



# White Rock Presbyterian Church

# Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

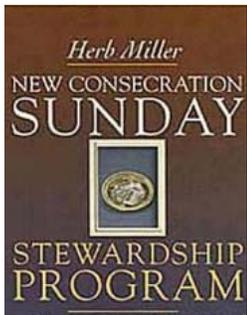
October 2013

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

This is the season when people wonder how much they are going to be hounded by the church to give more money. When I was in college, I remember dreading sermons in the Fall because what I had to give was pretty pathetic — the widow's mite was probably mightier... But the feeling stuck with me. I don't like feeling hounded or "guilted" into giving to anyone or anything. Do you?

A few years ago, I was introduced to a stewardship program that actually made sense to me. It made sense because it wasn't about keeping the machine of the church functioning, but about my spiritual journey with God. This program emphasized keeping the whole idea of pledging or tithing or offering within the framework of my dialogue with God about my money.



It asked me the question: What, of my resources, is God calling me to give? Then it asked me to consider which resources were the most valuable to me and which were most valued by the prevailing culture. And since money is the most valuable commodity in this culture, money is what I feel called to give to God. If I offer God what is of medium importance to me, I am only tipping God. When I offer what is most treasured by me, I am giving because I am grateful that I am so loved and cared for and redeemed. It is picking the prettiest, most

aromatic rose to give to the one I love, proudly, gladly.

Every one of us manages our treasured resources in our own ways. The eras in which we were raised has a huge influence on how we handle our money. People born in the early 1900's like to get to the bottom line right away and to examine the numbers. People born during the depression or the second World War like to hear stories of how their money makes a difference and will give their fair share. "Baby Boomers" like to hear about upgrading and enhancing the quality of programs and the fullness of life that belonging to a faith community brings. "Generation X" folks want the message short and to the point with highlights about how to put their skills to work in service projects, the church's website, and electronic means of giving. "Generation Y" or "Millennials" value having a sense of ownership and feeling listened to by "older" members. Technological avenues for communication are appreciated.\*

No matter what your age, as we head into Fall, I would encourage you to continue assessing your resources, conversing with God, and deciding on your gifts of gratitude.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Elizabeth Graham

\*From *Generations of Faith*, by Carl Eeman of The Alban Institute



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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



Like most of you I eagerly anticipate the end of what seems like the interminable process of finding and calling our new pastor. This has truly been a process without end; there simply has to be a better way to go about this. Nevertheless, the process will end in the

not too distant future and we will be able to install our new pastor and finally get on with life. What a relief that will be. At last we will be able to put the “interim process” behind us and relax while the new pastor worries about running our church, recruiting new members, setting up ministries, organizing fund drives, etc., etc.

Wait a minute...Will anything really change? I suppose the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee will be able to relax after a job well done. But aside from that things will be very much as they are now. After all, whose church is this? It's not the pastor's church. It's our church. Or, to look at it another way, we are the church. The church is us! If our church is to continue its ministry in White Rock it will be through our own efforts, with the help and leadership of our new pastor. I am afraid we won't be able to relax in the foreseeable future.

When I was in Chicago a couple of weeks ago I attended a worship service in which the pastor

talked about developing diversity in the church. Building diversity is a lot like building membership, so my interest was piqued. He pointed out that to build diversity (or membership) one does not need a “ministry.” Nor does one need a “program.” One certainly does not need a committee. None of these are bad things; it is just that none of them, in and of themselves, will achieve the desired results. What is needed is for individuals to become engaged and to reach out to prospective members/disciples on a personal level.

When Jesus began his ministry he first saw Simon and Andrew and said, “Come, follow me.” Shortly thereafter he saw James and John and he called them in the same way. Then he remained engaged with them as he taught and ministered and trained. What better example can we have for how to go about recruiting and mentoring new members?

I still look forward to the end of the “interim process” and I am optimistic about our future. But I have (reluctantly) come to accept that we won't be able to sit back and relax. If indeed we are the church, then it will be up to us to carry forth our mission and ministry in White Rock.

Dick Heaton

## Session News

The Focus Topic for the September Session meeting was the Fellowship Ministry, through which we bring members of the WRPC family (members and friends) together outside of worship, education, and service programs. In addition to the post-worship coffee fellowship, much of the Fellowship Ministry activity recently has been dinners prepared at WRPC; the target has been to have these dinners approximately once per month.

The Session recognizes that fellowship occurs during other activities, such as the post-worship “Out to Lunch Bunch” gatherings. Going forward we will look to broaden the range of fellowship activities, perhaps to include groups attending plays, concerts, or other events. We may try “Out To Lunch IN” by bringing in simple meals to share in Memorial Hall after Sunday School. There is a special interest in planning fellowship events that attract families and youth and children.

