohibit. Nevertheless it would seem hard to discount the notion that the phrase, "In God We Trust," is a religious statement.

Regardless of your opinion on the constitutionality of this motto, I think it is important to consider what it says and what it does not say. By trusting in God we accept by faith that God's plan will ultimately prevail and that we will play a positive role in that plan. We seek to establish institutions and ordinances that serve God's purpose and we believe that God will lead us in the proper directions. However, this motto should not be construed to mean that God is on our side. After all, we are imperfect beings and our works may deviate from God's intentions in spite of our most conscientious efforts. Perhaps the following quotation, often attributed to Abraham Lincoln, expresses this better: "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right"

Dick Heaton

Session News

The Session has met twice since the last Overlook Newsletter. On June 3 the Session reorganized with two new incoming members. Bob Reinovsky will head the Worship Ministry, George Callahan will be the Clerk of Session, Jennifer Holmes will head the Equipping ministry, Terri Creager will lead the Witness Ministry unit, and Terry Buxton will continue with the Support Ministry unit. Susan Buxton will continue as Church Treasurer.

The Session met again on Sunday, June 24. The primary accomplishment at this meeting was reaching a consensus on a statement on Biblical interpretation. This statement was requested informally at one of the after-worship "Coming to Terms with History" weekly discussions. The statement will be discussed after worship on July 1 at the "Envisioning the Future" discussion.

Another item of importance was a decision to support the Presbytery request to help the Glenwood Presbyterian Church. The town of Glenwood has just experienced the nearby Whitewater-Baldy wildfire—the largest in New Mexican history. As all of us in Los Alamos know, after the fires roads are subject to being blocked by mudslides from the deforested land when it rains. Glenwood is particularly isolated with only two roads coming from the town. The Presbytery would like to send water and nonperishable food to the town in case major mudslides develop. The Presbytery would like a trailer to store the supplies in for several months until the risk of isolation of Glenwood is past. The session unanimously agreed to offer the WRPC utility trailer for this purpose.

Terry Buxton

Witness News

"THAT'S A LOT OF TACOS!"

The group of friends, family, and church members known as Julie's Helpers gathered once again on the warm summer evening of June 15 to commemorate the life of Julie Meadows through service, good humor, and devotion. The venue was the lovely Ashley Pond where the scholarship committee had their Navajo Taco sale concession trailer set up on Central Avenue in Los Alamos.

The site afforded all a chance to look out on and participate in the annual Relay for Life, as walkers circled the pond in support of cancer research. A rock band played on the nearby stage as over 2500 people milled about and picnicked throughout the evening. A good number of them also bought food from the Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship (JHMS) fundraising concession.

Lorraine Thomas of the House of Fellowship (HOF) Church near Gallup put the first fry bread dough in the hot sizzling corn oil about 6:00 p.m. and didn't stop until over four hours later. Thanks to super accounting by WRPC treasurer, Susan Buxton, we now know that the Fry Bread Team turned out 207 pieces of fry bread, which included 133 Navajo Tacos, 35 Navajo burgers, and 39 single pieces of bread along with 95 drinks. It took a team of 10 people each hour to keep the operation going, including hamburger grillers, dough makers, dough fryers, taco assembly workers, cashiers, runners, and set-up/take-down workers. They were using ingredients and supplies donated by many members of HOF and WRPC. All were covered in many prayers offered by friends, family, and church members. With gracious help from the Alpha Zeta sorority, the Meadows/Bundy families, the House of Fellowship Church, and White Rock Presbyterian Church, the Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship Committee raised \$1,812.25, which will help fund scholarships for Navajo women in 2013.

As the sun was setting behind the pond, Darren Meadows awarded Miss Samantha Lee of Farmington, NM, her \$2500 scholarship check, which she will use for her tuition and fees for her upcoming year at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, where she is pursuing a degree in nursing. Samantha was humble and grateful as she accepted the award and had already made plans to meet with Julie's parents, Hugh and Linda Bundy, who also live in Las Cruces. After dining on tacos, she and her step mom headed back to Farmington, where Samantha is taking summer courses and has a summer job working as a certified nursing assistant. Samantha credits her own father, who is also a nurse, for inspiring her to finish her degree and serve the Navajo people in the nursing field.

