



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

November 2012

From the Pastor's Desk



As of this past week, I finally completed the transfer of summer clothes into storage and winter clothes into closets and drawers where they are accessible. Now, this was not as large of an effort as it may sound—as in I didn't hire a moving

company to help me—but it does take some time to organize one's wardrobe according to the season at hand.

Qocholeth (yup, that is the right spelling), to whom the book of Ecclesiastes is attributed, writes to everything there is a season, a time for this and a time for that. And, I think that any of us who has been around for a few seasons knows that there is a rhythm to life that is fairly predictable in how it brings us to one experience and then takes us through another and eventually returns us to where we began.

The interim period in the life of a church is one of those rhythmic experiences where a congregation loses a pastor and then goes through a transitional process that concludes with the arrival of a new one. In some sense, the results are the same, i.e., a church had a pastor at a certain point in time, and at another point in time it has a pastor once again. But, the process is not that simple in reality. That is why we use the term "transitional" as much as we use the term "interim" because the process recognizes and encourages change. Much like the changing of

the seasons, the life of a congregation changes as it loses one pastor and works its way, sometimes in fits and starts, towards finding a new one.

As a congregation that is finding its way through its transitional time, you are facing not just the prospect of change, but the certainty of it. Those changes include some wonder and trepidation about the future, some questions about how to design a ministry to secure your own future in that future, and how long it will take you to find "He/She who is to come" to lead you forward.

In my sermon this past Sunday, I spoke about the "fear factor" that churches face when their futures seem uncertain. Congregations feel afraid when they are unsure where they are headed and when they are without a shepherd to guide them. It would be naive for me to think that some of those fear symptoms are not part of the process of facing the future here at WRPC. But, it would be no less naive to think that you have not been here before and you have no hope or expectations for your future. Indeed, your work during this interim time in looking back on your past and searching for a "new identity" in the present is your affirmation that your future is secure. Added to that is the belief that none of us is ever alone. Like the children of Israel in the wilderness, God is always here and there to guide us, sometimes "leading from behind" and sometimes showing up in the most unexpected ways.

Jesus said to follow him. But, he didn't say where, or for how long. Nor, did he promise a safe haven at the end of the journey—indeed he sometimes spoke of a cross. He just said to follow. I hope, in the months to come as you embark on the last leg of the interim journey, that

you will follow and you will grow in faith and hope that God intends good things for WRPC, as it shares the best things of itself, and the Gospel of Christ, to all who are in need of both.

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, 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.

Thanksgiving

Turkey and pumpkin pie,
Home, where spirits are high,
Apples on the old apple tree,
New baby in the family,
Kitchen and a friendly smile,
Sit down and stay a while,
Grateful heart for the good things we share
Icing on the cranberry bread to show how we care,
Various dishes, recipes, and more,
Imagining the fun we have in store,
Never complaining, but counting your blessings instead,
Giving thanks to God before you go to bed.

Patti Merrill



Letter from the Editor



Fall is my favorite time of the year. The monsoon is over, the days and nights become cool, the skies become crystal clear, the aspens and cottonwoods turn golden yellow, and the wonderful aroma of roasting chili peppers permeates the air. What a great time to be out and

about! Soon we'll see the first snowflakes of winter.

Fall is also the time of one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving. I'll say why it is one of my favorites in a minute. First, let me digress and point out that Thanksgiving means different things to different people. To many it is simply a secular holiday—a day off from work. It's a day for family gatherings, a feast with roasted turkey and pumpkin pie, a football game, or perhaps a parade. It's also the day before Black Friday, the first serious shopping day before Christmas. Since some workers also get the Friday after Thanksgiving off, it can also be the beginning of a four-day weekend. None of these things are bad, but for many of us Thanksgiving has a more important meaning.

According to tradition, the first Thanksgiving took place at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in the fall of 1621. The previous year had been very hard on the Pilgrims; nearly half of them had died. So at the completion of a successful harvest a celebration was held with thanks and praise being given to God for their deliverance. The food included corn, geese, turkeys, ducks, eel, clams, leeks, plums, cod, bass, barley, venison, and corn bread. A band of local Wampanoag Indians also participated and brought wild turkeys and venison. The feast and the prayers lasted for three days. Although the exact date is not known, it clearly took place in late autumn.

In 1623 a day of fasting and prayer was held during a period of drought that was again threatening the colony. This turned into a day of thanksgiving as the rain came during the prayers. It eventually became customary in New England to celebrate a thanksgiving each year after the harvest.

Those Thanksgiving celebrations were profoundly religious and always about giving thanks to God, regardless of good times or bad. The colonists knew that God was their creator and provider and that all good things ultimately came from Him. There was always much to be thankful for. This was clearly exemplified in 1623 when Governor Bradford proclaimed November 29 as a time to gather and “listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.”

