



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

August 2013

From the Pastor's Desk

As children, youth, parents, and teachers gear up for the coming school year, I hope each one of us will make the time to pray for those in our congregation who are affiliated with schools. It is important to be intentional about supporting our youth and those who guide them. As a small church, we have many advantages in making a difference in the lives of our youth, if we set our minds to it.

A small church can have a profound impact on the lives of its youth, especially in places where extended family members do not live nearby. Smaller churches usually have a more stable, less transient base that enables kids to grow up with the congregation as an extension of their family. From my own experience in both large and small churches, I can testify to the differences felt by most youth in relation to their church family – and smaller churches win out.

The factor in smaller churches that is most influential in the lives of its youth and their development is the personal interaction that is both sincere and regular. It makes such a difference when a youth feels acknowledged and valued, not just once, but regularly. It is the responsibility of the church's adults to see that this happens – to speak to the youth, to develop some level of a relationship – even if they won't look you in the eye or only give you a grunt in return. Believe me, it makes a difference.

Youth have told me how important it was that old Mr. D always gave him a shaky knuckle bump when he saw him at church, and how touched one was to hear someone mention their name in a prayer, and to know that if they ever needed a little cash, Mrs. J would

always find an odd job for them to do. The fact that the members of the congregation know their names and their histories plays a significant part in their understanding of the Body of Christ and their part in it.

When most adults look back at their teenage years, their primary memories are of the adults who were influential to them, not their peers. Coaches, teachers, scout leaders, pastors, and members of their church make a much more lasting impact on young lives than who they took to the prom. This can be good or not so good, depending on how those adults related to the youth. But the impact is enduring.

We have some terrific youth in our congregation – young, enthusiastic individuals who need the support of every last one of us as they face the opportunities, experiences, and challenges of growing into solid, well-rounded, God-loving persons. As the adults in a smaller congregation, it is so important that we show our support and concern for our youth as they try to maneuver through the thicket of adolescence. Your individual effort, your acceptance, your warmth are all things our youth need from the adults around them. And there's no time like the present to get started.

As a smaller church, we may not have all of the "bells and whistles" of larger congregations or the glamour of programming options well-staffed youth groups have, but do not discount what gems you are in building our youth into true treasures of God's family. It not only takes a village to raise a child, it also takes a church family.

Grace and Peace,
Elizabeth Graham

Letter from the Editor



Lately I have had a song running through my mind; this is often the case with me—it is how my mind works. This song, called, **Simple Gifts**, has long been a favorite of mine and it probably is familiar to many of you. I even included the lyrics in a past issue of the

Overlook. To refresh your memories, here they are again:

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

*When true simplicity is gain'd,
To bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd,*

*To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.*

Both the lyrics and the music were created by Elder Joseph Brackett in 1848 while he was at the Shaker community in Alfred, Maine. Like most Shaker hymns the song was relatively unknown until Aaron Copland used the melody in his **Ballet for Martha**, written for Martha Graham, in 1944. The ballet suite was subsequently renamed, **Appalachian Spring**, which is what most people know it by today. Copland later used **Simple Gifts** again in his collection, **Old American Songs**, written for voice and piano (1950). This is a lovely arrangement; I have actually performed it (although it was a long time ago...). The melody of **Simple Gifts** appears in many modern hymnals, with different words, as **Lord of the Dance**.

The Shakers, or the **United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing**, are a religious sect founded in the mid-eighteenth century on the teachings of Ann Lee. Today they are known mostly for their humility, their devotion to hard work, the quality of their furniture and their music, and their belief in the equality of the sexes. They are strict believers in celibacy and have historically acquired their members through conversion and adoption of orphans. Today there is only one remaining Shaker community in the

United States at Sabbathday Lake, Maine, which, in 2012, had three surviving members.

Both song and dance were important in Shaker worship. In their meetings they marched, sang, danced, and sometimes jerked and shouted. While the earliest worship services were unstructured, the Shakers later developed choreographed dances and orderly marches complemented with symbolic gestures. The Shakers also placed great value on spiritual “gifts,” which might include visions, prophecy, the healing touch, or spiritual inspirations or messages. With this as a back drop the lyrics to the song can assume multiple meanings.