About midnight, Lorraine pulled her concession trailer into the parking lot of WRPC, with the help of Farrah Jefferson and Merle Owens of the House

of Fellowship. The 2012 Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship fundraiser had been an astounding success due to all the prayers and help from so

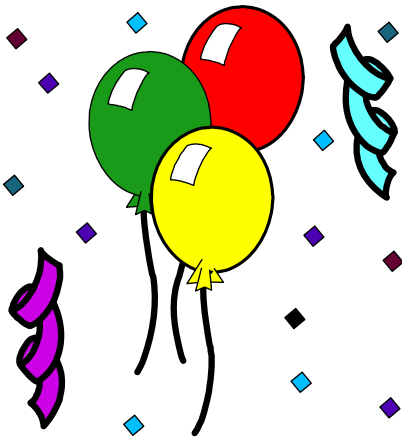


Darren Meadows presents the \$2500 JHMS check to Samantha Lee at Ashley Pond, June 15, 2012.

many different people. All who participated felt the love of Julie's family and friends and a commitment to keep Julie's legacy of service, hope, and devotion to God alive as we plan and work for the JHMS of 2013.

Jennifer Holmes

July Birthdays



Ken Wilson	1
Sumner Barr	12
Hayden Meadows	17
Max Goettee	18
Dick Heaton	18
Darren Meadows	19
Eileen Green	22
Veronica Kelley	30
Griffin McCabe	30

Save the Date!

NM Securities Division Seminar
"Protecting Your Identity & Avoiding Fraud"
 July 31 at WRPC

On Tuesday July 31 at 6:30 p.m. we will host a dual Seminar on Protecting Your Identity and Avoiding Fraud. The seminar is presented by the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Securities Division.

If you have a bank account or social security number, or use a credit card, you are at risk of Identity Theft. Learn how to avoid having your confidential financial information stolen or misused, and what to do if it has been compromised.

Anyone can become a target of investment fraud. Learn the warning signs of a bad investment so you do not become a victim. How do you check out a securities firm or brokerage firm and the investment professional? Learn to identify the red flags that are always there.

Frank Mulholland is the speaker for the 60 minute seminar. There will be handouts and time for questions at the end of the seminar, and light refreshments, of course.

The reality is that we are all at risk for these two frauds. Learn how to protect yourself and your family and what resources are available to fight back, if that need should arise.

Susan Buxton

Treasury Notes

When you think about donating to a non-profit group, one of your considerations might be how much of your dollar will go to cover overhead for that non-profit group. High overhead means that less money will actually make it to the people-in-need. You naturally want the most for your "buck."

Did you know that WRPC has over 30 active Designated Funds—little non-profit groups—**with 0% administrative cost from our church?**

Facilities News

Our Protected Resident Barn Swallows

When you designate your dollar to one of these funds, **every penny** gets applied to the need. Our Designated Funds have been established and approved by many WRPC Sessions over the years and decades to meet facility needs and to meet local, regional, and world community needs. These funds are separate from our annual Budget funds. There is a story of caring behind each fund.

Hands-on mission is always the ultimate in demonstrating your caring for all of God's children. But when hands-on mission is not practical, and the need has tugged at your heart strings, consider giving to one of our second-mile giving funds.

Our most recent fund activity is with **Julie's Helpers (JH)**. We took in \$1,812.25 in food and drink sales at our June 15 Navajo Taco & Burger Sale at Ashley Pond. This money will be combined with money from other fund-raisers in the coming months (in partnership with Julie Meadow's sorority sisters and the Navajo House of Fellowship) and from individual donations. The pooled money will be used to award scholarship(s) to young Navajo women who are in a career field that will help transform the lives of people in their community. This June we awarded \$3,500 in two separate Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarships. The funds for those scholarships came from money donated/raised in the last year for our Julie's Helpers (JH) fund!

If you would still like to help with the Navajo Taco & Burger Sale in memory of our dear Julie Meadows, you may write a check to WRPC with Julie's Helpers (JH) in the memo line.

