



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

May 2014

From the Pastor's Desk



My dad, also a pastor, said once that the best thing to do for worship on Easter Sunday is to read the story and enjoy music for the rest of the service. I think he was on to something.

Some of my favorite hymns are Easter hymns. That's probably true for you, as well. Since

Easter is not just a day in the liturgical calendar, but a season, we are going to be singing Easter hymns through the Seventh Sunday of Easter, June 1.

As for practically all of our ancient hymns, the theology expressed in the ones centered on the resurrection is almost always spot on. Here are a couple of Easter hymns, one that we Presbyterians sing every Easter season, and another favored more by our Baptist sisters and brothers, but which I really like.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
All creation, join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!*

*Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!*

*Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!*

*Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!*

*Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now, Alleluia!*

Text by Charles Wesley, 1739
Music by Robert Williams, 1817

Love's redeeming work is done. Death in vain forbids him rise. Where, O death, is now your sting? That's good theology!

Christ Arose!

*Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!*

*Refrain
Up from the grave he arose;
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

*Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!
(Refrain)*

*Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!
(Refrain)*

Text and music by Robert Lowry, 1874

The last line of the refrain is absolutely thrilling. We will certainly sing this one before June 1! I invite you to enjoy Easter hymnody with me for the next several

weeks. What better way to proclaim the joy we have in a risen and reigning Christ than to sing it?!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Peace and joy,
Pastor John

Happy Mother's Day!



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. 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.

Letter from the Editor



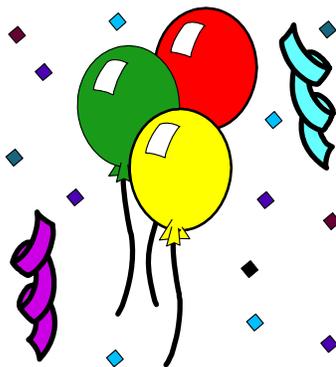
As I was leaving Mari-Mac shopping center the other day I saw a group of five men, all about my age, standing together in front of the Blue Window Bistro. They weren't talking to each other; rather they were all chimping on their smart phones. I'd seen teenagers do this many

times, but I'd never seen retirees do it until then. It just goes to show that we are more connected today than ever before. I read recently that on Facebook alone we click "like" 4.5 billion times every day, not to mention sending countless e-mails, Google searches, Instagrams, music downloads, etc., etc. The American Psychological Association has even considered adding "Internet Addiction" to the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders).

All of this connectivity is clearly here to stay and it does have many positive aspects. Nevertheless it brings a noisier and more stressful world, with constant beeping, ping, and an endless string of notifications, interruptions, and alerts. The flow of information is constant, never ending, and even accelerating (although the quality of the information is often questionable). Surely this constant harassment takes its toll, and I have always thought that it would be a good idea for each of us to periodically disconnect, unplug, and allow our minds to relax and rejuvenate during the resulting period of peace and quiet.

A simple way to do this is to turn off your smart phone on the Sabbath. At least disable the data services functions for that time. God commands us to remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. What better way to keep it holy than by eliminating the

May Birthdays



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| Ken Holmes | 15 |
| Lori Kelley | 15 |
| George Callaghan | 18 |

interruptions and distractions caused by smart phones and digital media?

Our Jewish friends have reduced the practice of the Sabbath, or Shabbat, to a fine art. Shabbat begins a few minutes before sunset on Friday, with the lighting of candles and recitation of kiddush. Shabbat is a day of celebration and participants engage in pleasurable activities such as eating, singing, and spending time with family members. It is customary to eat three festive meals, dinner on Friday night, lunch on Saturday, and a third meal late Saturday afternoon. Shabbat ends after the appearance of three stars in the evening sky on Saturday. The candlelit ceremony of Havdalah is held marking the end of Shabbat and ushering in the new week.

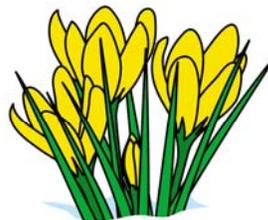
Rabbinical scholars have analyzed and discussed scriptures at great length to determine just what activities are allowed and what are forbidden on the Sabbath in accordance with Jewish law. Most of this is not germane to this discussion, except to note that all forms of electronic media, including radio, telephone, television, computers, and smart phones, are forbidden. And so many observant Jews disengage from the digital world for one day each week as a part of honoring the Sabbath.

Ellie Krupnick, writing for the Huffington Post (March 11, 2014) extols the blessings of Shabbat in her own life, as she necessarily disengages from the outside world once every week. For a writer in a 24-hour digital news organization this might seem surprising. But she says it is the one time each week when she can shut off the constant interruptions, urgent messages, and critical deadlines while taking some time to unwind. Shabbat allows her to “go dark” and take time to read a book, play a board game with her family, have a face-to-face conversation with a real person, and generally recharge to become a fresher and more attentive person for the rest of the week.

