



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

February 2013

From a Pastor's Desk



It's almost Lent—so soon? Doesn't it seem like we just finished Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany? How could it be Lent? But our calendars say February 13 is Ash Wednesday, 40 days, not counting the Sundays, before Easter. Yes, both Lent and Easter are early this year. They

vary because the dates for the seasons are not related to our modern calendar. Yearly Easter celebrations vary 35 days between March 22 and April 25.

Advent was the time of awaiting God's coming, Christmas, of celebrating that coming, and Epiphany, of celebrating God's gift to the world—incarnation. The church calendar reminds us of life's ups and downs. Perhaps an early Lent reminds us that lows sometimes come quickly after highs. It is our human experience.

Can you appreciate observing these seasons of the church year? When I was a child, we didn't observe Advent, Epiphany, or Lent. Many Protestants have learned to observe these seasons that were only the experience of our Catholic neighbors. Have you seen Presbyterians with forehead ashes, the sign of repentance, on Ash Wednesday?

Lent is a time for repenting of sins and remembering our frailty. Some observe Lent by fasting or prayerful abstinence—like giving up chocolate, ice cream, or sex. The observance

becomes a reminder to pray, to seek forgiveness, or to begin a new life. Lent might be a time to remember the daily struggle of the poor—the people Jesus spent most of his ministry with. It culminates with the Holy Week remembrance of Jesus' suffering and of all human suffering. Lent ends in the joyous celebration of life—Easter, the Day of Resurrection. How will you observe Lent?

The word "Lent" has to do with length. It is the lengthening of days, which is, of course, the characteristic of spring. In the northern hemisphere, each day after the December equinox is longer than the day before. I became particularly aware of the lengthening of days when I lived in the Arctic. In Barrow, Alaska the sun made its first appearance above the horizon on January 28 after remaining hidden since November 18. But in the next 103 days the sun's visibility went from zero to twenty-four hours, a huge change from day to day. Spring, Lent, becomes a daily cascade of light after winter darkness.

Even here in New Mexico Lent is a time of increasing light. Can it be for us a sign of renewal and new life that culminates with Easter joy? Life offers time to be reflective, even sad, and times to be joyful, even jubilant. How are you feeling today? How will you observe Lent?

Your congregation has been through the loss of its pastor—traumatic for some but perhaps a relief for others. Now you have been through a rigorous year with an interim pastor looking at who you are and who God calls you to be. That work is not complete; can it ever be? What is next? The search for a new pastor begins—one who can walk with you as you continue to seek God's future. This Lent, so quick upon the heels of Christmas, may be a sign of the ups and downs

yet to come in your life and in your congregation. May God bless your journey.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this space in your newsletter, for the opportunity to worship with you from time to time, and for the opportunity to work with your Session and Pastor Nominating Committee. Blessings.
Jim Roghair

WRPC Contact Information

White Rock Presbyterian Church is located at 310 Rover Boulevard, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544. We are currently without a pastor; any of the church elders can be reached through the church office. 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 AM - 1:00 PM.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Letter from the Editor



As I am writing this month's letter my mind is stuck on football. This isn't so surprising since the Super Bowl is coming up, but I really should be thinking about other things. For example, with it being the February newsletter I should be thinking of Valentine's Day or the beginning of Lent, which occurs early this year. But my mind just won't go there so I am going to talk about football.

I recall one of the playoff games, although exactly which one escapes me, in which the home team went into the final two minutes of the game with a seven point lead and possession of the ball. The opposing team had used up all their time-outs so that they could not stop the clock. It looked like the home team had the game all locked up; all they had to do was to keep possession of the ball and run out the clock. There was really nothing the opposing team could do except to keep fighting and to hope that something miraculous would happen.

At this point the home team coaching staff made a crucial mistake. They went conservative. Instead of playing to win they decided to play not to lose. After all, they only needed to keep the other team out of the end zone for the next two minutes. If only they avoided the big mistake, like fumbling the ball or throwing an interception, they should win. Right? The result of this thinking was three consecutive "safe" running plays that yielded a cumulative gain of four yards. So on fourth down at mid field they had to punt, giving the opposing team possession of the ball with one minute left in the game.

Unfortunately for the home team the same conservative mentality infected their defense. Instead of attacking the opposing quarterback as they had done throughout the entire game, they dropped back and played a "prevent" defense. The result was that the opposing team mounted a sustained drive with expert clock management that culminated in a spectacular catch in the back of the end zone with seconds left in the game. The opposing team went on to win the game in overtime.

