

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

#### August 2014

# From the Pastor's Desk

# Celebrate Discipline

In 1978 pastor and author Richard J. Foster wrote *A Celebration of Discipline*, a book which has become acclaimed as a modern spiritual classic. In this book Foster offers up twelve spiritual disciplines which Christ followers might adopt in their journeys of faith, in order to diligently nurture their own growth. Here is a list of those twelve spiritual disciplines, organized into the three categories which Foster uses.

- 1. The inward disciplines
  - Meditation
  - Prayer
  - Fasting
  - Study
- 2. The outward disciplines
  - Simplicity
  - Solitude
  - Submission
  - Service
- 3. The corporate disciplines
  - Confession
  - Worship
  - Guidance
  - Celebration

One can certainly find many other lists of Christian disciplines, but Foster's list has long been recognized as a carefully-considered, faithful exposition of possible ways to grow in Christ. The list above offers little help in actually adopting any of these disciplines, but I pray that simply seeing the list might prompt in you a desire to pursue one or more of them. You can learn more about them from Foster's respected book or from various online resources.

Foster is the first to recognize that simply practicing spiritual disciplines (which he calls a "celebration") is not the goal. Rather, growth in Christ and service to others are the relevant goals. In his own words: "A farmer is helpless to grow grain; all he can do is provide the right conditions for the growing of grain. He cultivates the ground, he plants the seed, he waters the plants, and then the natural forces of the earth take over and up comes the grain. This is the way it is with the Spiritual Disciplines - they are a way of sowing to the Spirit. By themselves the Spiritual Disciplines can do nothing; they can only get us to the place where something can be done."

Do any of these disciplines strike a chord with you? Perhaps the Spirit is moving you to investigate, and even begin a new discipline in Christ.

Blessings on your journey, Pastor John

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# **Session News: August 2014**

At the July Session meeting we addressed two mundane but important and required annual duties: a review of WRPC's insurance coverage and a review of our membership rolls. The Session concluded that our insurance coverage is adequate and the membership rolls review noted that most of our 44 "active members" are indeed active; in only a very few cases is our relationship with a member so tenuous that some further follow-up is warranted.

Probably more interesting is the continuing planning for facility improvements. The Session approved five specific planned changes. The Session also heard a report from a meeting with a contractor who will give WRPC a preliminary estimate of costs, and recommended sequencing, for a long list of facility improvements that the Session, aided by the Facilities Planning Team, has identified.

You will find elsewhere in this edition of the *Overlook* more details on the Session-approved changes. Here let me reinforce a point that the Facilities Planning Team and Session have considered carefully related to all of the changes we're likely to see in coming months.

It is very important that the Session have awareness, comments, and support from the congregation as we move forward with both changes to the facility and to other changes likely to be identified through the New Beginnings process. The changes approaching are vital to the future health of WRPC.

Members and friends of WRPC must LOOK and LISTEN for information that's being shared on these changes, PAY ATTENTION to what's being communicated, and VOICE THEIR THOUGHTS on the changes as they are communicated.

I have no hesitation in assuring that thoughtful comments on proposed changes will receive thoughtful consideration and responses, from the Session and from the Facilities Planning Team. Join the discussion; don't be a silent by-stander.

George Callaghan, Clerk of Session

#### Liturgists Wanted!

If you have never served as a liturgist for Sunday worship, but would like to give it a try, please see or call Pastor John. He will be glad to work with you. It's a great way to serve God and our congregation!

#### Pastoral Visits Available!

Any WRPC family wanting to spend some one-on-one time with the pastor is always very welcome to call or see John to set up an appointment. He considers it a joy and privilege to visit!



" I heard you were here, Pastor, but I didn't want to cancel our counseling session."

# Smith's Community Rewards Program

For 2014 Smith's Food and Drug Stores has a new Smith's Community Rewards<sup>®</sup> program to help communities grow and prosper. For 2014, Cycle 1, Quarter 2, WRPC will receive \$26.86 from Smith's as a non-profit organization participating in this rewards program.

If you have not yet registered your Smith's reward card number, you can do so online at <a href="https://www.smithscommunityrewards.com">www.smithscommunityrewards.com</a>. Enter the NPO 26299 for WRPC, select our organization from the list, and click on confirm.