Most Christians today don't take the Sabbath as seriously as we once did, and we certainly don't treat it with the reverence of observant Jews. Many of us go to church on Sunday morning, attend a Sunday school class or bible study, perhaps share a meal with some of our fellow worshippers, and then go home and revert to our weekday behavior patterns. I think this is our loss and that we could do ourselves a lot of good by setting aside the commercial world for a day and observing the Sabbath with more respect.

The Sabbath is both a commandment and a blessing. It is a commandment because, well, it is among the Ten Commandments. It is a blessing because it permits us, and in fact requires us, to temporarily set aside the temptations and distractions of the outside world and focus on God, our family, and our community. What better way to start than by turning off the smart phone?

Dick Heaton



God is Doing Something New in Los Alamos

Los Alamos is noted around the world as home for a cadre of world class scientists, and arguably as the home for a far larger and more diverse faith community (measured by sheer number of congregations) than its population of 18,000 would ordinarily indicate. Surely, it should be, and in many ways is, also the home for an active and vibrant conversation about the intersection of faith and science.

In WRPC, we have had an active Faith and Science small group study meeting continuously since about 2006. In 2008, WRPC initiated a community-wide effort to establish an endowed lectureship in faith and science, seeded by specified memorial funds from WRPC. The objective was to provide an regular (annual) lecture, workshop, or other educational event for the Los Alamos Community. Several churches were approached to participate, and a number expressed interest. Unfortunately, the world-wide financial crisis of 2008-2009 impacted Los Alamos churches at just the time that the “Fides et Scientia” initiative was launched. Financial realities won out and the initiative did not take hold.

Circumstances may have interfered with the “Fides et Scientia” Initiative, but could not change the extent to which the topic was relevant to life and faith in Los Alamos. Recently an ecumenical interest in revisiting

the establishment of a science and faith “immersion event” has reemerged in the Los Alamos inter-church community spear-headed by Laura McClellan from Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Los Alamos joined by interested persons from (...if not “representing”) at least seven Los Alamos churches including Bethlehem Lutheran, IHM Catholic, the United Church, Trinity on the Hill Episcopal, First United Methodist, the Church of Christ and White Rock Presbyterian Church. The group has been joined by at least one member of the Los Alamos Jewish Center.

The group has been meeting weekly since mid March. Pastors, including our own John Guthrie, from several of churches are among the regular participants.

Our own Faith and Science Study Group was fortunate to be able to host Laura in early March for an evening of good conversation about possibilities for expanded science and faith dialogue in the Los Alamos Community. At that conversation, the germ of an idea to seek ways to invite young adults, Laboratory Summer Students, Post Doctoral Associates, and new Lab Staff members into a conversation about faith and science emerged. The ideas focused on a modest series of enjoyable summer events.

As the ecumenical group kicked-off its meetings later in March, the idea of an outreach to young (even temporary) adults, many, but not all, brought to Los Alamos through work at the Lab, began to take hold and has become a near term focus—with the group actively planning to implement at least an introductory series of events in the summer of 2014.

Look for more news of this exciting outreach—joining churches, and perhaps even reaching across faith lines first to our Jewish brothers and sisters—in the coming months.

Bob Reinovsky

*A little Madness in the Spring
Is wholesome even for the King.
Emily Dickinson*

Host a Christian High School Exchange Student

Christian volunteers, with or without children at home, are needed to host Christian international high school students for the 2014-2015 school year.

The students speak English, are covered by medical insurance, have spending money for their personal expenses, and hope to arrive in August for enrollment in their new high school. For more information, please contact Yvette at SHARE! (800-941-3738, info@sharesouthwest.org) or visit www.sharesouthwest.org.

Gill Erickson

PW News

In lieu of the usual First-Wednesday Potluck Luncheon at the church, we plan to meet for lunch at a local favorite eatery at 11:30 on Wednesday, May 7. Details will be announced soon. This will be the last First-Wednesday luncheon till September.

To find out the time and location for the weekly Bible Study group, contact Mary Medendorp.

The Thursday Circle/Bible Study group will meet on Thursday, May 15 at 10:00 at the church continuing with the study of *Abraham's Dilemma and the Birth of Three Faiths*, led by Selma Reinovsky. This will be the final meeting till September.

Our annual “home-baked cookie sharing” with the Crisis Center Family Shelter in Espanola will be at Mother’s Day time. Anyone wishing to participate by donating two or three dozen favorite fresh-baked cookies may bring them to the church or to Selma, Linda Burns, or Joyce Berzins on or before Sunday, May 4. Cookie tins are available in the church kitchen for your convenience. These cookies are a real treat and very much appreciated by the residents and staff at the Shelter. We will also deliver your donations of cuddly toys and small-size toiletries. Many thanks for your sharing.

