



# White Rock Presbyterian Church

# Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

January-February 2014

## From the Pastor's Desk



It is a distinct joy and blessing to be finally in ministry with and among you. It seems to me like the process has taken an exceedingly long time, but for you it has been much longer. Now we are connected, I believe, according to God's purpose and plan. It will always be good for us to remember

that we are not the ones piloting this boat (our church). The living God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the pilot.

I will use this column sometimes to share some reflections on a passage of scripture which has spoken to me recently, or a passage that I think applies directly to the life and direction of White Rock Presbyterian at a particular time. Other times I will share some extracts from books or articles that I am reading, or have read, which have the same kind of connection with the life and future of our church. Sometimes I may simply let you know what I have been thinking recently as it applies to our church, or the Christian journey, or life in Christ.

There are a great many things I could write to you in this introductory article, but let me share first a development in the history of the church that will always be significant to me. Martin Luther, in his efforts to reform the church of his day (the 16<sup>th</sup> century), developed the notion of "the priesthood of all believers." In his disgust with some of the practices of

the priests of the church, he derived from scripture that in reality all Christ-followers are priests, summoned to love and serve in the name of Christ, with devotion and humility.

I am just one among the many priests who make up White Rock Presbyterian Church, because you also serve in that capacity. I am called to preach, to provide pastoral care, to work with your leaders to define a vision for the future of the church, and to perform a number of other particular functions for which I have been trained and prepared. But we are all priests in the Church of Jesus Christ. All of us.

Luther's conception of the priesthood of all believers fits exceedingly well with the concept that Paul presents in Romans, 1 Corinthians, and Ephesians: the church understood as a human body with hands, feet, eyes, ears, and so on, a body in which each part must perform its unique function in order for the body to thrive. You will hear from me time and again that the body functions only as well as we all use our particular gifts, skills, and abilities in its service.

Finally, you will find me holding up before you constantly the primary reason for which I was called to your service, which is succinctly and clearly expressed in the Extended Mission Statement developed by your Pastor Nominating Committee and Session last year.

"We envision ourselves, at this point in our faith journey, on the verge of a firm renewal of our commitment to Christ's command to 'make disciples of all nations' and to serve our neighbors, as we encounter and embrace all of God's people in our particular part of His Kingdom.

“We are inspired to find new and innovative ways to search for, and respond to, God's directions for our lives and for our service to one another, in both the local and world-wide community of which we are a part.

“Our vision is to carry forward this mission for decades to come, growing in both numbers and spiritual maturity as a Christian community, grounded in the scripture and tradition of the church. To realize our vision, we seek to REVITALIZE our congregation and GROW so that we will have the resources of heads, hands, hearts, and material resources needed to support an expanding sense of mission.

“While we see opportunities for realizing our vision in White Rock/Los Alamos and in adjoining communities, the lay leaders of WRPC do not completely understand the changes required for revitalization and growth. We seek called and Spirit-led pastoral leadership to join with us to find our direction and to inspire the solid core of our congregation to undertake the required changes. The ideal pastoral leadership candidate will minister to and help guide the existing core of the congregation, suggest appropriate changes to our practices, and help us reach out to like-minded persons nearby.”

All of us realize, with some anxiety, that the twin objectives of revitalization and growth are going to require some changes in the way we have been doing things. Transformation requires new practices, new objectives, new thinking. We all realize that transformation will be difficult and arduous, but I think we all agree that White Rock Presbyterian Church has a distinctive witness to Christ in our community that should be maintained and renewed, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Your church is needed because of the unique and irreplaceable part it plays in demonstrating the Kingdom of Heaven in your unique community.

In the months and years to come, your Session and I will be listening and discerning as prayerfully and diligently as we are able, to see what God has in mind for your church. Your prayers for them and for me, as well as your own ideas and perceptions, are most certainly desired.

I join with you in the spirit of anticipation and hope. I think we are going to be amazed at what God is going to do.

Joy in Christ,  
John

---

## WRPC Contact Information

White Rock Presbyterian Church is located at 310 Rover Boulevard, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544. The pastor, Rev. John Guthrie, can be reached at 435-238-8763 or by email at [jguthrie@wrpchurch.com](mailto:jguthrie@wrpchurch.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.

---

*The word of the LORD came to me, saying,*

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”*

*“Ah, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am only a child.”*

*But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.*

*“Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.*

*Jeremiah 1:4-8, 17-19*

## Letter from the Editor



January is the month for making resolutions or, more specifically, New Year's resolutions. These usually consist of some kind of self improvement goal, such as, "I'm going to exercise every day!" or "I'm going to eat healthier foods!" Other examples may include resolving to lose weight, to quit smoking, to save money, to take up a new hobby, to stop watching bad TV shows, or to kick your smart phone addiction. All of these are worthy goals and we would undoubtedly be better off if we adopted some of them. The problem with New Year's resolutions is that nobody seems to stick with them for very long. While we all start out with the best intentions, our resolve erodes over time and we eventually fall back into our old habits.

Melinda Johnson, writing for U.S. News, has suggested that instead of a typical New Year's resolution that identifies a concrete behavior, one should adopt a *theme* for the New Year. The theme should be a word that you can identify with and that embodies something missing from your daily life. Some examples include Mindfulness, Enjoyment, Movement, or Nourishment. Instead of defining specific behaviors that you want to do, you simply keep your theme in mind and allow that to guide your daily behavior. In this way you can make incremental improvements in your behavior at a pace that works for you and avoid the guilt associated with falling short of an impossible concrete goal.

