



# White Rock Presbyterian Church

# Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

March 2014

## From the Pastor's Desk

### LENT

*From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.*

*Matthew 27:45-50*

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 5, the church at large enters the Season of Lent. Lent is a season of self-examination, reflection, penitence, and confession. For centuries after the Protestant Reformation, Lent was by and large neglected and even spurned by Protestant churches worldwide. Only in recent decades have many of the mainline Protestant churches, including Presbyterians, come to remember the value to us, and praise for Christ, that accrue from the disciplines that accompany Lent.

Traditionally Christians have, during the Season of Lent, discontinued a routine practice that brings one pleasure, or adopted a practice of devotion or service that is not part of one's normal routine. Why? In order to focus attention on that project of self-examination and repentance, and to identify, in some small way, with the suffering of Christ during his Passion. The rejection of a secular practice or adoption of a spiritual

practice during Lent is certainly not required, necessary, or prescribed, but one or the other (or both) have value for the disciple intent on observing Lent in practice.

We have rich, eternal life in Christ because of his death and resurrection. The scriptures testify that his death was necessary, in order for his atonement for our sins to be effective. During Lent we remember and anticipate again the event of that horrific yet redeeming (and necessary) crucifixion.

May the triune God bless your time, self-examination, and repentance this year, 2014.

Peace and joy,  
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.

## Letter from the Editor



I recently read a book called, *The Hiding Place*, by Corrie ten Boom with John and Elizabeth Sherrill (1971) that I found both interesting and inspiring. This is a book that I should have read a long time ago but somehow never got around to until now. It

should be on every Christian's required reading list.

In the late 1930s Corrie ten Boom, her sister, Betsie, and her father, Casper, were settled into a quiet life in their home in the Netherlands. The ten Boom family ran a small watch making and repair business out of their house, which they called the *Beje*. Corrie and her father tended the business while Betsie took care of the house. Then in 1940 the Nazis invaded. The ten Booms were fervent Christians and felt obligated to help their Jewish neighbors in whatever way they could. Before long the *Beje* became the center of an underground resistance network. Corrie found herself involved in black market operations, stealing ration cards, and eventually hiding Jews in her home. Initially there wasn't any place to hide these people so workers from the Dutch underground clandestinely built a secret room in the *Beje*, called simply, "the hiding place." This was effective for a time, but eventually they were discovered and arrested by the Nazis. (The Nazis didn't find the secret room and the people hiding there were saved.)

Corrie was first sent to Scheveningen, which was a Dutch prison used by the Nazis for political prisoners. There she was eventually able to reconnect with her sister, Betsie, who was being held in a nearby cell. Later they were moved to another prison camp and finally, as Allied armies advanced, they were removed to Ravensbrück, the notorious women's concentration camp in Germany. Conditions there were horrible and both women were forced to perform hard physical labor. Betsie's health deteriorated until she died. Corrie was then suddenly and inexplicably released (later found to be the result of a clerical error) and she finally returned to Holland in January 1945.

After the war she continued to perform charitable work supporting survivors and other displaced and dispossessed persons. She also spoke a lot. She talked

not only about her story, but also about the things she and her sister learned in the depths of the concentration camps, things about forgiveness, and how they were able to find hope even in the depths of despair.

The ten Boom's story, very briefly outlined here, is compelling in and of itself. More important, however, is what the book says about their Christian faith. The ten Booms were devout Christians and their faith guided and sustained them throughout their ordeals. It caused them to help their neighbors when it would have been much easier and far safer to look the other way. It enabled them to carry out tasks that would have been unthinkable under normal circumstances. And it allowed them to survive and even prosper in concentration camps full of death and despair.

The *Beje*, Corrie ten Boom's home, can still be found in the center of Haarlem. You can go there and tour the house and see the secret hiding place where Jews were hidden from the Nazis, while learning more about this amazing story. I have not been there but I will make a point of going there the next time I visit the Netherlands. In the meantime I will ponder the book, not only for its inspirations but also for the questions it poses. Just how is a Christian required to live in world dominated by evil? Would I have the courage to do as the ten Boom family did? If you haven't read this book, or if you did but it was a long time ago, I encourage you to pick it up and be inspired.

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.

---

*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.*

*John 3:16*

## Sunday School

Pastor John is leading a study of the Gospel of Matthew following worship every Sunday, through May 18. See or call Pastor John to get a copy of the resource book for the study and the schedule for the remainder of the class. Everyone is most welcome at any time, including drop-ins!

## PW News

Our First Wednesday Potluck Luncheon will be at noon, March 5, (Ash Wednesday) at the church. All are welcome and encouraged to join in Christian fellowship. At next month's luncheon (April) we will pack tins of donated fresh-baked cookies for our Easter outreach mission, which will benefit the Crisis Center Family Shelter of N.N.M. in Espanola. Along with the cookies we will deliver your donations of health-care items and new or lightly-used soft-stuffed toys. The cookies are always a big hit with the residents and staff and those who attend the required counseling sessions.

The weekly Bible Study group meets on Tuesdays (usually) at 1:30 in various homes. Currently we are studying the Book of Philippians. To confirm the meeting time and location contact Mary Medendorp. Come join us!

Monthly Bible Study/Circle will meet at 10:00 o'clock Thursday, March 20. The location is not determined yet and will be announced. With Selma Reinovsky as our study leader, we continue in the book, *Abraham's Dilemma and the Birth of Three Faiths*.

Details for our Souper Supper will be announced as soon as they become more definite. We are looking for a date that will be convenient for most, trying to avoid the busy Lenten Season and people's travels. This event is open to the community. All monies donated are distributed to various hunger-relief missions.