#### All Church Picnic Set

An all church barbeque and picnic is set for Sunday afternoon, September 7, at 1:00 PM at Rover Park. Please plan to bring a dish to share. More information will be forthcoming soon. Please mark your calendar!

# Rummage Sale News!

The 2014 WRPC Rummage Sale is set for Saturday, August 23. Rummage items are needed and volunteers are needed! You may begin now to drop off sale items in the back (northern) part of Memorial Hall. Please drop off all rummage no later than Monday, August 18.

Please sign up to volunteer using the sheets found in the hallway. Help is needed for the entire week preceding the sale. The sale takes many willing hands and many hours of labor. Everyone is needed!

A pre-sale is set for Friday night, August 22, for all sale volunteers.

The Service Ministry Team has designated all sale proceeds to LA Cares, the Women's Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico, and the House of Fellowship firewood ministry. Donations of nonperishable food, toiletries, and firewood are now being accepted from WRPC members and friends, and from the community.

Questions or comments may be addressed to Joan Barr, Nancy Guthrie, or Mary Medendorp.

# Electronic Bulletin Board: News Requested!

The Electronic Bulletin Board (EBB) is now up and running in the hallway outside the Sanctuary. The display has recently included fun updates on our members and friends, old and new. We invite news from your family or those close to you. Photographs are especially welcome.

Are there other items you would like to see posted? Send material to Gill Erickson at <a href="mailto:officemanager@wrpchurch.com">officemanager@wrpchurch.com</a> or to Bob Reinovsky at <a href="mailto:reinovsky@att.net">reinovsky@att.net</a>. Thank you!

# New Beginnings Small Groups Start in August!

The time is almost here! The series of six weekly small group meetings that are central to the New Beginnings revitalization process will begin in August. The New Beginnings Team (Christine Haven, Bob Reinovsky, Jennifer Holmes, Ken Holmes, Nancy Guthrie, and John Guthrie) will set a schedule for those weekly meetings right away, in the attempt to maximize participation by members and friends of WRPC. We anticipate the formation of two or three small groups meeting on different days and times during the week. Based on responses from WRPC members and friends to a recent email poll, one of the small groups will certainly meet following worship, replacing the current study of Luke's gospel for six weeks. At least one other weekly meeting time will also be established.

The NB Team realizes that travel and other conflicts may cause you to miss one or more of the weekly meetings, but we encourage your attendance for as many as you can possibly manage. Some have asked us if, due to a schedule conflict, they may attend the meeting of another small group (other than their regular group) in a particular week. The answer is absolutely, "yes." Here is a quick listing of the six meeting topics.

- Session 1. Vitality and Discipleship
- Session 2. Interpreting the Assessment Report
- > Session 3. Examining Our Community
- Session 4. Our Church in God's Mission
- Session 5. Discovering Our Options
- Session 6. Navigating Change

Remember that the ideas and visions that emerge from these meetings will be used by the New Beginnings Team and the Session to identify particular projects, ministries, missions, and directions for the future of White Rock Presbyterian Church. Your prayers for the New Beginnings process are most certainly welcome.

Group meeting days and times will be announced very soon. Stay tuned for more information. Please plan on full participation in the New Beginnings group process. We believe the Holy Spirit can and will provide discernment for us through this series of meetings.

## **Operation Christmas Child**

It's not too early to start thinking of purchasing or preparing items for our second annual Operation Christmas Child (OCC) packing party. We are even now collecting items for the boxes.

Each month we will have a collection of different items for packing in our shoeboxes. Watch for the start of summer clearance sales which often feature back to school clothes and items. Watch for good buys on short sleeve t-shirts. Places like Hobby Lobby, Joann Fabrics, Michael's, Walmart, and Target start to clear their summer craft/camp items as well as summer toys, like jump ropes, stamp & ink pad sets, coloring books, kazoos, yoyos, ball caps, sunglasses, etc.

In August we'll be collecting school supplies of all kinds, and usually kids' socks and underwear are good buys. In September look for hygiene items, such as washcloths, soaps, combs, hairbrushes, etc. During October search for toys, like small cars, balls, dolls, harmonicas, small Etch-A-Sketch pads, watches, flashlights, etc.

