



# White Rock Presbyterian Church

# Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

July 2013

## From the Pastor's Desk

Most mainline churches, including Presbyterian, are struggling with aging congregations that cannot seem to “attract” young adults. Knowing this, our denomination is trying to empower local churches to change this trend. At our recent presbytery meeting, we heard a presentation by Young Adult Catalysts from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The presenters, Rob Fohr and the Rev. Andrew Black, shared some interesting statistics about how young adults in the Gen X, the Millennial, and the Digital Generations relate to organized religion. It was fascinating and eye-opening – and hope-producing.

The research and materials used focused primarily on the 2 most recent generations: the Millennialists and the Digital Agers. They handed out a list of “**Ten Tips for Creating a Welcoming Environment for Young Adults (in no particular order).**” Three of these I will highlight here.

**Acknowledge Life Stages.** Many in the so-called “Millennial” generation face a new life experience very differently than previous generations. High unemployment, transience, and prolonged time between school and marriage sometimes make committing to a faith community difficult. It is important to consider that these “life stage” differences may have an impact on how young adults view aspects of “traditional” church involvement (i.e. membership, stewardship, serving on committees, etc.). It is important to meet young adults *where they are in their life journey*, instead of expecting them to engage in church in traditional ways.

**Ask “Why?”** Rather than asking “How do we get young adults in our church?” A better question for churches to ask is, “Why do we want to engage with young adults?” If preserving traditional church structures is the primary motivation for wanting to engage young adults, creating a “*welcoming environment*” could be very difficult. Seeking out and building relationships with young adults is a more effective starting point.

**Create Opportunities for Service.** Many young adults want to put their faith in action and engage in work and ministry that make a difference in the world. Inviting young adults to join in a service project can often be a more comfortable way for young adults to engage with a faith community. (*Personal examples of how outreach projects brought young adults BACK to the church were powerfully given.*)

As the future of this congregation unfolds, the dynamic of embracing a mix of generations will never look like it used to – that is a given. But, presented with the gifts and questions of these newer generations, our faith and spirituality (both as a congregation and as individuals) could feel powerful and positive shifts. May we continue to accept the challenges of growing into the community of faith God envisions for us.

Grace and Peace,  
Elizabeth Graham

*“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,  
“when I will raise up to David a righteous  
Branch,  
a King who will reign wisely  
and do what is just and right in the land.”*

*Jeremiah 23:5*

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:officemanager@wrpchurch.com).

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

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## Letter from the Editor



As we celebrate Independence Day let us take a few moments to think about what we are celebrating. Perhaps the first things that come to mind are family gatherings, picnics, hot dogs, beer, fireworks, parades, and maybe a camping trip or a

family vacation. While all of these are good things, they are not what we are really celebrating. One might say, “We’re remembering our Declaration of Independence and the brave sacrifices that our forefathers made.” This is also true, but why is this important? It is important because of liberty and freedom, which were made possible by the American Revolution.

Freedom means different things to different people, but one of the most iconic descriptions is a series of four oil paintings by Norman Rockwell known simply as, “The Four Freedoms.” The series, which was reproduced in the Saturday Evening Post over four consecutive weeks in 1943, is now in the Norman Rockwell Museum. The four freedoms theme actually originated in the 1941 State of the Union Address by Franklin Roosevelt, in which he stated his vision for a better future, based on four essential human freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. In his speech Roosevelt said:

*In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.*

*The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world.*

*The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world.*

*The third is freedom from want—which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.*

*The fourth is freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means a worldwide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world.*

The speech was an attempt to awaken Congress and the American public to the impending conflict (World War II) but is a clear summary of American beliefs in freedom. Rockwell’s paintings were widely reproduced in posters and pamphlets and Rockwell himself was credited with a significant contribution to the US war effort.

Perhaps the best and most succinct description of freedom is in the American Pledge of Allegiance, which children of my generation were made to recite every morning at school. The relevant passage is, “*one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*” This is probably the most clear and direct description of the American ideal possible.

I would add one additional freedom that is very important. That is, freedom from absolute freedom. As strange as this may sound, there are limits to the freedoms that we can have. All of us live in communities and consequently our actions affect other people. We can’t simply do whatever we want without impacting other peoples’ liberties. Absolute freedom would simply lead to chaos and anarchy.