To me “Simple Gifts” has always meant that simplicity, humility, and freedom are “gifts” from heaven. Having achieved those gifts we are then able to turn ourselves to what is right. Turning is a common theme in Christian thinking, often conflated with repentance. One can turn away from sin, or turn towards God. For some of us, myself included, a lot of turning is required to get to the “place just right.”

One could also interpret the lyrics as instructions for a dance. Certainly to “bow and to bend,” and to “turn, turn,” and to “come 'round right” would fit this view. Is this interpretation any better? Or is it any different? I wonder. I suspect that for a Shaker in the midst of a worship/dance experience there would be little difference between the two.

The Shakers comprise an interesting chapter in the history of American religion and they can tell us a great deal about ourselves and our relationship to God if we will pay attention and listen. When the opportunity arises, I encourage you to indulge your curiosity and learn some more about them.

Dick Heaton

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.

Spiritual Gifts at Pentecost

Congregations sometimes undertake surveys of spiritual gifts to learn more about how their members understand their calling to serve in the Church and in the world. Some congregations find it meaningful to emphasize such a survey as part of their mission study. Others, like WRPC, have used one of several formal (perhaps even academic) tools to survey spiritual gifts at various other times in the life of the community. Not infrequently, these surveys reflect the climate of the time when the survey was taken and the issues with which the congregation was dealing at the time. This has been our experience in WRPC where, the last time such a formal instrument was used, respondents tended to identify and lift up gifts that complemented some then currently lacking aspects of the congregation's leadership. For example, at a time when leadership seemed generally ad-hoc – well meaning, but somewhat random – the survey identified many members who felt themselves gifted with skills for “organization.”

On Pentecost Sunday of 2013, Rev. Liz Graham, our temporary pastor, suggested a “spontaneous spiritual gifts celebration.” Each worship bulletin contained a colored cutout outline of a hand, and worshipers were asked to simply write on the cutout – on the spur of the moment – the gifts that they felt coming to them from Holy Spirit. The cutouts were collected at the offering and assembled to form a glorious flame depicting the burning desire to serve God and neighbors inspired by the Holy Spirit.



The flame of the Spirit comprised of the Gifts of the members.

While this celebration of spiritual gifts at Pentecost was far from a formal, academic survey of spiritual gifts, it did provide an insightful snap-shot of how the congregation was thinking on that Pentecost morning. Pause, when you have a moment and read some of the spiritual gifts that your friends and neighbors feel they bring to the community. You can find the poster in the hallway.

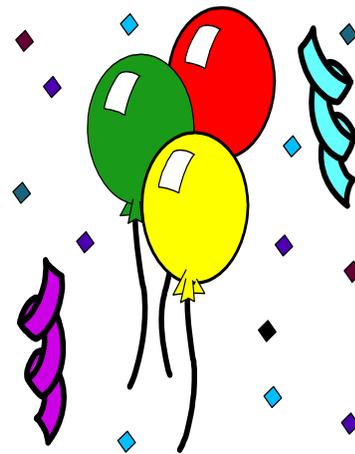
Bob Reinovsky

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.

August Birthdays



Kathrina Clark	4
Erik Edelmann	9
Jeremy Goettee	9
Jeanette Meadows	9
Joan Barr	12
George Berzins	15
Corinne Clark	17
Bettie Kerr	18

Session News

At least once annually the Session plans to make each of our ministry core groups the focus topic of a Session meeting, assuring each of the ministries special (focused!) attention in addition to other Session considerations as necessary during the year.

In June and July our focus topics were the Support Ministry, led by Terry Buxton, and the Worship Ministry, led by Bob Reinovsky. While much of the work of these ministries is visible, quite a lot occurs behind the scenes. Some examples are: attending to the care of our small staff, making our building and grounds supportive of our programs, and contributing to the smooth proceedings in Sunday morning worship and other services.

Terry's report on Support in June highlighted a plan for dealing with our gopher pest problem, landscaping plans to improve the strip of land between Rover Boulevard and the sidewalk, renovation of our sign (special thanks to Susan and Terry Buxton!), the significant contributions of many volunteers to maintain the property, and Gill Erickson's dedicated service in the church office. Terry also noted several concerns that are beyond our current financial and volunteer capabilities to fix, including electrical issues (particularly in Memorial Hall), some structural issues in the main building, the main building carpet, ADA accessibility in rest rooms, and the parking lot surface.

