



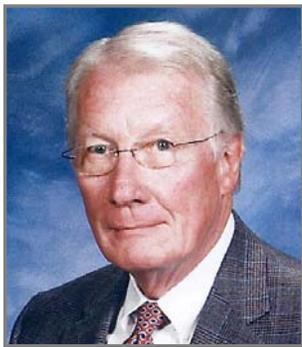
# White Rock Presbyterian Church

# Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

August 2012

## From the Pastor's Desk



Actually, that heading is a little outdated. It should read "From the Pastor's Word Processor," at which I sit most of the time with my desk behind me. Things have changed in the pastor's office over the years—even the name of the pastor's domicile has been changed from "study" to "office." One wonders what that says about the minister's shifting responsibilities from serving as a minister to working as an administrator.

Vocation is an important part of the Christian life. Discerning what our respective vocations should be as we go along in life's journey is one of the most critical decisions we can make. It is not just a matter of deciding whether to be a "butcher, a baker, or a candlestick maker," or a nuclear scientist, or someone who makes a living working with computers and understands the one in front of me right now much better than I do. Vocation in the classic Christian tradition is meant to guide us in not only what we do with our lives, but how we do it in the name of Christ. Do we act fairly? Do we put our own interests ahead of others for the good of the cause (at least sometimes)? Are we leaders of others as managers, workers, civic leaders, or parents (yes, parenting is a vocation) who demonstrate not only good leadership on the basis of common sense, but also on the teachings of our faith? We all know what those teachings are—just read two or three of Jesus's parables

about unconditional love for a prodigal son, or helping an enemy even though you are a Samaritan. How can we effectively and lovingly apply what we know in our faith to what we do as citizens of our community and the world at large?

Let us all think about that during our leisure time this summer—during these "dog days" of August... What comes of it may change your life, and others too.

And that will be a very good thing.

DH

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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](mailto: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](mailto:officemanager@wrpchurch.com).

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

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*Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,*

*Psalms 103:1-2*

## Letter from the Editor



I recently returned from a trip to some of the Greek islands in the Aegean Sea. One of the islands I visited was the island of Patmos. Patmos is not one of the more touristy islands but it is of great interest to Christians because of its association with Saint John the Theologian and the book of Revelation. We read in Revelation:

*I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the work of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: ..."* (Rev 1:9- 11)

Tradition has it that John and his companion, Prochoros, were exiled to the island during the later part of the reign of the emperor, Domitian, which would have been around 95 A.D. Christians were heavily persecuted at that time, not least because they refused to participate in the pagan practice of venerating the Roman emperor as a god. John and Prochoros reputedly lived and slept in a cave below the hilltop temple of Diana (Artemis) when they weren't actively engaged in their duties, which in John's case was shoveling ashes, while Prochoros was responsible for transporting water. The exile is thought to have lasted for eighteen months, during which time John wrote his Apocalypse.

Today one can visit the Cave of the Apocalypse, which is enclosed by a small church and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There is a nice mosaic above the door, which shows Saint John and his disciple, Prochoros, who transfers John's visions into writing. One can go

inside and see portions of the original cave. However there were monks celebrating a mass inside when I was there so I did not do so. The site on top of the hill where the shrine to Diana was once located is now occupied by the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian, which is also part of the World Heritage Site and has been a active monastery for more than 900 years.

The book of Revelation was written during a time when Christians were severely persecuted throughout the Roman empire. The message of Revelation, that Christ shall ultimately overcome, must have offered great comfort and encouragement to Christians at that time, just as it continues to do so today. I confess that I have habitually avoided this book because it is so hard for me to understand. Perhaps having witnessed its birthplace will encourage me to study it once more.