Therefore we agree to certain limitations and restrictions to make our freedoms possible. For example, we agree to abide by traffic laws; we agree not to engage in criminal activities; and we even temper our speech so as not to offend others (or at least

some of us do). We agree to abide by election results, even when the elected officials are obviously unqualified and incompetent. We also agree to abide by government decisions, even when they are clearly wrong, although we are free to work within certain legal frameworks to implement changes. Without these agreements democracy could not function and we would have anarchy. It is only through accepting some limitations on our freedoms that our freedom is possible.

All of these freedoms are appropriate to celebrate on Independence Day, along with the courage and foresight of our founders who succeeded in achieving them for us. So let us enjoy our parades, our picnics, and our family gatherings and rejoice that we live in a place and at a time worthy of such celebrations.

Dick Heaton

## Session News

With Session action in June to elect a Church Treasurer and Clerk of Session we now have a nearly full slate of WRPC officers for the coming year. In February the Session elected a President and Vice President for the Corporation of WRPC and appointed a Session member to head the Church Nominating Committee.

Elections began with the Congregational Meeting held on January 27, 2013, when the Congregation elected Terry Buxton to fill the remaining two years of a Session term following the resignation of Terri Creager. Normally we would have also elected two Session members for three year terms at the January meeting but there were no nominations presented at that time. At a Special Meeting of the congregation on May 19, Joyce Haven was elected to a three year Session term.

At the January 27 meeting, the Congregation elected Jennifer Holmes and Jean Callaghan to the Board of Deacons and chose at-large members of the Church Nominating Committee (Selma Reinovsky, Joan Barr, and Dick Heaton). Members of the Pastor Nominating Committee were also elected, including Bob Reinovsky and Vernon Kerr representing the Session, Craig Kelley representing the Board of Deacons, and members-at-large Vickie Teel, Susan Buxton, Joyce Haven, and Jeff Goettee.

Here is the current roster of Officers and other leadership for WRPC.

**Session** (Terms end on the first Sunday in June in the “class year” of the incumbent.)

Bob Reinovsky	Class of 2014
George Callaghan	Class of 2014
Terry Buxton	Class of 2015
Vernon Kerr	Class of 2015
Joyce Haven	Class of 2016
Vacant	Class of 2016

Clerk of Session: George Callaghan (One-year term ends May 31 2014.)

**Board of Deacons** (Terms end on the first Sunday in June in the “class year” of the incumbent.)

Bettie Kerr	Class of 2014
Jean Callaghan	Class of 2014
Craig Kelley	Class of 2015
Jennifer Holmes	Class of 2016

**Church Treasurer:** Susan Buxton (One-year term ends May 31 2014.)

**Corporation President:** Terry Buxton  
**Corporation Vice-President:** Jennifer Holmes

The terms of these two offices are for approximately one year, running until their successors are elected by the Session—following authorization by the congregation at the annual CORPORATION meeting (held with the annual congregation meeting in January) for the Session to take such action.

**Church Nominating Committee** (This committee serves from one annual Congregation meeting to the next, with members appointed by the Session and Board of Deacons for corresponding terms.)

George Callaghan	Chairman, representing the Session
(To be appointed)	representing the Board of Deacons
Selma Reinovsky	at-large member
Joan Barr	at-large member
Dick Heaton	at-large member

**Pastor Nominating Committee** (This committee was elected by the congregation for the time required to complete its task.)

Bob Reinovsky     Chairman, representing the Session  
 Vernon Kerr        representing the Session  
 Craig Kelley        representing the Board of Deacons  
 Vickie Teel         at-large member  
 Susan Buxton       at-large member  
 Joyce Haven        at-large member  
 Jeff Goettee        at-large member

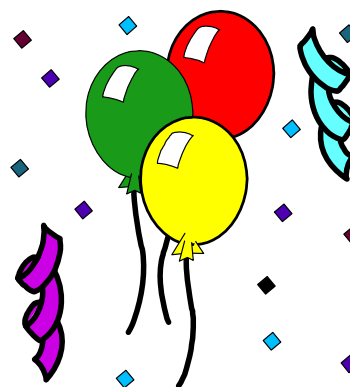
George Callaghan

The PNC will keep you informed of progress—but we will not be able to share details about specific candidates until we make a recommendation to you.