All of this was great theater. It was an exciting game with a thrilling conclusion, the sort of thing that sports fans live for. The sports writers went wild praising the great come back and the heroic things that were done on that final drive to tie the score. But there were a few curmudgeons, like me, who noted that the home team really lost the game when they decided to sit on their slim lead rather than continuing the aggressive style of play they had pursued earlier in the game.

What does all this have to do with us? Well, it suggests that one should not sit back and relax until the victory is truly completed. The home team in our example above played 58 minutes of inspired and hard fought football, only to lose the game because they played uninspired football for the last two minutes. As we of WRPC anticipate the end of a long and difficult Interim Process, let's not do that. Let's play to win.

Dick Heaton

Session News

The Session learned on January 14 that Presbytery's Committee on Ministry had approved our Mission Study—clearing the way for WRPC to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting on January 27. If you attended the Annual Meeting you know we did just that.

Also at the Annual Meeting we discussed an option for the PNC to consider in their deliberations—the calling of a Pastor for a designated term. For those who weren't able to attend the Annual Meeting, or if you did and would like to hear a bit more about this option, read on.

The PC(USA) Book of Order (Section G-2.0504a) in describing “Installed Pastoral Relationships” says “A teaching elder may be installed for an indefinite period or for a designated term ...” Most Presbyterians are familiar with pastors (teaching elders) being installed for an “indefinite” period (sometimes we say “permanent” but we realize few things are really permanent) and are less familiar with the idea of a Pastor called for a designated term, which is becoming more common in the denomination. A call for a designated term has been used with success at least three times in the Presbyteries of Santa Fe and Sierra Blanca in recent years. The

duration of designated terms can be from 2 to 4 years (set at the time the pastor is called) and a pastor so installed can be called “indefinitely” at the end of the designated term by mutual agreement among the congregation, the Presbytery, and the Pastor. If there is no such mutual agreement, the pastor moves on and the congregation begins a search for another pastor.

Another characteristic of the designated pastoral term, which seems valuable, is that the search process can be more efficient and shorter than the “normal” search process for a pastor installed for an indefinite term. In the “normal” search process the Pastor Nominating Committee deals directly with applications from dozens (perhaps 50-100) of interested pastors, narrows the field, conducts interviews, and finally nominates one candidate for the approval of the congregation. In the designated search process the Executive Presbyter (in our case the Missional Presbyter, Rev. Sallie Watson) uses a network of contacts and the denominational placement system to present to the Pastor Nominating Committee a much smaller group (a handful or so) of presumably more attractive candidates for review. The PNC follows much the same evaluation and interview process as with the “normal” search process. The PNC may select from this group of pre-screened candidates and if none seem suitable the PNC may request more candidates through the Executive Presbyter.

Searching for a Pastor for a designated term also may attract a group of candidates who are interested in the challenge to accomplish major outcomes in a limited term of years. Such candidates might be those WRPC seeks as we pursue the revitalization and growth described in our Mission Study Vision Statement.

With these considerations in mind, the Session believes it would be wise for the Pastor Nominating Committee to CONSIDER the option of searching for and calling a pastor to be installed at White Rock Presbyterian Church for a designated term as well as the option of searching for and calling a pastor to be installed for an indefinite term.

George Callaghan

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

Worship

Through February, we will be blessed with several guest pastors who have agreed to fill our pulpit.

On February 3rd, Pat Slentz will preach and lead worship on the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Pat is a Certified Lay Pastor who has preached for us on several occasions. Pat is volunteer chaplain at Los Alamos Medical Center and works for a hospice program in Los Alamos. She lives in Los Alamos with her husband, Eric, and preaches in several churches in northern New Mexico. We hope to commission the Pastor Nominating Committee during Sunday morning worship. Denomination emphasis on February 3rd is the “Souper Bowl of Caring”

On February 10th, Rev Elizabeth Graham will be in the pulpit as we celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord on the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Elizabeth, who is a retired pastor living in Santa Fe, preaches regularly in the Presbyterian Church in Mora. Elizabeth is also a pastoral counselor and works for a hospice group in Santa Fe. Denomination emphasis on February 10th is the “Camp and Conference Ministries”

February 13th is Ash Wednesday—look for more details.

On February 17th, Jim Roghair will join us, preaching on the First Sunday of Lent and moderating the session. Jim is a retired pastor, who never seems to lack interesting work. He is our Committee on Ministry (COM) liaison during the interim period, has preached for us regularly, and moderates the session in the absence of an interim pastor. Denominational emphasis for Jan 17th is “Health Awareness and Prayer for Healing”

On February 24th, we will welcome Fred Thomas, and hopefully some friends, from the House of Fellowship in Vanderwagon, NM—our partner church on the Navajo reservation. Fred will preach and worship will follow more closely the form and style that Fred uses in his church, a somewhat different style than we usually follow. Plans are being made for a barbeque lunch to follow worship.