Dick Heaton

## Session News

On July 15 the Session met for its regular monthly business meeting, which included working on the second step in the Interim Process, Discovering a New Identity. For over four decades, WRPC has functioned to serve its community and the Lord with specific processes and beliefs. WRPC will not change its beliefs because they are the foundation of our existence. Our processes, on the other hand, can be re-examined and updated for the changing circumstances in which we find ourselves. They determine our efforts and actions. The Session has been discussing (with input from the adult Sunday School class) WRPC's history, areas of strength, and areas of weakness, with the objective of identifying and then pursuing an identity appropriate for our current situation. For the next three weeks, the Session will encourage the church body to brainstorm and come up with ideas about refining our views on the church's identity, redefining the purpose of our church, and bolstering membership. It is the intent of the session to engage the members in communication, to listen, and to let everyone be heard.

Harry Cole will be on vacation from July 17 2012 through August 9, 2012. Rev. Dr. Jim Roghair will be our guest pastor during his absence. The

treasurer has asked committee chairmen to review their previous budgets and to submit budget requests for the 2012-2013 years before the end of August. Worship has requested that Communion be observed August 5, 2012. Witness is on hold until August so that transfer of responsibilities from Jennifer Holmes to Terri Creager can be made. Equipping has ordered the new Sunday school curriculum for Fall through Spring. Support is looking to incorporate the janitorial position into a Sexton position. Everyone is in favor of Fellowship having a barbeque sandwich feast after church and Sunday school on August 12, 2012. As always, it is a pleasure to serve White Rock Presbyterian Church.

Terri Creager

## Fall Garage Sale

You probably have read in Sunday's bulletin many times to "save your stuff for the fall garage sale in September" and also wondered where the proceeds from this fundraising activity will go?

Well, in Michoacán there is a small community up in the mountains called Ororicua, above the city Tuxpan. There was once a reliable source of water for the residents from a large pond. It was used wherever and whatever you need water for: to irrigate plants, give farm animals a drink, do laundry etc. The Mexican government built it many years ago and lined this pond with a liner. But it started leaking about 4 or 5 years ago, lost its holding capacity, and left the people without this precious source of water. Rationed drinking water for this community now gets trucked in!

In conjunction with ARTA, our church is raising money to purchase a new pond liner, factory installed and with a warranty. The price tag of \$24,000 isn't cheap but we are opting for the thickest pond liner with the longest warranty period. All proceeds from this year's fall garage sale will go towards this project. ARTA is planning on paying the largest chunk for this bill, however any and all funds raised here will help. The people of Ororicua will tremendously enjoy and appreciate (again) the precious gift of water within their community.

The witness group has taken a break over the summer and will resume their monthly meetings

in August (this month). If you are interested in helping us plan and execute this fall church activity, please come join us during the meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup> or get in touch with Kathrina Clark (505-231-6324). We plan on having this garage sale on one of these Saturdays in September: 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will need lots of help for this garage sale to make it a success, just as the previous garage sales our church has done! More information about the project abroad is on a poster board displayed in the hall.



Imagine the gift of water: this pond filled to the brim!



Children from Ororicua waiting for the water truck to arrive!

Kathrina Clark

*Help me, Lord,  
not to think of sacrifice as such...  
But as an opportunity  
holy and blessed  
to learn to love much.*

*Patti Merrill*

## PW News

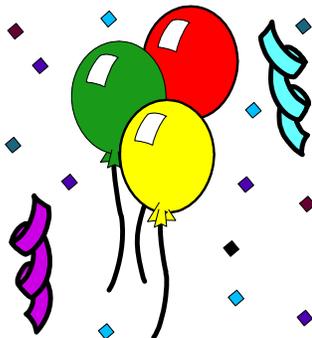
In April we, along with the entire church family, hosted a church-wide delicious Souper Supper buffet in lieu of our usual March soup luncheon for hunger-relief missions. The event was open to and attended by many throughout the community. Approximately 90 people were served. Over \$1,100 in donations were received. 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, Amy and Bonnie, from Colorado and California for the occasion. With other memorial gifts in Betty's name specified for these missions, a total of \$3,206 has been disbursed (100%) to the following hunger-relief missions. This PW project was always very meaningful to Betty.

- Presbyterian Hunger Fund      \$1,500
- L.A. Cares (local)                \$1,000
- Heifer Project International      \$306
- Oxfam America                      \$200
- Bread for the World                \$200

PW is on "hiatus" for the summer and we look forward to resuming usual activities in September.