We continue to collect "Box Tops for Education" and Campbell's products labels (bar code portion only). These are sent to Menaul School (Presbyterian) in Albuquerque to be redeemed or educational extras not included in their budget. Look for a basket (along with the box for "hotel hygiene extras") on the table in the hallway.

Joyce Berzins



## 2014 Ecumenical Lenten Study Series

A cooperative community event by Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church, First United Methodist Church, and The United Church

Thursday, March 13 – Thursday, April 10  
Location: First United Methodist Church  
715 Diamond Drive  
505-662-6277

### Weekly Schedule:

6:00 pm	Soup Supper
6:30 pm	Announcements
6:40 pm	Classes Begin
7:20 pm	Worship Begins
8:00 pm	Worship Ends

### Adult Classes:

Archaeology/Holy Land  
Jewish Hope  
Hope in Times of Despair  
Great Passages of Hope  
Voices of Hope

<http://www.firstinyourheart.org/ecumenical-lenten-series-begins-march-13/>

*Please accept my thanks and appreciation for all of the gifts, cards, flowers, calls, and prayers in celebration of my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I especially appreciate all the people who came to the luncheon, some of whom I hadn't seen in a very long time. I feel so very blessed. Thank you so much.*

*Irene Davis-Dellinger*

## Session News

The FOCUS topic for the February Session meeting was “WRPC Revitalization—continuing the Session discussion on new directions” and we plan the same FOCUS topic for our March meeting. Rev. Guthrie stimulated our discussion in February with some observations on church revitalization and renewal adding to our existing mix of ideas developed over the past 30 months of interim leadership, particularly from his recent experience. A key observation is that the traditional “attractational model” of church growth isn't working as well as in the past, although at least for larger churches that model can maintain church size/population. Growth, especially for a church of WRPC's size, probably requires something else.

Some points that have emerged from Session discussions so far are (1) visibility in the community is a key element of attracting people to the congregation, (2) attractiveness and initial impression of the facility is very important, and (3) revitalization and renewal of WRPC will require a holistic view of WRPC's programs, facility, and service to the community.

The New Beginnings program mentioned in the last Overlook will be one important input to WRPC's revitalization and renewal. We appreciate the input to the New Beginnings effort made by the members of the WRPC family who joined the New Beginnings Assessment Visit on the evening of January 21. The Session will receive the assessment report on March 21 during a leadership training event in Albuquerque. The assessment will then be shared with the congregation after the Session has a chance to digest and understand it.

George Callaghan

## Save the Date!

### First Sunday—Food Sunday

March 2: The first Sunday of each month is food collection Sunday for LA Cares. Items needed in particular this month are canned fruit and nutritious cereal (no sugar). Thank you!

### Out To Lunch Bunch

March 2, following Adult Bible Study. Come join us!

### Ecumenical Worship Service

March 2, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Duane Smith Auditorium, 1300 Diamond Drive

Participating churches: White Rock Presbyterian, Grace Vineyard, White Rock Baptist, Los Alamos Church of Christ, The Christian Church of Los Alamos, Calvary Chapel of Los Alamos, Trinity on the Hill Episcopal, La Vista Church of the Nazarene, and others.

Come and worship!

### Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2014, 7:00 PM: Subdued worship with scripture, prayer, song, and the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of those wishing to receive them.

### Daylight Savings Time

March 9: It's almost Spring! Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 9. Remember to set your clocks forward an hour, and come worship!

### German Dinner!

March 9: The Fellowship Ministry Team of White Rock Presbyterian Church is hosting a German Dinner for the congregation, friends, and community on Sunday, March 9 at 5:00 PM in Memorial Hall. In addition to great German food, we will celebrate our long friendship with Die Auferstehungskirche in Dresden, Germany, the home church of Irene Davis-Dellinger. Come, and bring a friend!

### Women2Women Conference

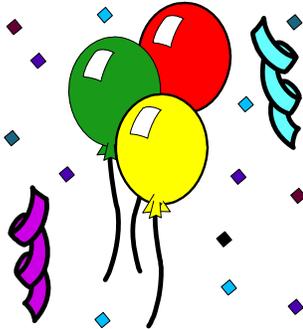
March 29: The women of Los Alamos Church of Christ invite all women in the community to their second annual Women2Women Conference, “Filled with God's Joy,” on March 29 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Los Alamos Church of Christ, 2323 Diamond Drive. Brunch will be served, and childcare will be provided. See the flier posted in the hallway for more information.

---

*...but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

1Cor 1:23-24

## March Birthdays



John Guthrie	7
Vernon Kerr	11
Jean Callaghan	23
Marge Wilson	23
Jennifer Holmes	26

## Special Assignment

One of my grandson's favorite cartoons is **Special Agent Oso**. Special Agent Oso has special assignments to help children in need. In one episode the special mission was to help two children who both wanted to play with the toy cash register learn about sharing.



Everett celebrated his two-year birthday January 25th! Everett was in costume as Special Agent Oso and the theme of his party was "Acts of Kindness." The adults attending each got to be a character from the cast—I was Whirly Bird, the talking bird-shaped autogyro that takes Oso to wherever someone needs help. The Acts of Kindness included Everett, accompanied by adult family helpers, handing out lunch gift certificates for people to eat at Chipotle, distributing activity books and crayons for children in the hospital waiting areas, and handing out rolls of quarters to people at the local Laundromat.



The Bible reminds us to not only be kind to friends but enemies as well, and Jesus teaches about kindness to children by His example. I believe people can even learn about kindness through a two-year old dressed as Special Agent Oso, and Everett is learning that kindness is an important Christian value.

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)*

Vickie Teel

## 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 LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:*

*""The LORD bless you  
and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.""*

*"So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."*

*Num 6:22-27*