Through January and February the session is in contact with several Presbyterian pastors in the

local area, discussing the possibility of arranging a part-time interim position, or a stated supply position while the PNC searches for our next installed pastor.

Bob Reinovsky

Witness News

Lorraine and Fred Thomas send these updates about their life and work among their Navajo (Dine’) people south of Gallup, near Vanderwagon, NM.

- Church members made goody bags for community members filled with small items such as shampoo, first aid supplies, fruit, and small toys. In addition, many of the ladies made quilts, which were also distributed to the elderly in the community.
- The church members have been busy putting laminate flooring in the fellowship hall (which WRPC helped construct). As they were working in the evening of December 30, two carloads of distressed folks showed up, sick with fear about negative forces in their lives. They desired prayer and knew of Fred’s faith and the humble little church that has served the community for over 25 years. After much conversation, prayer, and fellowship, twelve people gave their lives to Christ that very night and have since been regular attendees at House of Fellowship. Praise the Lord!
- To bring in the New Year, the HOF members desired a week of nightly prayer meetings, led by Fred, who often is called to preach at revivals around the Navajo Reservation. From December 31 through January 5, they held church every night and welcomed many members of the community who “got the New Year started with God.” From January 8th to the 12th Fred preached at a Revival in Tohatchi, NM, north of Gallup, bringing the Good News to many Navajo people in their own language.
- Their wood hauling ministry continues, much needed, during these bitter cold days and nights. Craig and Lori Kelley from WRPC delivered a large load of wood to the church on Jan. 19. The Kelleys, the Thomases, and several other HOF members enjoyed a short visit as they unloaded the wood. That wood is

right now helping several Navajo families stay warm. Thanks to Craig and Lori for the hard work and long drive to support this ministry!

- The home-improvement ministry also continues. Recently Fred and Lorraine helped a neighbor install a pellet stove and they will be working on another roofing project in the neighboring community of Bread Springs soon.
- Church attendance has been at an all-time high for the winter months. Some members are so enthused that they want to move the sanctuary into the recently constructed fellowship hall in order to build a bigger church building. May God's will prevail!
- One of the church members, Loretta Ashley, has a daughter, Tuesdae, serving in the military in Afghanistan. Loretta uses old-fashioned cassette tapes and a recorder to record Fred's messages, then sends them on to Tuesdae. Tuesdae reports that many of her fellow soldiers gather round to listen to the Word in Navajo and English. So God's word, delivered through Fred, has reached around the world!
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Fred and Lorraine and several other HOF members are planning a visit of support to WRPC on FEBRUARY 24. **COME AND HEAR FRED PREACH!** Vernon Kerr and his Fellowship Committee also promise a casual luncheon after the service. And we hope to send our HOF friends home with a big load of firewood. See Craig Kelley to find out how you can support this effort.

Fred and Lorraine send their blessings to WRPC and, as always, covet your prayers for the Navajo people to prosper and know Christ's Peace.

Jennifer Holmes

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31

PW News

Plans for the spring activities of the Presbyterian Women are now set. Mark your calendars and plan ahead for several important events:

On Wednesday, March 13th, at the monthly luncheon, homemade cookies will be packed in tins for delivery to the Crisis Center in Espanola. These goodies are not only enjoyed by those in residence but also by the men attending counseling sessions. All women of the church are invited to the luncheon but cookies may be left in the kitchen ahead of time by those unable to attend.

The Souper Supper is planned for Friday, April 18th, after the completion of tax returns. All proceeds of the supper are donated to hunger relief organizations from local to worldwide. This has become an all-church effort, spear-headed by PW; homemade soups, breads and cookies are welcomed along with manpower and publicity.

Don't forget to drop off Campbell Product Labels and Box Tops for Education in the donation basket in the hallway. These continue to benefit the Manual School (Presbyterian) in Albuquerque.

Bible Study/Circle continues the study of "The General Epistles," meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 10 to 12. Check with Selma Reinovsky or Joyce Berzins for the location.

Linda Burns

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.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17

Treasury Notes

Financial Summary

We ended 2012 with a Budget Income shortage of \$4,523.58. *Pledged giving* January through December 2012 was short \$8,748.43 of the amount promised and budgeted. *Non-Pledged giving* exceeded the amount budgeted by \$1,334.33. *Expenses* were at 97% of the amount budgeted. To cover the income shortage, we paid for the expense items from our funds at Los Alamos National Bank. Thank you all for your financial gifts to the church!

