



# White Rock Presbyterian Church

# Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

May 2013

## From the Pastor's Desk

There is a yellow post-it note taped to my computer (it's taped because the sticky has worn off) with a message that helps to ground me every day, especially when it's 'one of those days.' It is part of the Breviary of Teresa d'Avila.

Let nothing disturb you.  
Let nothing alarm you.  
Everything passes.  
God does not change.  
All things  
Are accomplished with patience.  
The one who has God  
Is lacking in nothing.  
God is enough.

Teresa d'Avila was a Spanish mystic and a theologian of contemplative life through 'mental prayer.' She believed that being in contemplative prayer was like having an intimate conversation with the one who loves you deeply.

I have noticed that within the community of White Rock Presbyterian Church, prayer is prominent. Conversations with the Holy, in hope, for intercession and thanksgiving seem to be sought out and shared routinely. The Monday night prayer group, the prayers you share in worship, the prayers you share *in the moment* when you are with a troubled friend, and the prayers of your own devotional times sustain you and inspire me. In the course of my ministry, I have been sustained by prayer and benefited from the prayers of others. But it is inspiring just to know that I am among prayerful people, people who seek out their God in humble adoration.

This message on my computer is, in a way, God's prayer to me. I find that when I've let my frustrations overwhelm me or I'm out of balance with my thoughts, this little prayer ministers to me. My hope for each of you and for this church as a whole is that in this unsettled time of transitions prayer will sustain you in very visible and practical ways. My prayer for you is that, as you pray and commune together the way forward will be obvious. My confidence in all of this that, "The one who has God is lacking in nothing; God is enough."

Grace and Peace,  
Elizabeth

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## WRPC Contact Information

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

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*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*1Th 5:16*

# Letter from the Editor



Ok. I admit it. I have GAS. Don't laugh! This is a serious affliction. But before I get carried away I should probably digress and explain what I'm talking about.

One of my hobbies is photography. I'm not very good at it but I enjoy taking pictures and in my spare time I read photography books and surf various blogs trying to improve my art. This is where I became aware of my GAS. GAS is an acronym for **G**ear **A**cquisition **S**yndrome and it describes the urge to acquire and accumulate lots of "stuff." For photographers it means the never ending quest for a better camera, or a better lens, or a new flash attachment, or whatever the latest gizmo may be. While I've accumulated a lot of cool stuff, the quality of my pictures really hasn't changed very much. Therein lies the problem: while I've been busy buying and selling stuff I have not been paying attention to what really matters.

Gear Acquisition Syndrome was first described by Walter Becker in an article in **Guitar Player** magazine in 1996. This affliction is most often associated with (1) guitarists, who tend to acquire guitars, amplifiers, pedals, and effects processors, (2) keyboard musicians, who accumulate keyboards, synthesizers, samplers, and effects units, and (3) photographers, who purchase cameras, lenses, filters, flash attachments, tripods, etc. However, GAS can apply to almost any avocation when the circumstances are right.

GAS is similar in some ways to obsessive compulsive disorder but must not be confused with collecting, which is an entirely different affliction. While women are not immune, the disorder is most often associated with men.

There is no simple cure for GAS but there are some things that may help. Eric Kim<sup>1</sup> has described ten steps to mitigate the effects of GAS. Some are specific to photographers so I have only included six of them here.

**1. Realize that you are weak.** What!? Me? Am I so weak? Have I so little moral fiber that I can't

restrain myself from buying stuff that I obviously don't need and don't know how to use anyway? Well, actually, maybe some help is in order.

**2. Get some help.** One of the best deterrents is to discuss your proposed acquisition with your spouse or significant other. This is especially effective if he/she is smart, beautiful, and not afraid to tell you what he/she thinks when you're about to make a stupid purchase.

**3. Don't spend time on gear forums.** The internet is full of blogs and photography forums that do nothing but review and discuss the latest equipment. The same is true for most other hobbies. Don't go there. There are plenty of other sites that emphasize artistry and skill development. Better still, stay off the web altogether and practice your hobby instead.

