



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

October 2012

From the Pastor's Desk



I'm acting in a dual capacity this month, writing for myself and our Clerk of Session, George Callaghan, who is away with Jean visiting their son in Chicago. George normally reports on the actions from the previous month's session meeting, and I would like

to do the same, especially as it relates to our special meeting held on September 15th. During that meeting we settled on two specific models for the future ministry of WRPC, chosen from the many others suggested during the "brainstorming" sessions held in Memorial Hall in July and August.

The two options, sponsoring a parallel worshipping community as a form of New Church Development and developing an intentional ministry by and for Older Adults, were thought to be the most viable and appealing to the Los Alamos/White Rock community. The first model has the possibility of growing a new congregation while preserving the legacy and Presbyterian witness of an older established one. The second will reach out to a growing mature/older adult population having the time, energy, desire, and faith to build a fellowship and service community that appeals to the many interests and needs of each of us as we grow into our "senior" years.

The congregation was invited to remain in the sanctuary after worship on September 23rd to hear the details of each ministry option and ask

pertinent questions and, if they so chose, to make suggestions for alternative forms of ministry themselves. Unfortunately, our attendance that Sunday was small and a number of our regular members could not participate.

So, we will try again! Let us plan to meet after worship on October 14th to learn more about what you, the members of WRPC, envision for your future. Our gathering will be part of our Stewardship season as we all consider what we can do to support our congregational life and ministry for the coming year. Having a clear idea of what our common goals are will be a vital part of that commitment.

If you have not picked up a copy of my Interim Perspective, containing additional information about each of the options along with my recommendations as your interim pastor, they are available on the table just outside of the sanctuary.

See you in church—it's a good place to be!

DH

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the LORD,
which made heaven and earth.*

*He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The LORD is thy keeper:
the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day,
nor the moon by night.*

*The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil:
he shall preserve thy soul.
The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy
coming in
from this time forth, and even for evermore.*

Psalms 121 (KJV)

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, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. You may email her anytime at officemanager@wrpchurch.com.

Office Hours for Gillian Erickson
Tuesdays and Thursdays only, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 PM.

Letter from the Editor



During my travels over the past two years I have been to Russia once and Greece twice. I visited many churches on these trips; virtually all of them were either Russian or Greek Orthodox. Two things were very striking about the Orthodox churches that I visited. First, they were basically all the same. Second, icons were always present in great abundance. All of the churches had an *iconostasis*, which is a wall of icons that separates the nave of the church from the sanctuary. In many churches the entire interior was covered with icons.

So what is an icon and why is it important? An icon is a religious image, usually a depiction of

Christ, the Virgin Mary, or a saint, or an illustration of a Bible verse. In Eastern Orthodox tradition icons are usually small and are almost always painted on wood. On my latest trip to Greece I visited an icon workshop where we witnessed icons being made. When making an icon the iconographer starts with a high quality wood panel. This is then plastered over with a gesso to make a smooth and white surface. Then the gesso is gilded with 22-23 karat gold. Finally the artist draws and paints the icon using egg tempera. Icons are very carefully, painstakingly, and lovingly crafted. The end result is a very beautiful and unique artistic and spiritual creation.

The iconographer has very little room for artistic license. Almost everything within the image has a symbolic aspect. Christ, the saints, and the angels all have halos. Figures have consistent facial appearances, hold attributes personal to them, and use only a few conventional poses. Color plays an important role as well. For example, gold represents the radiance of Heaven; red, divine life. Blue is the color of human life and white is the Uncreated Light of God, only used for the resurrection and transfiguration of Christ. Most icons incorporate some calligraphic text naming the person or event depicted. Even this is often presented in a stylized manner.

The importance of icons goes well beyond the adornment of churches. Many orthodox families have at least one icon in their homes, usually set aside in a corner or a dedicated niche and illuminated by a small oil lamp or candle. These may become the focus of prayer and meditation in the home and remind us that Christ is in our lives not just on Sunday but during the week as well.