Maybe there is a kernel of truth in this. So, for a New Year's theme I would like to suggest Christmas. "Huh?" Didn't we just finish Christmas? True, but you may remember that in last month's Overlook I talked about Christmas miracles and how the spirit of Christmas is able to reach us in spite of ourselves. I also asked if it is really necessary to wait for Christmas for this to happen. Song writers Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen said it best in a song made popular by Bing Crosby when they wrote, "The secret of Christmas is not the things you do at Christmas time, but the Christmas things you do all year through." Wow. There's some food for thought, especially if you have Grinch-like tendencies, as I sometimes do. But here is an opportunity. Perhaps by adopting Christmas as a New Year's theme, we might be prompted to do

some Christmas things out of season. And that, I think, would be a good thing.

Dick Heaton

## Session News

FIRST, we welcome Rev. John Guthrie and Nancy Guthrie to the WRPC family! The Session joins all the rest of the family in anticipating their ministry with us.

The 2014 budget will be presented and reviewed at the Annual Meeting on January 26. We don't want to let this pass without giving thanks to Susan Buxton for her efforts in organizing the budget preparation—along with all the other financial reporting and management activities she handles so capably.

We also need to thank Sumner Barr and his assisting volunteers for directing the New Consecration Sunday financial stewardship campaign. Sumner's recommendation to the Session after our first use of this approach is that we should use the New Consecration Sunday process for at least a few more years to realize its full benefit.

The Session in December voted to participate in a PCUSA church revitalization effort known as New Beginnings, and that effort is well underway for WRPC. The Presbytery of Santa Fe is making this process available to churches in the Presbytery at a very attractive financial cost. Ken and Jennifer Holmes heard the process described at the Presbytery meeting in October and recommended it to the Session. Terry Buxton, Bob Reinovsky, and George Callaghan attended an informational meeting on the process in Albuquerque and consulted with pastors at other Presbyterian churches that have gone through the process. In December and January we are making substantial information input about WRPC to the process, and the "assessment" visit by an experienced New Beginnings process person will be on January 21. The purpose of that visit is to gather first-hand knowledge about WRPC and the Los Alamos/White Rock community. The meeting of congregation members in the evening of 21 January will be an opportunity for the assessor to hear more about us directly from members. The next step for us will be receipt of an assessment report. You will hear more about New Beginnings as the process unfolds.

George Callaghan

## PW News

**Please note the change:** In celebration of another year in the life of our dear sister Irene Davis-Dellinger, the Wednesday Monthly Luncheon will be February 5 at 11:30 at the Blue Window restaurant in Los Alamos. All women are warmly invited and encouraged to come and share in fellowship.

Bible Study/Circle will meet Thursday, 20 February, at 10:00 at the church as we continue our study of God's call to Abraham (and Sarah), led by Selma Reinovsky. Come join us.

We decided to defer our sharing mission for the Crisis Center Shelter of N.N.M. (Espanola) to Easter time, which is 20 April. We plan to pack donations of freshly baked cookies into tins at the Wednesday luncheon on April 2. New or lightly-used soft stuffed animals would also be appreciated. Look for the box on the table in the hallway for donations of your "hotel extras" of shampoos, lotions, etc. They will be used for local outreach missions. We do keep those families in our prayers for God's love and safe keeping. Thanks for all!

Plans are in the works for our annual Souper Supper, Friday evening, 25 April. Details will be announced when plans become more concrete. This event is open to the community. All monies donated are distributed to various hunger-relief missions. Susan Buxton has offered to update the book of recipes for the soups that are served with any new recipes if they are submitted to her prior to the event (to allow her time for printing). Those proceeds also are included in the disbursements. Thank you, Susan!!

We continue to collect "Box Tops for Education," and Campbell's products labels (bar code portion). Look for a basket on the table in the hallway. These are sent to Menaul School (Presbyterian) in Albuquerque to be redeemed for educational items.

Joyce Berzins

*And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

*1 Corinthians 13:13*

## January Birthdays



Nathan McCabe	8
Rod McCabe	22
Terri Creager	28
Irene Davis-Dellinger	28

## February Birthdays



Don Burns	5
Anthony Haven	7
Mary Medendorp	7
Carol Honig	11
Joyce Berzins	25
Susan Buxton	25
Bob Reinovsky	27
Jeff Goettee	28



---

**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.

---

## Important Contacts

**Pastor/Session Moderator:**

Rev. John Guthrie, 435-238-8763  
jguthrie@wrpchurch.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  
rcheaton@hotmail.com

## The Goose Story

by Dr. Harry Clarke Noyes  
ARCS NEWS, Vol. 7, No. 1, January 1992

Next  
fall, when  
you see Geese  
heading South for  
the Winter, flying along  
in V formation, you might  
consider what science has dis-  
covered as to why they fly that way:  
as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an  
uplift for the bird immediately following. By  
flying in V formation the whole flock adds at least  
71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

***People who share a common direction and sense of community  
can get where they are going more quickly and easily  
because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.***

When  
a goose falls  
out of formation,  
it suddenly feels the drag  
and resistance of trying to go it alone  
and quickly gets back into formation to take  
advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

***If we have as much sense as a goose,  
we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way  
we are.***

When  
the Head Goose  
gets tired, it rotates back  
in the wing and another goose flies point.

***It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs  
with people or with geese flying South.***

Geese  
honk from behind to  
encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

***What do we say when we honk from behind?***

Finally,  
and this is important,  
when a goose gets sick, or is  
wounded by gunshots and falls out  
of formation, two other geese fall out with that  
goose and follow it down to lend help and protection.  
They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, or until  
it dies. Only then do they launch out on their own, or with another  
formation  
to catch up with their group.

***IF WE HAVE THE SENSE OF A GOOSE,  
WE WILL STAND BY EACH OTHER  
LIKE THAT.***

(Reprinted from materials provided by Bonnie J. Collins, EdM, LCSW - R)