Bob's report on Worship in July noted numerous individual contributions to maintaining the flow and rhythm of our Sunday mornings and highlighted his appreciation for the good use Rev. Graham makes of the lectionary, which aids in worship planning. While many of the individual contributions to Sunday morning greeting and worship are obvious, it is noteworthy (but not obvious) that Ken Holmes stands ever ready to back Bob up in preparing the liturgy. Thank you, Ken. The Worship discussion noted the value of the music program to our worship and expressed an appreciation of non-routine visuals (like the visual projection on July 21) along with bulletin interpretation.

The Session chose to defer discussion of the schedule for morning worship until we have an installed pastor. If you have thoughts on the Sunday morning schedule (whether you like it, want to change it, or have other suggestions) please give your input to Bob Reinovsky

or any member of the Session in anticipation of that later discussion.

Finally, this is a great opportunity to say THANK YOU to ALL of the volunteers who make the worship, maintenance, repairs, and operations of WRPC happen so successfully.

George Callaghan

Save the Date!

Youth Outing
Sunday, August 11

Jennifer and Ken Holmes and Christine Haven are interested in taking our Sunday School aged youth (and perhaps their friends) to see the Santa Fe Opera's production of **Noah's Flood** on Sunday morning, August 11, leaving from the church at 9:15 a.m. for a 10:30 a.m. performance. This outing would take the place of church/Sunday school for those who attend. WRPC will cover the expenses for the youth. Please let Jennifer know if you would like her to reserve tickets.

Scholarship Fund Raiser
Friday, August 23

We will hold a raffle for a beautiful Sterling silver inlay jewelry set and a Navajo rug at the Friday evening, August 23, Relay-for-Life and Summer Concert Event at Ashley Pond. The jewelry was hand crafted by Navajo artisans Mark and Edith Tso of Twin Lakes, NM, while the Navajo rug was woven by Lorraine Thomas's mother, Alice Etsitty. The retail value of the jewelry is \$540 and that for the rug is \$175. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$5.00 a piece, or as books of 5 tickets for \$20. The winner does not have to be present at the drawing. All of the proceeds will go to the 2014 Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Volunteers from WRPC and from Beta Sigma Phi sorority will work at the raffle table. The raffle drawing will be held at 9:00 pm in the evening. If you can help at the event please call Jennifer Holmes or Susan Buxton.

Jennifer Holmes

Operation Christmas Child

Based on the responses and conversations I received last year we will plan to participate in Operation Christmas Child (OCC) again this year. However, I think that having a “Packing Party” might be fun to try. Other churches and school organizations have done this successfully and it can be a lot of fun.

Here's how it would work. Everyone would buy or collect various items and contribute them for the party. Then we would get together in late October or early November to pack and fill the shoeboxes with all our contributed items.

As you might have noticed by the ads in the paper, school supplies and clothing items, like packages of socks and underwear, are now on sale. Sometimes you can also find bargains on T-shirts at summer clearances this time of year. In addition, many stores like Target, Wal-Mart, Michael's, Hobby Lobby, and Jo-Ann Fabrics have \$1 bins or summer craft kits on sale or clearance. Those are sometimes good items to put in the shoeboxes. We could have a list of needed supplies or even a sign-up list for certain items and a collection box where you could put your donated items. That way you would be free to buy things now when you see a bargain if you like.

Those of you who want to do your own boxes could still do so (but come to the party, anyway). If you have some special items you want to put in “your” box, you could come with a half-filled box and finish it at our party.

I haven't decided on the best format. One possibility would be a breakfast party, perhaps with pancakes, some Saturday morning. However, an evening party (with desserts) would also work and might be preferable for some.

I would like some feedback on your ideas about this as soon as possible. Please call me at 672-0154, e-mail me at maryadorp@gmail.com, or simply talk to me about your thoughts, either pro or con. Thanks in advance for your input.

Mary Medendorp

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

Facilities News

Thanks to everyone who has been working on the Church grounds. The trees have been trimmed, the prayer garden has been weeded, the sign is back and better looking than ever, most of the plants are surviving at the entrance, the plumbing has been repaired in both buildings, the main building water fountain is working again, and the mice appear to have been removed from the main building and Memorial Hall.