Orthodox Christians *venerate* icons but they do not worship them. What does this mean? Someone once explained it to me in the following way. Consider an icon on your computer screen. What do you do with it? Answer: You click on it! What happens when you click on it? It redirects you to another place in your computer. In similar fashion, when you contemplate, meditate on, or pray before an icon, it can focus and redirect your mind to other places and to other spiritual realms. Thus the icon serves to bring people into commune with the great and wondrous mystery.

Protestant tradition often conflates veneration of icons with idol worship. Consequently we do not

see the imagery in Protestant churches that can often be seen elsewhere. Some Protestant churches allow no imagery at all. After my admittedly brief encounters with Eastern churches I wonder if this austerity is really necessary. Is it possible that in our zeal to root out temptation we unwittingly deprived ourselves of an important spiritual component of our Christian heritage?

Dick Heaton

Session News

WRPC is midway through the interim process, trying to understand and articulate what our future might look like. We have had discussions, read handouts, brainstormed, asked questions, and charted responses. The Session has distilled many ideas into two possible options with different emphases. One would be sponsoring a parallel worshiping community alongside WRPC—a form of New Church Development. The other would be focusing on retired adults. Both have exciting possibilities and daunting challenges. How should we proceed?

Many have prayed faithfully about this process, which we know has covered us so far. Now, with concrete options before us, it is the time for continued fervent prayer. To that end, we are starting a **prayer group dedicated to discerning God's will for our future**. If you would like to join in a short time of corporate meditation and prayer about our future as a church, you are welcome to join Ken Holmes in the sanctuary from **7:00 to 7:45 p.m. on Monday evenings**. Please join us if you are able; all are welcome to come for as little or as long as you can stay. And all are encouraged to continue your individual prayers about our church's future as well.

Jennifer Holmes

...but we preach Christ crucified; a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

1 Cor 1:23-25

Successful Garage Sale Fundraiser

Thanks to all of you who donated your "stuff"; without it we could not have sold anything for a dime. Thanks to those who helped organize things prior to the sale day, and many, many thanks to everyone who volunteered their time during the sale on Saturday, cashiering and offering our great deals to garage sale enthusiasts. A very special thank you is due for our four Navajo ladies, Lorraine, Fara, Arlene, and Jewel, for making delicious Navajo Tacos with the help of some of our Korean friends! Remember we could not have pulled off this All-Church event without each and everyone's participation in whatever function you served!!! Thank You!

A total of \$1,765.81 was raised! These proceeds will be used to install either a pond liner or to seal the water reservoir with a better layer of concrete in the small community of Ororicua in Michoacan, Mexico. ARTA has asked for professional advice from the Water Engineers for the Americas, www.wefta.net, yet another non-profit organization based out of Santa Fe. We hope to start work on the reservoir this fall.

Kathrina Clark

PW News

The women are making plans to go out to lunch on Wednesday, October 3. We will meet at the chosen restaurant at 11:30.

The Presbyterian Women expect to begin their monthly Bible Study on Thursday, October 18. The 2012-2013 Horizons Bible Study will be our focus. This year's study is titled, "Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles." The meeting will begin at 9:30 and the location will be announced.

If you are interested in either of these activities please talk with Joyce Berzins, Linda Burns, or Selma Reinovsky.

Selma Reinovsky

October Birthdays



Harry Green	1
Kirsten McCabe	7
Cameron Meadows	7
Stan Bennett	9
Linda Burns	22
Dave Clark	23
Christine Haven	30

Grace Notes

I [Sheila Schiferl] am the (somewhat) new music director. In the past, I've sung in the choir (beginning in the 1990s), played piano and organ (early 2000s), and directed the choir (2006-7). I've also played harp, most recently at Pentecost. WRPC has been an extended family for me; this feels like coming home. I will be playing piano and organ 2-3 times a month, and directing the choir.

We began choir rehearsals in mid-September. To quote Eileen Green, "They're small, but mighty." We currently have six members: One soprano (Joyce), one alto (Jean), one low alto (Linda), two (2!) tenors (Dick and Rod), and one baritone (Sumner). Each one has a voice capable of filling the sanctuary, plus they blend smoothly. Moreover, they learned a fast, fairly complex Mozart piece in ~ fifteen minutes! Listen closely—any church in town would be privileged to have these people.