Look for the collection box in the church hallway. Be alert to good buys when you're out shopping. Pick out those special things you've always enjoyed putting in your box for a special child. If you have any empty shoeboxes around, I am collecting those too! Contact me if you have suggestions or questions.

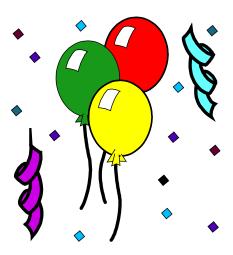
#### -Mary Medendorp



#### Thanks to WRPC Cooks!

Those participating in the summer "Faith and Science" ecumenical discussion series on Wednesdays at the United Church are very grateful for two meals provided in June and July by members and friends of WRPC. The first meal featured a variety of salads, while the second featured tacos with all the fixin's. Both of them, including dessert, were greatly enjoyed by those participating in the summer series. Thank you to all those who helped provide these meals!

#### August Birthdays



Kathrina Clark 4
Jeremy Goettee 9
Jeanette Meadows 9
Joan Barr 12
Bettie Kerr 18

Go Paperless! Save a stamp! If you would like to receive your copy of the *Overlook* electronically rather than through the mail, let the 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!.



# Treasury Notes

What Your Donations Accomplish

What has been accomplished with your donations to the WRPC Budget for the first six months of 2014? Expenditures can be divided into three broad categories: (1) Providing meaningful worship; (2) Nurturing our family in its faith journey; and (3) Witnessing our faith in service.

(1) **PROVIDING MEANINGFUL WORSHIP.** We have offered 26 worship services on Sundays (including during Lent) to praise God, hear God's Word, to lift our voices in song, and to install new elders and deacons. The Session and the Worship Ministry Team have met at least monthly to facilitate worship planning.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL WORSHIP WE HAVE SPENT \$28,672.16 or 44% OF OUR BUDGET ACTUAL EXPENSES. These expenditures cover: approximately 25% of Pastor Guthrie's time/salary, pension dues for six months, professional and continuing education opportunities and books; our part-time Music Director and Accompanist Sheila Schiferl; Worship Accompanist Frances Naffziger; sheet music for our Choir; 90% of wages and employer taxes for our part-time Office Administrator Gillian Erickson and for Custodians Joyce Haven and Jeremy Goettee; Guest Pastor Mary Jo Lundy for one Sunday; Worship Service supplies; piano tuning; facility overhead; and office expenses.

(2) NURTURING OUR FAMILY IN ITS FAITH JOURNEY. To grow in our relationship with the Lord, we invest significant prayer, energy, and the majority of our operating Budget to provide: weekly Sunday Adult Classes and Children/Youth Sunday Classes on a less frequent schedule (with a summer break); a weekly Monday evening Prayer Group in member's homes; several weekly small group study meetings; dinners, lunches, and receptions to promote fellowship; monthly publications of our WRPC newsletter, the *Overlook*; monthly Presbyterian

Women meetings; **Café Justo** coffee beans available from the *Frontera de Cristo* PC(USA) ministry; pension dues paid for three months for our previous part-time Temporary Supply Pastor **Elizabeth Graham**; and, *last*, *but not least of all*, **Pastoral Care** by **John Guthrie** and **Deacons** for our WRPC family.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THIS NURTURE WE HAVE SPENT \$22,009.53 or 34% OF OUR BUDGET ACTUAL EXPENSES. These expenditures cover approximately 60% of Pastor Guthrie's time/salary, pension dues for six months, professional and continuing education opportunities and books; 5% of other employee staff salary, wages, and taxes; Sunday School curriculum; facility overhead expenses; and postage.

(3) WITNESSING OUR FAITH IN SERVICE. Through our **Unified Giving** we have: supported the work of The Presbyterian Church (USA) to provide mission co-workers and programs to those most in need in the world; provided support for mission coworkers Carol & Leith Fujii; supported John Heaton in his work with EFCA in Tajikistan; donated monthly to Young Life Christian ministry, which serves teens locally & nationally; donated to LAHS Senior Appreciation Night; hosted Rabbi Schwab to speak on the Torah Restoration Project at Temple Beth Shalom; donated monthly to the L.A. Cares food bank; donated to Camp Loma Verde for liability insurance and also to their camp scholarship fund; provided meeting space to internal ministry teams such as Session, Deacons, the Worship Ministry Team, the Pastor Nominating Committee, the Service (previously, Witness) Ministry Team, and the Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship Committee. These expenditures also support sharing our facilities weekly with the Santa Fe Korean Fellowship, with Bible and religious book studies by two outside groups, and with several secular groups.