A few of our "non-profit-group" designated funds are:

- Deacons' Fund (DF)
- Disaster Relief (DR)
- Ecuador Fund (EC)
- ARTA (AR)
- Northern NM Churches (NN)
- Memorial Hall (MH)
- Capital Improvement Reserve (RC)
- Carpet Fund (CA)
- Coffee Fellowship (CH) (for the delicious "Café Justo" coffee we enjoy each Sunday)

Susan Buxton

If you have spent any time under our portico, you have probably either been startled by birds flapping their wings and swooping over your head or have seen their cup-shaped mud nests perched on the exterior lights under the portico between the main building and Memorial Hall.

The birds have beautiful sleek and shiny steel blue feathers on their head, back, wings, and tail. Their forehead, throat, breast, and abdomen are rust colored. Their characteristically long, deeply-forked tail identifies them as barn swallows.

Barn swallows are migratory aerial insectivores. They winter in Central America and migrate overland in early spring when flying insects are available for food. They migrate south by late September. They breed in North America from sea level to about 8,900 feet, so we are near the upper limit of their breeding ground.

They are not endangered, but these migratory birds are protected within our U.S. Fish and Wildlife region. In fact, we would have to secure a depredation permit from the Division of Migratory Birds in Albuquerque to remove the nests before our "resident couples" have migrated this fall.

We can thank the barn swallows for the near absence of mosquitoes, flies, wasps, and other flying or crawling insects near our outside plants and walls.

Barn swallows usually lay 3-5 cream colored eggs with small dark spots. Both females and males incubate the eggs for about two weeks and feed the young. They stay together for life and are socially monogamous, but, according to one source, are (*ahem*) genetically polygamous. They may lay a second set of eggs if the first set does not survive.

One of the eggs was lost before hatching. And, sadly, two babies fell—or were pushed from the nest—on June 15. The swallows are hatching a second set of eggs now.

Nest building is a social activity. Males, females, and even the young work together to bring pellet

shaped clumps of mud in their small bills to build the nest. They reinforce and line the mud nest with grass, feathers, and other fibrous material.

These durable nests can last several seasons. Unfortunately, the nests can also house some mites and lice that thrive on the swallows' feathers and blood. This may be the cause of the recently lost baby birds. The nests may be abandoned if there are too many parasitic insects. Sparrows sometimes take up residence in the abandoned nest.

Barn swallows are mentioned several times in the Old Testament:

- *"Even the sparrow hath found her a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,"* Psalms 84:3
- *"Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying, an undeserved curse goes nowhere."* Proverbs 26:2
- *"Like a swallow or a crane I clamor, I moan like a dove. My eyes are weary with looking upward. O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security!"* Isaiah 38:14
- *"...and the turtledove, swallow, and crane observe the time of their coming; but my people do not know the ordinance of the Lord."* Jeremiah 8:7

Susan Buxton

A Big Thanks to Craig Kelley!

Everyone knows that Craig Kelley does many things around the church. He is the Web Master of our web site that he recently redesigned; he records the Sunday sermons, fills and lights the altar and table candles, controls the sound system, acts as usher, collects the offering, helps count the offering, is in charge of scheduling and training Elders and Deacons to serve the Lord's Supper, participates insightfully in the after Worship Service interim planning discussions, cuts the grass, cuts and clears brush on the church property, and hauls wood to Navajos near the House of Fellowship...to name just a few of the responsibilities he has quietly and expertly undertaken in service to our church for the Lord.

Recently Craig has been using his computer skills to make the church office work more efficiently.

He has completed a network so that files can be transferred directly between the Pastor's and the Office Administrator's computers, and so that the Pastor can also send print jobs to the outer office laser printer. Craig did all of this in an incredibly short time and at no expense—as nearly amazing as the man himself!

Terry Buxton

Important Contacts

Pastor/Session Moderator:

Dr. Harry Cole, 443-253-3871
hcole3@aol.com

Clerk of Session:

George Callaghan, 505-984-1868
callaghang@aol.com

WRPC Office Manager

Gillian Erickson, 672-3682
officemanager@wrpchurch.com

WRPC Webmaster:

Craig Kelley, 672-3133
kelleys@q.com

Overlook Editor:

Dick Heaton, 662-0028
rcheaton@hotmail.com

*My Shepherd will supply my need:
Jehovah is His Name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.*

*The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode,
And all my work be praise!
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest,
But like a child at home.*

Isaac Watts