**4. Calculate the lost opportunity cost.** A new digital SLR camera outfit can easily cost several thousand dollars. That money could be used instead to buy a round trip airplane ticket to anywhere in the world, providing great picture taking opportunities for the older camera that you already have—pictures that would not be possible with the new acquisition. There are undoubtedly many other possibilities for the saved money.

**5. Realize that you will never be satisfied.** Gear acquisition is a never-ending process. There will always be some piece of equipment that is newer, more expensive, or shinier than what you already have. Wouldn't it be better to get off this treadmill now rather than later?

**6. Realize that a lot of GAS is just bragging rights.** The Leica M-9 is a great camera (and very expensive). I would love to have one. I could show off with it and it would make a great conversation piece. I could even take great pictures with it. But the fact is that for most of what I do a much more mundane camera or even an iPhone will give comparable results.

The real problem with GAS is that it consumes our time and resources and gets in the way of doing things that are more important. It prevents us from practicing and developing our skills and instead focuses our attention on equipment that we haven't the skills to use. Most important it directs our attention away from socializing and spending time with others, which is what makes most of us happy. So if you have GAS and you're weak like me, say a little prayer. Then turn off your web browser, get out of your house, and practice your hobby, preferably with a friend or a

group of like-minded people. That way you can socialize, develop your skills, and avoid acquiring more useless stuff all at the same time.

Dick Heaton

<sup>1</sup><http://erickimphotography.com/blog/2012/03/10-tips-on-how-to-cure-yourself-of-gas-gear-acquisition-syndrome/>

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

*John 13:34-35*

## Session News

On April 21 the Session met with the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to discuss the Church Information Form (CIF), which the PNC has drafted. Completing the CIF and its approval by the Session and the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) are the next critical steps on the PNC's path toward identifying and interviewing candidates to be our next installed pastor.

Bob Reinovsky, Chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee, introduced the discussion with the observation that the work of the PNC so far confirms that the PNC membership reflects well the diversity in our small congregation—an unequivocally good thing. In our discussion, members of the PNC, Session members, and Rev. Graham in her role as Session Moderator all brought to the table questions for further discussion. Some of this was reviewing items already addressed by the PNC, some was new input.

After a healthy discussion, the Session voted to approve the Church Information Form subject to any editorial changes the PNC chooses to make upon further reflection. We expect the CIF to be submitted to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry early in May.

After COM approval, the Church Information Form will become “semi-public” on the denomination's website where it will be one source of information about us to potential candidates. Remember that the PNC is searching for a pastor for a “designated” term which means the Missional Executive (Presbytery Executive in

prior terminology) will be identifying candidates for our PNC and providing them with information on a modest number of pre-screened candidates; this search process is expected to aid the PNC's critical selection role.

Please remember that the work of the PNC is largely private to the group. They will keep us informed as necessary but we won't help by asking, “how is it going?” or “when will we see a candidate?”

George Callaghan

## PW News

A hearty THANK YOU for everyone's generous efforts to make the Soup-er Supper a great success. With more than 20 delicious soup pots, approximately 70 hungry guests were served! About \$1100 in donations were received. All will be disbursed to hunger-relief missions, including Presbyterian Hunger Fund, L.A. Cares, Heifer International, Bread for the World, and Oxfam America.

Due to travels and other obligations there will be NO First Wednesday Potluck Luncheon on May 1. PW will be on hiatus for the summer; however, we will try to gather sometime during the summer for a “ladies' social”.

Pray for a safe and happy summer with families and friends!

Joyce Berzins

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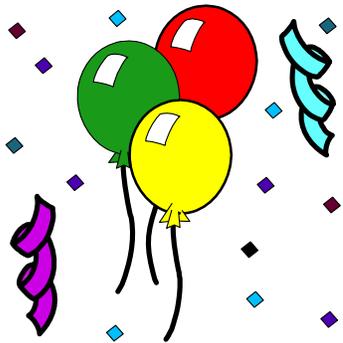
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*“You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. ...”*

*Mark 16:6*

## May Birthdays



Ken Holmes	15
Lori Kelley	15
Andrew Green	17
George Callaghan	18
André Green	25

## Did You Know?

The banner that has been hanging to the left of the stained glass and the painting on the sanctuary wall to the right of the chancel are both representations of famous paintings.

