



# White Rock Presbyterian Church

# Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

April 2014

## From the Pastor's Desk



### "Finally Trusting God"

Several WRPC members and I attended a workshop March 21-22 on the New Beginnings church renewal initiative that you have been hearing about. There is more information on next steps in the New Beginnings process elsewhere in this issue of the Overlook.

Attendees at the workshop received a significant amount of information and guidance on the process of transforming churches. Principle number one of the New Beginnings initiative is a statement attributed to Albert Einstein: "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Underlying everything that we heard during the workshop is the explicit statement that renewal and transformation of our churches requires significant change in the way we do things. American culture has changed since the 1950s; the methods and ministries that worked in the 1950s, by and large, no longer work.

The New Beginnings people fully acknowledge that substantial, fundamental change is difficult for congregations. We are much more comfortable doing the same things over and over again, even if we know that we're going to get the same results.

From my perspective it appears at this time that we have no alternative. White Rock Presbyterian is now at the point in its history when we must find a new way

forward, a new way of promoting the kingdom of heaven in the world, a new way of serving as disciples of the living Christ.

In Genesis chapter 12, a man named Abram is going about his business, probably tending sheep and goats, in a place called Haran, which is believed to be within the boundaries of modern Turkey. Suddenly the Lord appears to him and instructs him to leave his country and his family and his father's house, and to go to a land that the Lord will show him. God promises that he will be the father of a great nation, that God will bless him and make his name famous, and that all of the families of the earth will be blessed through him. According to the passage, "Abraham went, as the Lord has told him."

The Lord didn't tell Abram (who is later renamed Abraham) where he was going, or how long the journey would be, or what he should take. He just said, "Go."

This passage was discussed some during the New Beginnings workshop. We Presbyterians generally have a hard time simply responding to God's command as Abram does. We need to appoint a committee to study the matter. We want to know how much it's going to cost, and if we can manage it within this year's budget. We want to know the implications and possible consequences. Everything must be done "decently and in order."

It appears to me that we are now faced with an Abram moment. We know that we cannot continue in the way we have, which makes us different from Abram. Nevertheless, most of us are sensing God calling us to a new way of being and doing, and if we are going to respond, we are going to have to take a risk, maybe

many of them. We are going to have to trust that God will lead us where we are called to be, and that the way forward may not (probably will not) generally be clear. We are simply going to have to trust God.

The New Beginnings process is designed to help us find what God is calling us to be and to do, but we can be assured that the route we are called to take into our future will not be absolutely clear or certain. That's OK. Jesus's disciples had no idea what they were getting into, either, when in response to his call they left their homes and families and followed him.

In spite of the uncertainty, I am very much looking forward to the journey with you. It will do us all good to remember that God is in charge of this process, and we are summoned simply to trust him, and to "Go."

Peace and joy,  
John

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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. John Guthrie, can be reached at 505-709-8207 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.

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*As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.*

*"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"*

*Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.*

*Mark 16:5-8*

## Letter from the Editor



I listened with great interest on March 9 when Bob Reinovsky talked about the new Presbyterian Hymnal and briefly described some of the pros and cons of adopting a new hymnal for worship. It brought back fond memories of the last time our denomination brought out a new hymnal and the process that we went through when we adopted it.

I was deeply involved in the Worship Committee when the blue hymnals came out, at a time when our previous (maroon) hymnals were becoming dog-eared and threadbare. We procured a number of different hymn books to evaluate, ranging from modern to traditional and including some from several different denominations. After circulating those among various people involved in our church worship and music activities we ultimately decided (correctly, I think) that the new Presbyterian Hymnal was best for our purposes. So the church purchased enough copies of the new hymnal to serve the congregation and choir during worship.

I was amazed at the "response" to the new hymnal. It was much more than a new edition of the old hymnal; there were many changes made, some of which weren't immediately apparent until it was put to use. First of all, while a number of new hymns were included, a number of old hymns were deleted. Needless to say, those who found that their favorite hymn was no longer in the hymn book were not pleased. Those who were more musically inclined noticed that the keys had been lowered and the harmonies simplified to make the songs easier to sing. But the real bone of contention was that the words to many of the hymns had been changed.

Yes indeed! At a time when society was becoming increasingly sensitive to gender bias the words to many traditional hymns were changed to make the language more inclusive. While some people were supportive of the changes and even felt that they had come none too soon, others were offended that the denomination was messing around with traditional hymns that they had grown to love and cherish over many years. And so

there was a lot of grumbling as people adjusted to the changes presented in the new hymnals. Fortunately that was a long time ago and today most of us have become comfortable with our “new” hymn books.

