



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

April 2013

From the Pastor's Desk

Spring and sneezing are upon us! One of the themes in our Lenten Lectionary as well as on Easter morning is that God is doing a new thing. Isaiah's prophecies are uplifting and hopeful, inspiring any of us who have ever felt stuck or in a rut or unable to see anything good in our future, to take heart in God's work on our behalf.

*For I am about to create
new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy
and its people as a delight.*

Isaiah 65:17-18

I have only been with you a short while, but I can sense the newness—the changing atmosphere that is evolving into something God will delight in. It seems that it will also be one of his cherished vessels to deliver his grace to others.

What tells me this? Many small things about you but mainly one big thing: your faith. Of the variety of churches I've served, this congregation stands out as one with a core of folk who take their baptism seriously. You live your faith in worship, study, prayer, and service with admirable dedication. That's the fundamental ingredient in being a vessel of our Gracious God.

Another ingredient among you is your dedication to one another. I've noticed that you like each other! At least it seems that way with those whom I've met so far. You also are a realistic bunch and, for the most part, I think this past

year of intense study with Rev. Cole has helped you prepare for some of the stark challenges that lie ahead...and that is where the new thing that God is doing will have room to develop!

One of the challenges will be to envision something that looks nothing like what you think it should or what you've had in the past. When God sent his Son into the world, none of the speculations, expectations, or predictions about the Messiah fit the reality. And the reality, our beloved Redeemer, is what the world needed.

In your Mission Study you have looked at various ways to define your ministry in the Los Alamos area. You have shown a willingness to "think outside the box" and yet, trust me, God will surprise you—in joy.

I look forward to being part of this discovery time. Pray for your Pastor Nominating Committee as they endeavor to search for a shepherd for the church you are and can be. And pray that they will perceive the Spirit's leading, since God is doing a new thing!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Graham

*Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is the King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.
Who is he, the King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.*

Psalms 24:7-8,10

WRPC Contact Information

White Rock Presbyterian Church is located at 310 Rover Boulevard, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544. The pastor, Rev. Elizabeth Graham, can be reached at 575-770-6881 or by email at sweetp217@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 AM - 1:00 PM.

Letter from the Editor



The other day I needed to pick up a few items from the grocery store. So I drove over to Smith's, parked my car, and walked into the front door. I picked up a shopping cart at the entrance and then proceeded to the back of the store where the milk and orange juice are kept. After obtaining those I picked up a couple of other items and headed for the checkout line. There was an open self checkout station, so I scanned my items, paid with a credit card, and took my items out to my car. Then I drove home.

It wasn't until I was nearly home that I realized that I had completed the entire process without ever interacting with another person. The more I think about it the more it seems that our society is set up to facilitate this impersonal way of doing things. For example, I do a lot of shopping on line. I can select items from my computer, review specifications, read reviews, order, and pay without ever leaving my desk. A couple of days later the selected items magically appear at my doorstep. I usually don't even see the delivery person.

Even our conversations have become impersonal. When I had a consulting job last year I discovered that workers today don't answer their phones and they usually don't respond to voice messages. The way to communicate is through e-mail and

text messages. I have even seen teenagers sitting around a table together in total silence while they busily text each other. Simple conversation is a dying art. More important, the ability to articulate a thought beyond 140 characters is becoming increasingly rare.

All of this bodes ill for our society. Communities are built by people working together for their common good. If people don't talk to each other or share their beliefs or support each other then communities break down and cease to function. When communities fail, society ultimately breaks down. The symptoms are all around us.

One of the things I admired about WRPC when I joined (many years ago) was that it represented a vigorous and supportive community of believers. While the membership encompassed a wide range of personalities and even a spectrum of beliefs, it was a good example of how a diverse group of people can work together to the benefit of all. Through our activities, both within and without our church, we were able to bridge some of the barriers to personal communication that our society is increasingly imposing on us.

Today WRPC is considerably less diverse than it once was. As a group we are now considerably older and much more like-minded than we used to be. I hope that when we finally settle on a new pastor, we will actively rebuild the diversity of our membership and reinvigorate the WRPC community. After all, someone or something needs to encourage real communication and active personal interactions within our society.

Dick Heaton

Session News

Session activity since the February Overlook has concentrated on three subjects: finding a Temporary Supply Pastor to serve WRPC until a called pastor is in service, discussion with the Pastor Nominating Committee on the pastor search process, and initiating a series of listening visits to WRPC members and friends.

First, the Session is very happy to announce what's not news to many of you: Rev. Elizabeth Graham has joined us as Temporary Supply Pastor. Rev. Graham started March 1 and will be working on a part time basis. (We are going to do

Witness News

House of Fellowship Visits WRPC

a check in April to see just how “part time” the role is; Rev. Graham continues in another part time role as bereavement counselor for a Santa Fe hospice organization.) If you haven't already met Liz please join us on Sunday morning to make her acquaintance.

Second, the Session met with the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to discuss the two options for the search process that were described at the Annual Meeting of the congregation in late January—either a search for a pastor for a designated term or for an indefinite term. At the March Session meeting the Session heard a recommendation from the PNC to pursue a designated term and voted unanimously to support and approve that recommendation.

Finally, the Session has decided to initiate a program of listening visits to members and friends of WRPC living in the White Rock/Los Alamos vicinity. We have invited the Board of Deacons to join us in this effort. You will hear more about this program as the planning and training of officers progresses. The current plan is for teams (probably of two people—Rev. Graham and a WRPC officer) to visit members and friends in their homes for short visits starting in April. Our intent with these visits is to introduce Rev. Graham to members of our family and to hear—in a more structured, substantive way than is possible in our more impromptu conversations—what members of the WRPC have to say about White Rock Presbyterian Church and the broader church as we prepare for the arrival of our next called pastor.