In 1789 George Washington proclaimed a National Thanksgiving Day in honor of the new United States Constitution, to be held on the last day in November. However, this was later discontinued during the Jefferson administration. While Thanksgiving celebrations continued in New England the practice slowly disappeared in other parts of the United States. It appeared that the Thanksgiving holiday might disappear altogether. It was only through the efforts of Sarah Josepha Hale, who tirelessly wrote letters, pamphlets, and magazine articles over a period of nearly forty years, that Abraham Lincoln finally proclaimed Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Lincoln chose the last Thursday of November, following Washington’s example, “as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father.” In 1941 the time was officially changed to the fourth Thursday of November.

As our society has become increasingly secular, the religious aspects of the holiday are often overlooked, leaving only the feasting. But for Christians the giving of thanks and praise remains the central theme of the holiday. In scripture we find thanksgiving and praise from cover to cover. The book of Psalms is packed full of songs of thanksgiving, both for God’s grace to the Israelite people as well as for His individual graces to each of us. In the New Testament there are repeated admonitions to give thanks to God. Thanksgiving is always to be a part of our prayers. It is remarkable that our forefathers saw fit to institutionalize this practice as a national holiday.

This year my family, including Ann and myself, our children, their spouses, and our grandchildren, will gather in Phoenix for Thanksgiving. We have many things to be thankful for and we will offer thanks and prayers with gusto! This is why Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. And of course we will also

enjoy the turkey, the pumpkin pie, the football games, and the parades!

Dick Heaton



Praise the LORD.

*Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.
Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,
praise him with tambourine and dancing,
praise him with the strings and flute,
praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the
LORD.*

Praise the LORD.

Psalms 150

Go Paperless! Save a stamp! If you would like to receive your copy of the Overlook electronically rather than through the mail, just let our WRPC Office Manager know and make sure she has your correct e-mail address. We’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.

Session News

PW News

At the 21 October meeting the Session concluded we are ready to move toward election of a Pastor Nominating Committee. Accordingly the WRPC Nominating Committee (different from the Pastor Nominating Committee) will meet to consider whom to recommend to the congregation for the Pastor Nominating Committee. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will be elected at a congregational meeting to be called when the Church Nominating Committee has a slate to propose.

The WRPC Nominating Committee is currently incomplete, having lost one of its at-large members since it was constituted at the last Annual Meeting. Therefore the Session and the congregation must first take action to fill the vacancy before that committee can proceed to consider candidates for the PNC. The PNC will ultimately consist of two Session members, a Deacon, and four at large members.

Reflecting on all the Session has heard from members of the congregation, in meetings and individually, we believe the congregation is not ready to decisively select either of the "new identity" options that have surfaced from the Congregation's work over the summer. If we are reading the collective input correctly, this ambivalence will carry into the work of the PNC and its appraisal of candidates.

In addition to the Interim Process, the Session has focused in recent meetings on the current stewardship campaign and preliminary discussions on a 2013 budget. Many thanks for your prayerful consideration of WRPC's needs for your financial and other support during the stewardship campaign.

George Callaghan

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37-40

The usual First Wednesday Luncheon will be November 7, at 12:00 AT THE CHURCH. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED. If you have a special dietary requirement feel free to bring that with you. If anyone has something they would particularly like to share, please contact Selma Reinovsky or Joyce Berzins. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

PW monthly Bible Study/Circle will meet Thursday, November 15, at 10:00 A.M. at the church. Please note change in time!! The Horizons Bible Study for this year is "Dispatches to God's Household: The General Epistles." We will be doing Lesson 1, lead by Selma Reinovsky.

We continue to collect "Box Tops for Education," Campbell's (bar code portion) labels. Look for a basket on the table in the hallway. These are sent to Menaul School (Presbyterian) in Albuquerque to be redeemed for educational items. There is also a box for donations of your "hotel extras" (shampoos, lotions etc.) that are used along with gifts for local outreach missions. Thanks for all!

Joyce Berzins



November Birthdays

Craig Kelley	6
Aaron Roybal	22

Save the Date!

Identity Theft & Investment Fraud Prevention Seminar

Monday, November 12, 2012
7:00 p.m.
WRPC Memorial Hall

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the U.S. and the world. Last year it cost U.S. businesses and consumers over \$400,000,000 and affected over \$10,000,000 people. Learn how to protect your confidential financial information. The first and most effective line of defense is with YOU.

We are bombarded with emails, internet offerings, mailings, phone calls, retail promotions, and even personal appeals to invest money for some profit or gain. Learn the warning signs so you can spot a fraudulent offering, company, or promoter. Learn the questions to ask so you won't be a victim of Investment Fraud.

The dual-topic seminar will be presented by the New Mexico Securities Division, Regulation and Licensing Department. Those in our community who are interested are welcome to attend.