The silver/gray Celebration Hymnals were purchased some years later than the blue. The Celebration Hymnals are biased more toward contemporary worship and contain many songs familiar to our younger members. Thus the two hymnals complement each other quite well.

Now the denomination has come out with another new hymn book. I have not looked at it in any detail, but I am sure that it has some good features and some that are less good. I encourage you to check it out. Does it still have your favorite hymns? Have the words changed and, if so, are they ok? If you are a musician, are the arrangements satisfactory? We as a church do not have to buy new hymnals now, but if the new hymnal is an improvement we may want to do so. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on this matter, now would be a good time to make them known to someone on the worship committee.

Dick Heaton

## Session News

The FOCUS of quite a bit of Session attention and energy continues to be WRPC Revitalization and Renewal, and that attention continues to be guided by three points mentioned in the March Overlook. First, visibility in the community is a key element in attracting people to the congregation. Second, the attractiveness and initial impression of our facility is very important. Third, revitalization and renewal will require a holistic view of WRPC's programs, facility, and service to the community.

Visibility in the community, we believe, can be helped by such things as the talk given by Rabbi Marvin Schwab on the Torah Restoration Project; we are considering more such presentations to the community. We're also planning to sponsor Easter music on radio station KRSN.

The attractiveness of our facility has certainly been improved by the landscaping changes made last year at the front of the building and in the prayer garden. Watch for more improvements (and plan to help) in the

parking lot. The Worship Ministry is looking at some changes in the sanctuary, particularly to accommodate a permanently installed projector. Watch and listen for more improvements and don't hesitate to give suggestions to Session members on things you would like to see improved in our physical facility.

You've seen a few changes already in our morning worship sequence. The Service Ministry group is looking for new service opportunities in the community. The New Beginnings program will offer chances for members and friends of White Rock Presbyterian Church to guide changes that will contribute to revitalization and renewal. All in all, we're looking at a number of necessary changes (some pretty subtle, some more readily visible) to seek a healthy future for the congregation.

George Callaghan

## New Beginnings

Many of you participated last January 21 in the New Beginnings congregational assessment with our assigned assessor, the Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond. In response to a great deal of information supplied to Rev. Elfond before her one-day visit, and in response to her observations while here, she has produced a draft report on “where we are.” The New Beginnings staff will revise that report in response to input received from the WRPC New Beginnings team at the NB workshop, which happened in Albuquerque on March 21-22. (The WRPC team currently consists of Ken and Jennifer Holmes, John and Nancy Guthrie, Bob Reinovsky, and Christine Haven.) After those revisions the report will be made available to all members and friends of White Rock Presbyterian Church. You can find more information on the New Beginnings initiative here: <http://whatisourfuturestory.com/>.

It is important to remember that the report will not be a prescription or even a recommendation regarding steps our church could or should take in order to begin the process of transformation. The report will be a description that Rev. Elfond and others on the New Beginnings staff have determined represents the current status of our church in a number of different respects, as well as information on the White Rock/Los Alamos community, that is, our ministry environment.

The next major step in the New Beginnings process is a series of six (6) small-group meetings held in the homes of selected members or friends of our congregation. The recommended size of these small groups is six to ten people, so WRPC will have three to four small groups. It is highly recommended by the New Beginnings staff that these meetings be held on six consecutive weeks. Each weekly meeting is designed to last two hours or less.

Over the next few weeks the WRPC New Beginnings team will poll the congregation in order to identify the best days and times at which the small groups will meet. Weekday, weekend, morning, and evening meeting times are all possible. The meetings would begin as soon as May or as late as September, in response to the poll of congregational availability.

The purpose of the small group meetings is to provide input to the WRPC New Beginnings team and also to the WRPC Session, as both groups work to discern God's intention for our church in this difficult but necessary process of renewal and transformation.

The New Beginnings team recognizes that the congregation completed a season of discernment and study under Interim Pastor Harry Cole in 2012, and that a number of possible alternatives for renewal were at that time determined. However, the congregation and Session in 2012 ultimately elected not to undertake any major new initiatives until a new Designated Pastor had been identified and called. That pastor is now in place, and it is time to complete the process begun in 2012. It may be that some of the same potential candidates for new directions will come to the fore, such as a "parallel new church development" or a "ministry to retirees" mission. The New Beginnings process of six small group meetings is intended to finally give the NB Team and the Session guidance on discerning a way forward. The WRPC congregation will be kept fully informed of progress in discernment as the process unfolds.