Joyce Berzins

## August Birthdays



Kathrina Clark	4
Erik Edelmah	9
Jeremy Goettee	9
Jeanette Meadows	9
Joan Barr	12
George Berzins	15
Corinne Clark	17
Bettie Kerr	18

## Save the Date!

Remember to save your "stuff" for our **Fall Garage Sale Fundraiser** in September. There is some space in classroom 5 to store your donations for the sale.

The congregation is invited to meet after worship and coffee fellowship each Sunday in Memorial Hall to continue our discussions about discovering a new identity. Please come and join in!

The Fellowship ministry group is planning a barbeque sandwich feast after church and Sunday school on August 12, 2012.

The Journeys in Faith Dialogue meets Thursdays at 7:30. Contact Summer Barr or Bob Reinovsky for details.

PM in the AM meets Fridays at 6:00 AM at the church.

PW is on "hiatus" for the summer and looks forward to resuming usual activities in September.

## Grace Notes

Recently, I finished reading a book that I can commend to you, called **One Thousand Gifts**, by author Anna Voskamp. One of the central concepts in her book is contained in the term, "eucharisteo" (thanksgiving), which contains the Greek roots "charis" (grace) and "chara" (joy). Ms. Voskamp supposes the following:

"...Deep *chara* joy is only found at the table of the *euCHARisteo*—the table of thanksgiving. I sit there long...wondering...is it that simple?

Is the height of my *chara* joy dependent on the depths of my *eucharisteo* thanks?..."

(**One Thousand Gifts**, p.33)

After hearing Harry Cole's sermons these past few Sundays (and especially his advice to pick up a coffee cup and fill it to overflowing, reflecting on how our Lord makes our cup overflow), I was reminded of the many gifts, graces, and overflowing love God has poured into my life lately, in particular, through our music program at WRPC.

In her book, Ms. Voskamp also comments that, "Thanksgiving is *evidence* (italics mine) of our

acceptance of whatever He gives" (**One Thousand Gifts**, p.39). How true! It's high time, then, that I give some "evidence" of my thanks for all that the Lord has so graciously poured into my lap through the gifts of this congregation!

First, we are so blessed to have had a choir from September through June. Praise God, and deepest thanks go to: Joyce Haven, Alexandra Edelmann, Linda Burns, Jean Callaghan, Joan Barr, Dick Heaton, Rod McCabe, Sumner Barr, and Paul Edelmann. Without the commitment and dedication of these fine musicians, we could never have heard the lovely sounds that emanated from our chancel every other Sunday throughout the year. THANK YOU SO MUCH, CHOIR!

Also, I cannot give enough thanks to those who took the risk of participating in the WRPC Bell Choir, at somewhat of the last minute, when your director discovered our beautiful bells and some great bell music! Well, we couldn't just let that sit "under a bushel," could we?

*"No one lights a lamp and then sets it in a place where it will be hidden. Instead, he puts it on a stand so that those who come in may see the light."*  
Luke 33:11

So sincerest thanks go to: Susan Buxton, Ann Heaton, Jean Callaghan, Joyce Haven, Christine Haven, Craig Kelley, Jeremy Goettee, and Alexandra Edelmann.

Special mention must be made of Craig Kelley, who always came early and stayed late to help set up and pack away the (rather heavy) sets of bells and tables. Many others helped in this process, too, and I heartily thank each one of you from the bottom of my heart (and my back)!

Last, but by no means least, I must give thanks for our keyboard masters, Frances Naffziger and Patti Merrill, who not only support our congregation, singers, and bell ringers, but also provide hours of advice and encouragement to me. I can't thank you all enough!

*"How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?"*  
1 Thessalonians 3:9

With Humility and Gratitude  
Eileen Green

## Important Contacts

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### Prayer of Saint Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love.*

*Where there is injury, pardon.*

*Where there is doubt, faith.*

*Where there is despair, hope.*

*Where there is darkness, light.*

*Where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,*

*grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled,  
as to console;*

*to be understood, as to understand;*

*to be loved, as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive.*

*It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,*

*and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.*

*Amen.*