Our final January through December 2012 financial summary is:

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income:			
Pledged:	94,191.57	102,940.00	-8,748.43
Non-pledged:	6,698.33	5,364.00	1,334.33
Facility:	1,952.25	2,292.00	-339.75
Interest:	994.28	948.00	-46.28
Applied Surplus:	10,805.00	10,805.00	0.00
Income Total	114,641.43	122,349.00	-7,707.57
Expense Total	119,165.01	112,153.25	-3,183.99
Shortfall:	4,523.58		

2013 Budget

We have received \$86,590 in pledges for our 2013 Budget from *20 pledging units* at WRPC! The 20 pledging units represent 33 individuals in our church family. Thanks to each of you for your commitment!

If you have not made your pledge for 2013, it is still not too late! We are hoping to hear from *everyone* in our WRPC family.

In January 2013, the Session made significant changes to the Proposed 2013 Budget after receiving the resignation of Rev. Cole at the December 2012 session meeting. The *approved* 2013 Budget is a balanced one of \$101,795. In place of budgeting for a full-time Interim Pastor, we instead budgeted for a half-time Temporary Supply Pastor to begin as soon as possible and running tentatively through October 2013. Session is in the process of securing and contacting names of half-time temporary supply pastor candidates from Sallie Watson at the Presbytery. Hopeful that the work of the Pastor

Nominating Committee would be concluded by early fall, the 2013 Budget has funded for a full-time installed Pastor beginning in November 2013.

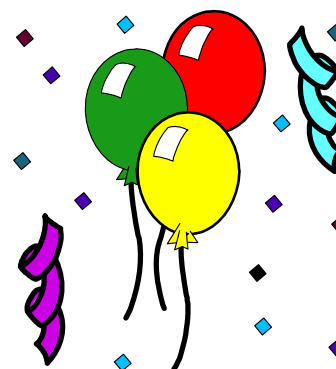
Details of the 2012 Budget, the 2012 Actual Income and 2012 Actual Expenses, the 2013 Budget, activity for the Designated Funds, a 2012 Balance Sheet, a Treasurer's Report, and an Audit Committee report are in the **2012 Annual Report**. There are extra copies of the 2012 Annual Report on the hall table outside the sanctuary.

2012 Contribution Statements

The 2012 Contribution Statements of giving by check or Electronic Funds Transfer to WRPC were mailed January 24. If you have any questions about your statement please contact the church office or Susan Buxton.

Susan Buxton

February Birthdays



Don Burns	5
Anthony Haven	7
Mary Medendorp	7
Carol Honig	11
Joyce Berzins	25
Susan Buxton	25
Bob Reinovsky	27
Jeff Goettee	28



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 12, 6:00 p.m.

Plan now to join us for a delicious supper of pancakes, bacon, and King Cake on Tuesday, February 12 at 6:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall. We will be celebrating **Shrove Tuesday**, the day preceding the beginning of **Lent**.

Shrove Tuesday traditionally has included a meal in which certain foods like sugar, fats, flour, eggs, and meats were used-up in a household, since they would not be consumed during Lent and thus might spoil. Pancakes or other fried bread is the traditional food consumed in North and South American countries, as well as Western European countries, on Shrove Tuesday.

Shrove Tuesday, from the Old English word, **shrive**, meaning "confess," is the beginning of the period of penitence for the faithful believer. The forty days of Lent in many Christian practices has included ritual fasting, prayer, self-denial, repentance, etc., as a way of personal preparation for faithful Christians for the Passion and Resurrection of Christ.

We are most familiar with the **Mardi Gras** or **Fat Tuesday** Carnival celebrations that take place in New Orleans from **Epiphany** to Fat Tuesday-Mardi Gras-Shrove Tuesday. The festive table decorations of Mardi Gras, beads and doubloons and the colorful King Cake dessert at *our* Pancake Supper, give a nod to that U.S. celebration.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of **Lent**, follows Shrove Tuesday.

Susan Buxton

White Rock Snow-Alert Volunteer Needed

Since there are a few more months when we can expect snow in the area, I need a snow-watcher in White Rock to telephone me at about 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning if there is more than a dusting of snow on the ground in White Rock, so that I can arrive early enough to clear the walks around the church. If you are interested in this volunteer job, please call me at 665-3364.

Terry Buxton

No Overlook in March

The editor will be on vacation for the latter half of February so there will be no Overlook in March. Look for the next issue of the Overlook to appear in April.

Important Contacts

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