Your prayers for this long but necessary process of discernment are eagerly desired by the NB Team and the Session. Questions on the process may be directed to any member of the team. The team strongly encourages your participation in the small group meetings, once they are scheduled and underway. Your own vision and discernment are essential to the faithfulness and effectiveness of the process. Thank

you sincerely in advance for your participation in the New Beginnings discernment process.

Pastor John

## Witness News

The Service Ministry group met early in February to make initial allocations of 2014 budgeted Service Ministry spending and to begin exploring opportunities for new kinds of WRPC Service Ministry in the local community.

Service Ministry budgeted spending for 2014 is \$19,824, of which \$8,916 was budgeted for Unified (Denominational) Giving through the Presbytery of Santa Fe, leaving \$10,908 to be allocated by the Service Ministry group. In addition there was about \$8,000 at the beginning of 2014 in designated fund balances under the direction of the Service Ministry group. Allocations were made to Young Life of Los Alamos, LA Cares, Camp Loma Verde, Julie's Helpers Scholarship Fund (for supplies for a fund-raiser), House of Fellowship, John Heaton Family Ministry, and Fujii Family Ministry; these spending decisions leave \$4,758 in budgeted 2014 funds to be allocated. In addition the group decided to spend \$346 from the Mission Contingency Fund to support Operation Christmas Child.

We have been charged by the Session to identify and implement some new forms of Service in the local community; and the group is exploring some initial ideas including more hands-on activity at LA Cares, hands-on work at Camp Loma Verde, a Science & Faith Immersion Event co-sponsored with other churches in the community, and future events inspired by the very successful outreach of Rabbi Marvin Schwab's recent lecture on the Torah Scroll restoration. We've characterized the latter as "intellectual outreach" to the community.

While there is a "core group" of WRPC members to lead the Service Ministry, please be aware that ALL members and friends of WRPC are invited to attend our meetings (we will announce them in the Sunday bulletin) AND make input to any of the core group about your spending ideas and, especially, thoughts on new opportunities for service in our community.

Members of the core group are Joan & Sumner Barr, Jennifer Holmes, Susan Buxton, Mary Medendorp, and George Callaghan. At our February meeting we had four additional attendees and all are welcome.

George Callaghan

## PW News

Due to various travels and other commitments there will be **No Wednesday Potluck Luncheon on April 2**. Watch for announcements regarding plans for the May 7 luncheon. We will also delay plans for sharing cookies and your donated items with the Crisis Shelter in Espanola. Perhaps we can do this around Mother’s Day.

The monthly Bible Study/Circle will meet at the church Thursday, April 17, at 10:00 o’clock as we continue the study of *Abraham’s Dilemma and the Birth of Three Faiths*, led by Selma Reinovsky.

Contact Mary Medendorp for the time and location of the weekly Bible Study group.

Due to numerous conflicts, the “Soup-er Supper” will be delayed until the fall. Any suggestions?

MANY THANKS for your donations as 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” and lightly used or new soft toys) on the table in the hallway.

We offer prayers for safe travel as Bob and Selma travel to Germany to get acquainted with new Grandbaby Robbie! Congratulations and God’s blessings for Emil, Becky, and all the Reinovsky family

LENTEN AND EASTER BLESSINGS TO ALL!!

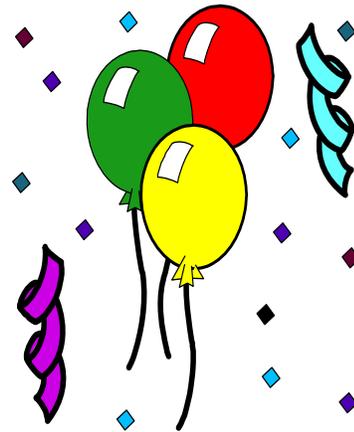
Joyce Berzins

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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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## April Birthdays



Carolyn Christians	1
Noah McCabe	7
Jeff Kelley	14
Al Medendorp	16
Terry Buxton	20
Jaxon Kelley	21
James Ro	24
Selma Reinovsky	25
Connie Goettee	26

*but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength,  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary  
they will walk and not be faint*

*Isaiah 40:31*

## Save the Date!

### Ecumenical Lenten Series

Thursdays through April 10, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

Soup and bread supper, many opportunities for small group study, and a brief worship service. Come as you are able; each Thursday is independent of the others.