Thanks also 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 for educational “extras” not included in their budget. Look for a basket (along with the box for “hotel-size hygiene extras” and lightly used or new soft toys) on the table in the hallway.

Joyce Berzins

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus 20:8-11

Garage Sale!

The service ministry is planning on having a WRPC Garage Sale for supplementing our service ministry funds. I was volunteered to head it up with the help of Joan Barr. However since garage sales are a lot of work, (but only for a week or so) we will need a lot help from everyone of all ages.

As you are doing your Spring and Summer cleaning, please start saving your unwanted or no-longer-needed items. Please dust them off, wash them up, fold them nicely, etc. before you pack them in a box or bag. It will help so much for the process later.

It looks like we better aim for August, which is a good time for back to school and college items. (Plus, it is the only month that I am available to head it up!)

More information will be forthcoming. If you any questions, suggestions, or concerns contact me at 672-0154.

Mary Medendorp

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.

Facilities News

Carpet is Coming!

New carpet for our main building is just on the horizon! We have collected bids for new carpeting everywhere in our main building where there is now carpet. A bid from *The Finishing Touch* in Los Alamos is competitive with the others received, and the Session has decided to employ the local company to install the carpet. The new carpet will consist of carpet tiles, not roll (or broadloom) carpet.

The Session has approved a new Facilities Planning Team (Susan Buxton, Craig Kelley, Nancy Guthrie, and Joyce Haven) to review patterns and colors, and to recommend two or three to the congregation. Look for the team's recommendation very soon.

The competitive bid from *The Finishing Touch* is \$24,000, but the final expense for the project is dependent on the difficulty in removing the existing blue carpet, so this figure should be considered a reasonably accurate estimate. Yes, that is a lot of money, but there is very good news. Generous donors interested in seeing this project done have already contributed \$20,000! That amount is not a pledge; it has already been donated!

We are short only \$4,000 in order to meet the estimated cost for the project! Will you help? Please write a check over an beyond your usual or pledged giving to White Rock Presbyterian, with “Carpet” on the memo line, and your generous donation will be applied to the carpet project. Thank you!

Other Facilities Improvements!

New carpet is only one of several renovation projects currently under consideration by the Session and the new Facilities Planning Team. (One that is already underway is repair and sealing of the parking lot.) Others include upgraded electrical service in both buildings, one or more ADA compliant restrooms, renovated restrooms in the main building, a new sign for Rover Boulevard, renovations to the sanctuary and kitchen, and new landscaping and irrigation.

God is doing new things in and through White Rock Presbyterian Church! Major initiatives will certainly include an opportunity for congregational input and feedback. With all of the upgrades needed, the Session and new Facilities Planning Team (Susan Buxton, Craig Kelley, Nancy Guthrie, and Joyce Haven) will have to prioritize them. Furthermore, almost all of the planned improvements require approval by Los Alamos County. And, of course, they will all require funding: additional donations from our members and friends, a capital improvements campaign, or something. All of these details remain to be determined.

Renovated physical facilities are key to attracting and retaining neighbors looking for a church to call home. Our growth as a church is dependent on making at least some of these improvements. Thank you from your Session for your willingness to help, in a number of ways, to make them real.

John Guthrie

Did You Know?



The banner that has been hanging to the left of the stained glass and the painting on the sanctuary wall to the right of the chancel are both representations of famous paintings.

The banner is beautifully laid out in layers of cloth as only our own Lily Brunson could do. The image comes from a painting by William Adolphe

Bouguereau that was first exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1890. Entitled, “Les Saintes Femmes au Tombeau”

(The Holy Women at the Tomb), it depicts the three Marys, Mary the Mother of James, Mary Magdalene, and Mary of Cleophas, at the tomb of the resurrection. The painting is a compositional masterpiece in which the viewer’s attention is first drawn to the bewildered women and then to the light filled tomb where one gets just a glimpse of the angel with the upraised arm. The original painting now hangs in the collection of the Musée Royal des Beaux-Arts in Antwerp, Belgium.

The painting is a copy of an original by Eugène Burnand entitled, “The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Sepulchre on the Morning of the Resurrection.” It relates to a passage from John (20:3) in which Peter and “the other disciple,” upon hearing of the empty tomb from the women, run to the tomb to see for themselves. Both are exuberant but John, being



the younger of the two, is slightly ahead of Peter and reaches the tomb first. The painting was originally shown at the *Salon de la Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts* in 1898. It is now displayed at the Musée d’Orsay in Paris.

The banner and the painting will remain on display throughout Eastertide but will likely be removed at Pentecost and be replaced by other more seasonally appropriate images.

[This article is repeated from the May 2013 Overlook.]

Dick Heaton

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. ...”

John 21:17

May 2014

Office hours: T, Th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm +++ 672-3682, officemanager@wrpchurch.com

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