The banner is beautifully laid out in layers of cloth as only our own Lily Brunson could do. The image comes from a painting by William Adolphe Bouguereau that was first exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1890. Entitled,



“Les Saintes Femmes au Tombeau” (The Holy Women at the Tomb), it depicts the three Marys, Mary the Mother of James, Mary Magdalene, and Mary of Cleophas, at the tomb of the resurrection. The painting is a compositional tour de force in which the viewer’s attention is first drawn to the bewildered women and then to the light filled

tomb where one gets just a glimpse of the angel with the upraised arm. The original painting now

hangs in the collection of the Musée Royal des Beaux-Arts in Antwerp, Belgium.

The painting is a copy of an original by Eugène Burnand entitled, “The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Sepulchre on the Morning of the Resurrection.” It relates to a passage from John



(20:3) in which Peter and “the other disciple,” upon hearing of the empty tomb from the women, run to the tomb to see for themselves. Both are exuberant but John, being the younger of the two, is slightly ahead of Peter and reaches the tomb first. The painting was originally shown at the *Salon de la Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts* in 1898. It is now displayed at the Musée d’Orsay in Paris.

The banner and the painting will remain on display throughout Eastertide but will likely be removed at Pentecost and be replaced by other more seasonally appropriate images.

Dick Heaton

## Treasury Notes

### Budget Expenses Summary

The report this month focuses on the ongoing Budget expenses of our church. For the first three months of 2013, we anticipated spending a total of \$20,376.18 for our staff, our facility, and our program. We have actually spent only 81% or \$16,479.65 of our Budget. Following is a breakdown of our actual expenses for January through March:

- Staff: \$9,144.34 (56%): (Guest Pastors; part-time Temporary Supply Pastor; Pension Vacancy Dues [Jan. & Feb.]; part-time Music Director; part-time Office Administrator; part-time Custodian; Worship Accompanists;

Session Moderators; Employer Taxes; and Workers' Compensation Fees).

- Facility: \$4,818.97 (29%): (Utilities; Property & Liability Insurance; Telephone & DSL; Office Supplies & Operation; Janitorial Supplies; Piano Tuning; Worship Supplies; and Repairs.)
- Program & Mission Giving: \$2,516.34 (15%): (Unified Giving to Presbytery, Synod, & Presbytery; Mission Giving to ARTA, YoungLife, & Navajo House of Fellowship; Congregation Care; Community Care; Sunday School; All-church Fellowship; and Pastor's Discretionary Fund.)

## Budget Income Summary

For January through March, 2013, 12 of our 21 pledging units have paid 100% or more of their pledge to our Budget. Thank you! Several other pledging units caught-up with their pledges after receiving their first quarter Contribution Statements in April. We are counting on each of our pledge givers.

In April we received part of the United Way of Northern New Mexico (UW-NNM) pledges for several of our pledges paid through LANL payroll deductions. Included in the payment was the 39% matching from LANS. If you work at LANL, please consider channeling your pledge through UW-NNM next year. The 39 cents extra for every dollar pledged is like many, many pennies from heaven!

Susan Buxton

## Facilities News

Saturday, May 11 is our annual spring Workday. We have all sorts of chores for all ages around the Church:

- Painting the cross and mailbox trim in front of the parking lot in preparation for the new signage;
- Burning weeds in the parking lot cracks;
- Touching-up the paint in Memorial Hall;
- Moving rocks and laying rubber pavers at the front entrance to make paths to the water faucet and bell tower. With this done we will

not have people slipping and twisting ankles trying to reach these parts of the church.

- Planting additional plants in the Prayer Garden. Last year's work by the Medendorps and Barrs vastly improved the garden and provided a peaceful spot for prayer and reflection. We have some more planting to do to keep the garden looking good.
- Clearing rocks out of the gutters;
- Oiling the wood furnishings in the sanctuary ; and
- Addressing the gopher infestation next to Rover Blvd.

Lunch will be provided and the ever popular doughnuts will be available to provide energy for the morning. Please sign up on the sheet outside of the sanctuary so that we can have a count for lunch preparation. Wear old clothes. See you there between 8:30 and 1:00 o'clock.

Terry Buxton

*You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

*Gal 3:26-29*

## Important Contacts

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