### Rev. Guthrie's Installation as Pastor of White Rock Presbyterian Church

Service of Worship

Sunday April 13, 4:00 pm

Come celebrate the beginning of a new season in the life of WRPC!

### Maundy Thursday Worship

April 17, 7:00 p.m.

A solemn service of worship including the Lord's Supper

### Good Friday Community Worship

April 18, Noon to 3:00 p.m. (Come and Go)

Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church

Centered on the Seven Last Words of Christ. Prayer, Scripture, Music, Brief Homilies on the Seven Words

### Easter Sunrise Worship Service

Sunday, April 20, 6:30 a.m.

Overlook Park.

With participation by many of the White Rock Churches.

### Easter Worship at WRPC

Sunday, April 20, 9:15 a.m.

A joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection and victory! Come, and bring a friend!

### Easter Breakfast at WRPC

Sunday, April 20

Following Easter Worship

Plan to stay and enjoy good food and fellowship!

## Treasury Notes

### Signup for Smith's Community Rewards® for WRPC: #26299

For 2014 Smith's Food and Drug Stores has started a new Smith's Community Rewards® program to help communities grow and prosper. They have added churches and other non-profit organizations to the list of local schools.

You can help *our church* earn dollars simply by signing up for the program, shop at Smith's, and then swipe your rewards card or enter your telephone number when checking out!

Register your Smith's reward card number online at [www.smithscommunityrewards.com](http://www.smithscommunityrewards.com). If you do not have a Smith's reward card, you may secure one at the customer service desk at any Smith's.

There is no cost to enroll and enrollment will not affect your fuel points or coupon discounts.

If you are a new online customer, click on "Create an Account" box. Sign up for a Smith's Rewards Account—entering your email address and creating a password, by entering zip code, clicking on your favorite store, and then agreeing to the terms and conditions. *Please note that Smith's does not sell, trade, or rent their customers' personal information to outside companies or marketing firms.*

You will receive a message to check your email inbox; then click on the link within the body of the email.

Click on "My Account" and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step. Click on "Edit Smith's Community Rewards information" and input your Smith's rewards card number. Update or confirm your information.

Enter the NPO **26299** for White Rock Presbyterian Church, select our organization from the list, and click on "Confirm." To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see our church's name on the right side of your information page.

If you normally use your telephone number at the register instead of swiping our reward's card, please

call **1-800-576-4377**, and select option **4** to get your Smith's rewards card number.

Smith's will be giving away up to \$2,500 quarterly to organizations participating in the new program. Please sign up for this painless fundraiser for WRPC.

Susan Buxton

## Facilities News

You may have noticed some digging around the cracks in the parking lot. Glenn Clemmons and Craig Kelly have been digging out the debris in the cracks, which is the first step in repairing the parking lot. The cracks need to be blown out and washed out. They will then be filled with a cold patch material. You can see where some was tried out already. The cracks will be sealed and the whole parking lot covered with a sealant. Finally the parking spaces will be lined and painted.

To do this we are going to begin working on Saturday, May 3, and we will continue for the next four Saturdays. There are work chores for everyone who wishes to volunteer. The results will give the Church a better look from the street and the parking situation will be much improved.

There is a lot of work so please consider volunteering on this project.

Terry Buxton

## Candy Needed for Easter Baskets

Linda Burns and Nancy Guthrie are collecting individually-wrapped pieces of candy through Sunday, April 6, to fill Easter baskets for children of LA Cares families at the next food distribution date for those families. You may leave your candy donations in the hallway outside the sanctuary at any time through April 6. Linda and Nancy anticipate the need to fill about seventy (70) baskets. Thank you for helping to brighten the Easter celebration for LA Cares children!

## Global Prayer Concerns

- For the people of the Ukraine, especially the people of the Crimea, and for all the military involved in the stand-off.
- For the victims and families of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane.
- For the people of Syria and for the several African nations torn by violence and civil war.
- For the people of Israel and Palestine, Turkey, North Korea, and Egypt.
- For those in Latin America suffering from unrest, corruption, and drug-related violence, and for immigrants who risk their lives to escape.
- For mission co-workers around the world, and especially for Choon and Yen Hee Lim in China and North Korea.
- For college students on several campuses suffering from outbreaks of meningitis.
- For all world leaders, and for those serving in the armed forces.

## Important Contacts

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# April 2014

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