George Callaghan



Our sisters and brothers from the House of Fellowship Church (HOF) near Gallup blessed our congregation with song and preaching on February 24. Eight Members of the church, which is led by Pastor Fred Thomas and his wife Lorraine, traveled to White Rock over the weekend to worship and fellowship with us. Fred brought us a message of hope for the downtrodden and led us in some inspiring hymns and praise songs, including Amazing Grace in Navajo. Four of the ladies accompanied him with their beautiful singing. Johnny Tracey preached on Philippians 4:4-9 and inspired us with his own testimony of being transformed by the love of God after a challenging childhood. After worship service, we had a relaxing fellowship time, with barbeque on a bun and coleslaw served up by Vernon Kerr and the fellowship committee. Finally, we loaded the Navajo pickups with two loads of Los Alamos pinon, ponderosa, and cedar firewood, which went directly to heat the homes of several families on the reservation. We cherish our partnership with our HOF brothers and sisters who are always there for us with prayer and resources. We pray for more opportunities to work, pray, fellowship, and worship together.

Youth Summer Camp Scholarships Available!

What is summer without at least one week of camp? Ahh, the days of dips in the pond, team sports, ropes courses, hiking, laser tag, crafts, campfires, singing, Scripture memory, and relationship building with Christ at the center.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Mark 16:5-8

WRPC is again able to offer scholarships to middle and high school students who would like to attend a Christian summer camp this year. There are several camps in the area offering youth camps, including Ghost Ranch, Camp Loma Verde, Glorieta Conference Center, and several in Colorado. In addition, we hope to sponsor several young people from the House of Fellowship congregation to attend Broken Arrow Bible Camp, located about 10 miles from the House of Fellowship near Gallup.

If you have a family member who would like to attend a specific camp this summer, see Jennifer Holmes or Susan Buxton with the name of the camp you'd like to attend and the cost. If you'd like to donate to this fund, just earmark your check for "Youth Summer Camp" or see Jennifer or Susan. Christian camps can change lives for young people, plus it's fun, fun, fun!

Julie's Helpers Committee Preparing for 3rd Annual Scholarship

The Scholarship committee has again started meeting to distribute the applications for the 3rd annual Julie's Helpers Scholarship, awarded to a Navajo woman in college who is striving to use education to help her people.

Many of us—family, friends, sorority sisters, and fellow disciples of Jesus Christ—have been helping in this mission since Julie Meadows's death in December of 2009 from a brain tumor. While she was ill many of us shared in a network of practical support for Julie and her family known as "Julie's Helpers." It has seemed natural to extend that effort, helping now to empower and encourage those she had just begun to care about when she was stricken with her disease, young Navajo women and older Navajo girls. Providing one such recipient every year the financial assistance that the scholarship represents will be a fine legacy to the practical compassion we all loved and prized so much in Julie. We dare to think that she would be proud of us for it; we know she would be proud of each annual recipient of the scholarship.

Because of the generous support of WRPC and House of Fellowship members, as well as the community of Los Alamos, in 2012 the committee was able to make two awards: \$2500 to

Samantha Lee, a junior at New Mexico State in Las Cruces majoring in pre-nursing, and \$1000 to Krysten Willie, a junior majoring in electrical engineering at New Mexico Tech in Socorro (Julie's alma mater).

Please watch for upcoming fundraisers to support the scholarship and pray for the scholarship committee as we plan, distribute applications, and select the recipients. The committee consists of Darren Meadows, Kim Knapp, Angie Thomas, Jennifer Holmes, Lorraine Thomas, and Susan Buxton. Monetary donations can also be made to WRPC, Julie's Helpers Scholarship Fund.

Jennifer Holmes

PW News

The church women will share their regularly scheduled potluck luncheon on Wednesday, April 3, at the church. The focus of our gathering will be discussion and probable planning for our annual soup supper, which is currently scheduled for the evening of Friday, April 19.

Please come and share your insights.

Selma Reinovsky

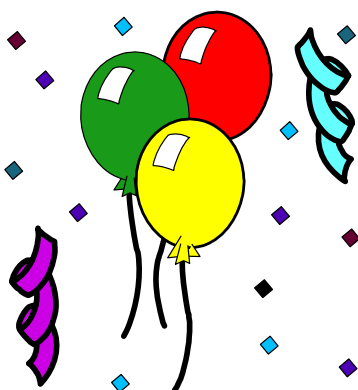
*A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe doth seek
to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth His name,
from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.*

Martin Luther (c. 1529)

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April Birthdays



Carolyn Christians	1
Elizabeth Graham	5
Elida Edelmann	6
Noah McCabe	7
Jeff Kelley	14
Al Medendorp	16
Terry Buxton	20
Jaxon Kelley	21
James Ro	24
Selma Reinovsky	25
Connie Goettee	26

Facilities News

It's Spring when new buds appear, the barn swallows return to White Rock Presbyterian Church, and the Support Ministry starts to plan the Spring Clean up day. This year's cleanup will be on Saturday, May 11.

May 11 is the day before Mother's Day. We all remember when our Mothers told us to clean up our rooms and sweep the porch because she didn't want us living like pigs! This year we have the opportunity to make our Mothers proud of White Rock Presbyterian Church.

We will start at 8:30 AM in order to give the Doughnut Shop time to open. Then there will be chores for all ages. Lunch will be provided. The workdays are, well, work but also there is fellowship and camaraderie.

If you have questions, or know of projects that need attention, please contact Terry Buxton.

Terry Buxton

*Praise the LORD, O my soul;
All my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.*

Psalms 103:1-6

Important Contacts

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