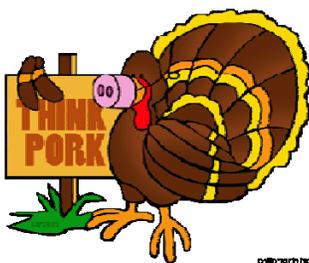
Susan Buxton

Facilities News

October 13 was the fall workday. Many chores were accomplished and the Church receiving a thorough cleaning. The kitchen stove was completely cleaned.

The new storage shed, donated by the Creagers, was reassembled. This will give the Church needed storage space.

The twice-yearly work days provide an opportunity to do needed maintenance with our sweat equity. Everyone's efforts are appreciated.



Terry Buxton

Treasury Notes

Pledged giving is lagging quite a bit behind the amount promised and budgeted. Our budget is structured primarily around your pledges. In fact, we rely heavily on the \$8,578.33 monthly promised amount to meet anticipated monthly expenses, which are \$10,195.75.

Our January through September budget income breakdown and expense summary is:

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income:			
Pledged:	69,359.69	77,204.97	-7,845.28
Non-pledged:	5,751.36	4,023.00	1,728.36
Facility:	707.25	1,719.00	-1,011.75
Interest:	751.14	711.00	40.70
Applied Surplus:	8,103.78	8,103.78	0.00
Income Total	84,673.22	91,761.75	-7,088.53
Expense Total	90,421.92	91,761.75	-1,339.83
Shortfall:	-5,748.70		

Of the actual \$90,421.92 spent January through September, we have paid \$69,410.31 (77%) in fixed costs for our church staff, utilities, and insurance. The remainder of expenses has been for mission/witness, church program expenses, office supplies, janitorial supplies, maintenance, and repairs.

If your financial circumstances have changed and it is necessary to change your pledge, please talk with me. We can then downsize our spending accordingly.

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. Thank you for your continued and faithful financial support.

Susan Buxton

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

1 John 3:1

New Addresses

Here are two new addresses within the congregation. You may wish to update your directories accordingly.

Jerry and Terri Creager
6623 Ventana Hills Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114

Esther Kopper
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Bakersfield, CA 93311

Important Contacts

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Extra Helpings:

Football was played on Thanksgiving Day for the first time in the 1870s. It quickly became a tradition, particularly for Ivy League teams. In 1893 a newspaper editorial declared: "Thanksgiving Day is no longer a solemn festival to God for mercies given.... It is a holiday granted by the State and the Nation to see a game of football."

The first Macy's parade took place in 1924. It was organized by store employees and had floats, bands, and animals from the Central Park Zoo. For many families watching Thanksgiving Day parades is as much a part of celebrating the holiday as turkey and pumpkin pie.

*(From **Thank You, Sarah**, by Laurie Halse Anderson, Aladdin Paperbacks, 2002.)*

Thanksgiving

*Let us give thanks to God above,
Thanks for expressions of His love,
Seen in the book of nature, grand
Taught by His love on every hand.*

*Let us be thankful in our hearts,
Thankful for all the truth imparts,
For the religion of our Lord,
All that is taught us in His word.*

*Let us be thankful for a land,
That will for such religion stand;
One that protects it by the law,
One that before it stands in awe.*

*Thankful for all things let us be,
Though there be woes and misery;
Lessons they bring us for our good-
Later 'twill all be understood.*

*Thankful for peace o'er land and sea,
Thankful for signs of liberty,
Thankful for homes, for life and health,
Pleasure and plenty, fame and wealth.*

*Thankful for friends and loved ones, too,
Thankful for all things, good and true,
Thankful for harvest in the fall,
Thankful to Him who gave it all.*

Lizelia Augusta Jenkins Moorer



The Goose Story

by Dr. Harry Clarke Noyes
ARCS NEWS, Vol. 7, No. 1, January 1992

Next
fall, when
you see Geese
heading South for
the Winter, flying along
in V formation, you might
consider what science has dis-
covered as to why they fly that way:
as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an
uplift for the bird immediately following. By
flying in V formation the whole flock adds at least
71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

***People who share a common direction and sense of community
can get where they are going more quickly and easily
because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.***

When
a goose falls
out of formation,
it suddenly feels the drag
and resistance of trying to go it alone
and quickly gets back into formation to take
advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

***If we have as much sense as a goose,
we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way
we are.***

When
the Head Goose
gets tired, it rotates back
in the wing and another goose flies point.

***It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs
with people or with geese flying South.***

Geese
honk from behind to
encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What do we say when we honk from behind?

Finally,
and this is important,
when a goose gets sick, or is
wounded by gunshots and falls out
of formation, two other geese fall out with that
goose and follow it down to lend help and protection.
They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, or until
it dies. Only then do they launch out on their own, or with another
formation
to catch up with their group.

***IF WE HAVE THE SENSE OF A GOOSE,
WE WILL STAND BY EACH OTHER
LIKE THAT.***

(Reprinted from materials provided by Bonnie J. Collins, EdM, LCSW-R)