Summer time is a time for wildlife. The barn swallows that were nesting on the lights under the portales, are a protected migratory species in New Mexico. The two sets of nestlings have joined the adults swooping around our facility looking for tasty bugs. So White Rock is doing its part to help this species survive. We have our lizards, which make their way around the walks and rocks. We have a Great Plains Skink, probably a male because of the light salmon coloring on its limbs and head. You can see it pausing near the tractor or garbage cans under the portales or darting away through the ground cover. We also have some Five Lined Skinks and some Blue Tailed Skinks with their very distinctive tail color.

Professional removal of our pocket gophers is underway. You should see fewer and fewer new holes. This will improve the overall look of the grounds, while removing a tripping hazard.

Church Tractor Needed

Twenty-five years ago my father gave up on maintaining a garden tractor identical to the one the church has today. We have pictures of all of his grandchildren riding on it. Craig Kelley, who has searched for years for replacement parts, is no longer

able to find needed parts. The time has come when, reluctantly, we have to admit that our old garden tractor needs replacement.

At the July Session Meeting the Session voted to start a "second-mile" giving campaign to raise funds to replace the tractor. This is not to replace your normal pledging or giving, but if anyone would like to help our grounds work, just place a gift in the offering with the designation, "Tractor Fund." Your support will be gratefully appreciated.

Terry Buxton

Treasury Notes

Budget Expenses Summary

This report focuses on the ongoing **Budget expenses** of our church for the first half of the year. We anticipated spending a total of \$43,290.92 for our staff, our facility, and our program. We have actually spent only 83% or **\$35,930.44** of our Budget. Following is a breakdown of our Actual Budget Expenses January-June:

- **Staff: \$20,682.00 (58%):** (Guest Pastors [Jan. & Feb.]; part-time Temporary Supply Pastor Liz Graham [March - June]; Pension Vacancy Dues [Jan. & Feb.]; Pension Dues for Supply Pastor [March - June]; part-time Music Director; part-time Office Administrator; part-time Custodian; Worship Accompanists; Session Moderator [Jan. & Feb.]; Employer Taxes; and Workers' Compensation Fees).
- **Facility: \$9,909.91 (27%):** (Utilities; Property & Liability Insurance; Telephone & DSL; Office Supplies & Operation; Janitorial Supplies; Piano Tuning; Worship Supplies; and Repairs.)
- **Program & Mission Giving: \$5,338.53 (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 June 2013, 17 of our 19 pledging units have paid 100% *or more* of their six month's pledge for our Budget. Thank you!

In June we received the second quarter 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 in the fall of 2013 for 2014. **The 39 cents extra for every dollar pledged is like many, many-pennies-from-heaven!**

We are a little behind in the gifts we had anticipated receiving from non-pledging givers and from facility users.

We have received 156% of the Interest Income we had budgeted for our investments at LANB and at Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program.

Our Actual Budget Income for the first six months is at 96% of the amount we had budgeted.

Susan Buxton

Important Contacts

Pastor/Session Moderator:

Rev. Elizabeth Graham, 575-770-6881
sweetp217@aol.com

Clerk of Session:

George Callaghan, 505-984-1868
callaghang@aol.com

WRPC Office Manager

Gillian Erickson, 672-3682
officemanager@wrpchurch.com

WRPC Webmaster:

Craig Kelley, 672-3133
kelleys@q.com

Overlook Editor:

Dick Heaton, 662-0028
rheaton@hotmail.com

Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship Fund



Valentina Dawn Chee



Celine Yazzie Olson

2013 Scholarship Recipients

About the JHMSF...

The Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship awards funds each year to one or two Navajo women who are seeking to further their college education and then serve the Navajo Nation in a professional capacity. Scholarships are based on academic merit, dedication to serving the Navajo people and financial need. JHMS has supported 5 young Navajo Women since 2011, when the fund was started to honor Julie Meadows, a caring member of the Los Alamos community, who died of a brain tumor in 2009. Members of her loving family, her sorority (Alpha Zeta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi) and her church (White Rock Presbyterian Church) coordinate the scholarship each year. Since 2011, the scholarship has funded Navajo women in educational, nursing, nutrition and engineering careers.



Raffle to Support 2014 Scholarship Selection

Raffle Items:

Sterling Silver Inlay Set
Retail Value: \$540

Navajo Rug, 20" by 38"
Retail Value: \$175



Raffle will be held at Los Alamos Summer Concert, Aug. 23, 2013 at 9:00 p.m.
Tickets are \$5 each or 4 tickets for \$20. See AZ Sorority or WRPC member for tickets.