Rev. Cole has asked for MORE ORGAN. I'm happy to oblige! Our "older technology" Rogers electronic organ is capable of handling the regal

stop combinations (albeit not the non-tempered tuning) of the high French Baroque (Louis XIV), as well as Bach pieces, 19th century Romantics (a specialty of Frances Naffziger), and, of course, chimes. Stay tuned—I do plan to program Bach's D minor Toccata (think, "Phantom of the Opera") near Halloween/All Souls' Day.

My aim is to continue Eileen Green's legacy, and build up a music program that chooses pieces with regard to substance, in order to anchor us in our long and rich history. I plan to have Western classical music (including Renaissance and medieval), gospel/spirituals, and a few sacred pieces from other cultures and genres. If you have any pieces, organ or choral, that you would like to hear, let me know. I can usually accommodate requests.

Sheila Schiferl

Treasury Notes

Pledged giving January through August is behind \$5,148.94 from the amount promised and budgeted. Expenses on the other hand have been at 100% of that budgeted. The actual Budget Income **shortage is \$5,243.37** through August.

Our January through August Budget Income breakdown and Expense summary is:

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income:			
Pledged:	62,473.01	68,626.64	6,153.63
Non-pledged:	5,600.36	3,576.00	2,024.36
Facility:	620.15	1,528.00	-907.85
Interest:	520.18	632.00	-111.82
Applied Surplus:	7,203.36	7,203.36	0.00
Income Total	76,417.06	81,566.00	5,148.94
Expense Total	81,660.43	81,566.00	94.43
Shortfall:	5,243.37		

Of the actual \$81,660.43 spent January through August, we have paid \$61,785.82 in fixed costs for our church staff, utilities, and insurance. **In other words, it takes approximately \$10,000 per month to run our church and 3/4 of that is for the fixed costs mentioned above.** The remainder of expenses has been for mission, church program expense, office supplies, janitorial supplies, maintenance, and repairs.

We are using \$10,805.00 from the 2011 Budget Surplus in this year's Budget Income to meet expenses. The other half of the 2011 Budget Surplus will be used as income for our 2013 Budget.

Your pledged or non-pledged gifts are so important to our church. If your financial circumstances have changed since you made your 2012 Pledge last fall and it is difficult to meet your pledge, please let me know so that Session can downsize the Budget Expenses to reflect anticipated Income. Thank you for your continued and faithful financial support.

Susan Buxton

Facilities News

The annual **Fall Clean-up Day** will be held:

**Saturday
October 13th
8:30 a.m. until noon**

There will be jobs for all ages—kids to kids-at-heart. The Clean-up Days, held each spring and fall, are not only a way to tackle some of the clean-up/fix-up tasks in our job jar, but, more importantly, a way to have some fun fellowship and get to know each other better.

We will start at our traditional 8:30 a.m. (this allows time for the donut shop to open) on Saturday October 13th and work until noon, followed by lunch for those who can stay.

We will have a number of projects to complete:

- Replace an outside light fixture
- Replace furnace filters
- Paint the back entrance overhang to the church
- Paint in Memorial Hall
- Oil wood in the Sanctuary
- Vacuum in the main building
- Trim bushes
- Wash the windows in Memorial Hall
- Burn the weeds in the parking lot cracks

Hope to see you there. There will be a signup sheet outside the Sanctuary if you want to lay claim to a specific job ahead of time.

Terry Buxton

Important Contacts

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Help Me Father

*Help me, Father, to walk in the light -
And to sing unto Thee songs of praise.
Help me to pray to you morning and night
And to follow Thee all of my days.*

*Fill my proud heart with thanksgiving -
Help me to be sweet and kind.
Help me, dear Lord, to do what is right,
Make me clean in both body and mind.*

*Grant me humility, patience, and love,
Help me to always be true -
Stay close beside me and help me,
I pray,
Make me ready to serve only you.*

Patti Merrill