Vernon Kerr will be putting together a small group of people to plan future fellowship activities. If you have a special interest in this ministry or if you have ideas for future events, please contact Vernon.

George Callaghan

## PW News

Our First Wednesday Potluck Luncheon will be at noon, October 2, at the church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Bible Study/Circle will meet on Thursday, October 17, at 10:00 AM at the church. At our September meeting, our knowledgeable study leader, Selma Reinovsky, introduced us to, *“The Woman Who Named God, Abraham’s Dilemma and the Birth of Three Faiths,”* which will be our book for study for this year. Come join us!

Thank you for all your donations of fresh produce during the summer and for your purchases of said produce. This helps PW to continue to support our mission commitments, including the Presbyterian Hunger Fund and ChildFund International (formerly the Christian Children’s Fund), through which we sponsor a child in India.

We continue to collect Campbell’s products labels (bar code portion) as part of the *Box Tops for Education* program. Look for the donation basket on the table in the hallway. These are sent to Menaul School (Presbyterian) in Albuquerque to be redeemed for educational items that are not funded in their budget. There is also a box for donations of your hotel-size extras of shampoos, lotions, etc. These are shared with the Family Shelter of the N.N.M. Crisis Center in Espanola, which also serves Los Alamos County. Thanks for all!

Joyce Berzins

*So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

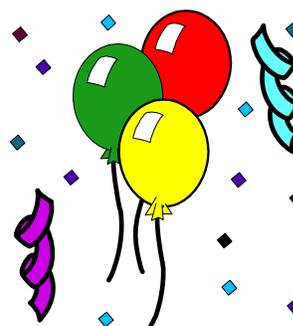
*George Bennard (1912)*

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**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.

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## October Birthdays



Harry Green	1
Kirsten McCabe	7
Cameron Meadows	7
Emil Reinovsky	17
Leith Fujii	18
Linda Burns	22
Dave Clark	23
Christine Haven	30

## Facilities News

The new tractor is working well. The second-mile giving campaign has raised all but \$299 of the cost. Any more donations will be gratefully received.

There will not be a workday this fall. With all of the activities that are going on Church members seem to be stretched pretty thin. Most of the activities that we would normally perform have already been completed.

There will be a bulb planting party on Saturday, October 26, from 9 to 11 AM. Snacks will be provided. We have lots of Bulbs already. Next Spring we will see the pretty flowers peeking up and enjoy the results of the party.

Speaking of flowers, enjoy the nice fall-colored mums by the new sign.

During the recent rains we had several roof leaks. The roof was patched with sealant and for the past several rains the inside has remained dry. Cross your fingers.

Thank you to all of the members who have been trimming trees, pulling weeds, tilling soil, watering plants, and doing all of the other chores that are keeping he grounds looking nice.

Terry Buxton

*This is what the LORD says:*

*“Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom  
or the strong man boast of his strength  
or the rich man boast of his riches,  
but let him who boasts boast about this:  
that he understands and knows me,  
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,  
justice and righteousness on earth,  
for in these I delight,”*

*declares the LORD.*

*Jeremiah (9:23-24)*

## Important Contacts

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## The Autumn

*Go, sit upon the lofty hill,  
And turn your eyes around,  
Where waving woods and waters wild  
Do hymn an autumn sound.  
The summer sun is faint on them —  
The summer flowers depart —  
Sit still — as all transform'd to stone,  
Except your musing heart.*

*How there you sat in summer- time,  
May yet be in your mind;  
And how you heard the green woods sing  
Beneath the freshening wind.  
Though the same wind now blows around,  
You would its blast recall;  
For every breath that stirs the trees,  
Doth cause a leaf to fall.*

*Oh! like that wind, is all the mirth  
That flesh and dust impart:  
We cannot bear its visitings,  
When change is on the heart.  
Gay words and jests may make us smile,  
When Sorrow is asleep;  
But other things must make us smile,  
When Sorrow bids us weep!*

*The dearest hands that clasp our hands, —  
Their presence may be o'er;  
The dearest voice that meets our ear,  
That tone may come no more!  
Youth fades; and then, the joys of youth,  
Which once refresh'd our mind,  
Shall come — as, on those sighing woods,  
The chilling autumn wind.*

*Hear not the wind — view not the woods;  
Look out o'er vale and hill —  
In spring, the sky encircled them —  
The sky is round them still.  
Come autumn's scathe — come winter's cold —  
Come change — and human fate!  
Whatever prospect Heaven doth bound,  
Can ne'er be desolate.*

*Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1833)*