The PNC covets your prayers during the busy and challenging time

Bob Reinovsky

## July Birthdays



**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.

## News from the PNC

Our ongoing search for a Designated Pastor continues according to plan. After completing the Church Information Form (CIF) in April and gaining approval of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) in early May, our CIF was published in the PCUSA's "Church Leadership Connection" in mid-May. Initial screening of applicants by our Regional Presbyter, Sallie Watson, along with help from our COM liaison persons, Jim Roghair and Georgia Ortiz, began in June. The PNC now has Personal Information Forms (PIF), essentially resumes, from a number of applicants and has begun to read, discuss, and evaluate our first batch of candidates. As we have noted before, respecting the identity of candidates is a high priority since not all candidates are equally comfortable with making known their interest in possible relocation.

The next step for the PNC will be to conduct phone interviews with selected candidates. The advent of internet conferencing makes the traditional telephone interview much more engaging and interesting. The PNC plans to use the technology of video conferencing whenever it is possible for the candidates.

Ken Wilson	1
Sumner Barr	12
Carol Fujii	16
Hayden Meadows	17
Max Goettee	18
Dick Heaton	18
Darren Meadows	19
Eileen Green	22
Veronica Kelley	30
Griffin McCabe	30

## PW News

In April we, along with the entire church family, hosted a church-wide delicious Soup-er Supper buffet to support hunger-relief missions. The event was open to and attended by many throughout the community. Approximately 90 people were served and over \$1,100 in donations were received. The event was dedicated

in the memory of our long-time Moderator, Betty Cox, since it was always very meaningful to her.

A total of \$1175 (all of the donations received) has been disbursed to the following hunger-relief missions: LA Cares, \$500; Presbyterian Hunger Fund, \$300; Heifer International, \$175; Bread for the World, \$100; and Oxfam America, \$100.

Ann Heaton

## Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship 2013 Awards

The Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship Committee is very pleased to announce the scholarship award recipients for 2013.

The \$2,500 award winner is **Valentina Dawn Chee** of Vanderwagen, NM. Valentina will be attending the University of New Mexico main campus this fall as a sophomore. She will be studying to earn a bachelor's degree in science in nutrition/dietetics and plans to return home to help educate other native people about healthy eating habits and about diabetes.

A second award of \$750 will go to **Celine Yazzie Olson** of Albuquerque. Celine is attending NM Tech in Socorro, NM. She is majoring in Civil Engineering and will be a sophomore this fall. Having experienced harrowing dirt roads, stagnating water, and clustered residences while living on the Navajo Nation near Window Rock, AZ, Celine's study emphasis will be on Geotechnical, Hydrology/Drainage, and Structural Engineering and she hopes to work to improve already-existing structures and roadways.

The scholarships are in memory of Julie Elizabeth Meadows (May 6, 1973 – December 13, 2009) and the scholarship fund was established in February 2011 under the co-sponsorship of WRPC and the House of Fellowship (HOF) Church in Vanderwagen, NM. The purpose of the scholarship is to grant annually to one young Navajo woman or older Navajo girl \$2,500 to enable her to take advantage of education that would otherwise be beyond her reach.

During the Labor Day weekend of 2008, Julie was engaged in a mission trip to House of Fellowship on the Navajo Reservation with her husband Darren, two young sons Hayden and Cameron, and other members and friends from our church. Julie was particularly intrigued by several young Navajo girls she met there, and the girls seemed even more intrigued by Julie. Julie was diagnosed a week later with a malignant brain tumor, a metastasis of which took her life some fifteen months later. Although Julie was never able to return to the House of Fellowship Church, one can only speculate what sort of impact Julie might have had in the lives of these and other young Navajo girls had she lived.

After Julie's death, a number of those close to Julie began to imagine a continued existence for the network of family, friends, church family, sorority sisters, and neighbors who provided support for Julie and her family during her illness. "Julie's Helpers" was created as a part of her legacy to extend this work of compassionate partnership. Julie's extensive education (B.S. in Chemical Engineering from NM Tech and MBA from UNM), her attention to professional and personal development of herself and others, her history of involvement in "labors of love" through her sorority and in the community, and especially her renewed commitment to being a faithful disciple of Jesus engaged in her church's mission all added to the vision of "Julie's Helpers." The Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship is the logical fusion of the elements of Julie's character, personality, faith, and legacy.

The scholarships are funded by donations of individuals to the "Julie's Helpers" designated fund at WRPC and by fundraisers by WRPC, HOF, and Beta Sigma Phi sorority. The scholarships to Valentina and to Celine are the fifth awards since the creation of the scholarship (two awards were made in 2012 and again in 2013).

The Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship Committee members are Julie's husband Darren Meadows, Lorraine Thomas from House of Fellowship Church, Angela Thomas and Kim Knapp, Julie's Beta Sigma Phi sorority sisters, and Jennifer Holmes and Susan Buxton from WRPC.

Susan Buxton

## Scholarship Fund Raisers

Fridays: July 26 & August 23

Ashley Pond Concert Events

Two fund raising events are planned this summer for the Julie's Helpers fund for future scholarships. We will hold a raffle for a beautiful Sterling Silver Inlay Jewelry Set. The jewelry was hand crafted by Navajo Artisans Mark and Edith Tso of Twin Lakes, NM. The retail value of the jewelry is \$540. Raffle tickets will be \$5.00 each.

We will have a table on Friday evening, July 26, at the Summer Concert Event at Ashley Pond and also at the Friday evening, August 23, Relay-for-Life and Summer Concert Event at Ashley Pond.

The raffle drawing will be held at the August 23 event. The winner does not have to be present at the drawing.

Volunteers from WRPC and from Beta Sigma Phi sorority will work at the raffle table. If you can help at the event(s) please call Jennifer Holmes or Susan Buxton.

Susan Buxton

## Treasury Notes

### Budget Expenses Summary

This report focuses on the ongoing budget expenses of our church. For the first five months of 2013, we anticipated spending a total of \$35,594.34 for our staff, our facility, and our program. We have actually spent only 80% or \$28,588.19 of our Budget. Following is a breakdown of our actual expenses for January through May:

- **Staff: \$17,023.91 (60%):** This includes Guest Pastors (Jan. & Feb.), part-time Temporary Supply Pastor (March – May), Pension Vacancy Dues (Jan. & Feb.), Pension Dues for Supply Pastor (March – May), part-time Music Director, part-time Office Administrator, part-time Custodian, Worship Accompanists, Session Moderator (Jan. & Feb.), Employer Taxes, and Workers' Compensation Fees.

- **Facility: \$7,268.24 (25%):** This includes Utilities, Property and Liability Insurance, Telephone and DSL services, Office and Operations Supplies, Janitorial Supplies, Piano Tuning, Worship Supplies, and Repairs.

- **Program & Mission Giving: \$4,296.04 (15%):** This includes Unified Giving to Presbytery, Synod, and Presbytery; Mission Giving to ARTA, Young Life, and Navajo House of Fellowship; Congregation Care; Community Care; Sunday School; All-church Fellowship; and Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

### Budget Income Summary

For January through May, 2013, 14 of our 21 (two thirds) pledging units have paid 100% or more of their five-months pledge for our Budget. Thank you! *We are counting on each of our pledge givers in order to meet our budget expenses.*

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!** We will receive the next money from UW-NNM with the LANL match in July.

### Create a Lasting Legacy through the Presbyterian Foundation

The Presbyterian Foundation manages over 7,000 endowment funds for the benefit of churches or chosen Presbyterian related ministries. Establishing an endowment fund allows you to make an expression of faith that will provide a perpetual stream of support now and into the future for the Presbyterian Church or Presbyterian related entity of your choice. Consider making a gift to the Foundation now—or in your will—to celebrate an event, to honor a loved one, or to create a lasting legacy of faith and generosity. A permanent endowment fund can be established with a gift to the Foundation of \$25,000 or more for each Presbyterian entity you select. For more information, contact Susan Buxton or visit

Susan Buxton

## God of our Fathers

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies  
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast,  
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide and Stay,  
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,  
Lead us from night to never ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

Daniel C. Roberts (lyrics) 1876

## Important Contacts

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Now the only way to avoid this shipwreck, and to provide for our posterity, is to follow the counsel of Micah, *to do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God*. For this end, we must be knit together, in this work, as one man. We must entertain each other in brotherly affection. We must be willing to abridge ourselves of our superfluities, for the supply of other's necessities. We must uphold a familiar commerce together in all meekness, gentleness, patience and liberality. We must delight in each other; make other's conditions our own; rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our commission and community in the work, as members of the same body. So shall we *keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace*. The Lord will be our God, and delight to dwell among us, as his own people, and will command a blessing upon us in all our ways. So that we shall see much more of his wisdom, power, goodness and truth, than formerly we have been acquainted with. We shall find that the God of Israel is among us, when ten of us shall be able to resist a thousand of our enemies; when he shall make us a praise and glory that men shall say of succeeding plantations, "the Lord make it like that of *New England*." For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world.

John Winthrop  
from

**A Model of Christian Charity** (1630)