TO ACCOMPLISH THE OBJECTIVE OF WITNESSING IN SERVICE WE HAVE SPENT \$14,163.39 or 22% OF OUR BUDGET ACTUAL EXPENSES for financial giving to the mission organizations mentioned above and have paid approximately 15% of Pastor Guthrie's time/salary, pension dues for six months, and professional and continuing education opportunities and books; facility overhead expenses; and 5% of staff salary, wages, taxes, and office expenses.

-Susan Buxton, Treasurer

### **Facilities News**

# **Church Facilities Some Thoughts from the Pastor - Part II**

In the July edition of the *Overlook* I shared with you some of my thoughts (and some thoughts from others) regarding church physical facilities. In that article I noted your own commitment to necessary change in order to produce vitality and growth in numbers, in resources, and in dedication to Christ, especially as expressed in the Extended Mission Statement adopted by the Session in 2013. I discussed the necessity for WRPC to make certain changes, including, in my perception, changes to our physical facilities.

I relayed to you the example of one of the most dynamic mainline congregations in the US today, which remains fully dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of its physical facilities while supporting an exceedingly ambitious mission ministry outside its walls. Finally, I noted that the appearance and condition of a church's physical facilities affect the impression of guests and visitors, and their understanding of how well they will be cared for should they become active in the life of the church.

I am fully convinced that guests and visitors will return, or not, after visiting worship based (in part) on their impression of our physical facilities. By and large, worship spaces built in the last twenty years or so are bright, well-lit, uncluttered, and attractive. Young people seem to be attracted by worship spaces that offer these kinds of features. Young parents will return if they sense their children are cared for in nurseries and classrooms that are clean, bright, and attractive. The cleanliness and appearance of restrooms matter. In fact, details in general matter. (Consider for a minute how our newly resurfaced and painted parking lot might affect the first impression of a visitor or guest.)

One church growth consultant whom I follow regularly (Tom Ehrich) has the following insights. "Growing a church, like growing a business or nurturing a family, comes down to action and details. Not wishful thinking, not magical thinking, not studies and data analysis, but action. Doing things, doing things better, often doing things differently. Action, of course, requires attention to details. And not just the easy details that you have turned into routines, but the hard

ones that require planning, practice and accountability. Every detail of your church's life matters. You can't just put on, say, a dynamite sermon. You need also to take care of people's needs and questions."

The photograph that accompanies this article shows the entryway of a church that Nancy and I visited last month in Albuquerque. That entryway is representative of what churches attentive to the needs of guests are doing these days. I encourage you to see the facilities of churches in our own community that are attracting and nurturing young families as they grow in discipleship.



Do physical facilities really matter? Do we really need to be spending time, money, and effort in the enterprise of improving and enhancing them? I believe these questions raise another series of questions. Do we want to continue in the future to minister in Christ's name here in White Rock/Los Alamos and in the world? Do we indeed want to grow and revitalize? Do we believe God has plans for our future that include a vibrant witness to the kingdom of heaven here and elsewhere? Do we see "making disciples" as one of our core commitments as a church?

An affirmative response to these larger questions requires being attentive to details, to a diligent appraisal of first impressions by our visitors, and a genuine concern for them and their growth in discipleship. We cannot help others grow as followers of Christ until they become a part of our community. Details matter. First impressions matter. Physical facilities matter.

With you on the way, Pastor John

# **Impending Facilities Improvement Projects**

At the July meeting of the Session, the board approved the following facilities improvement projects.

- A white panel (8x10 feet) will be installed behind the chancel (platform) at the front of the sanctuary. The panel will serve as a fitting backdrop for the wooden cross and as a surface for projection of images. A second stage for upgrading the chancel involves the installation of two additional white panels (4x10 feet) on each side of the central panel, angled slightly toward the center of the sanctuary. In addition, the chancel itself will be rebuilt to provide steps on both sides and to match the new sanctuary carpet. The stained glass cabinet will remain in its current position against the right hand wall.
- The hallway will be painted a light gray color, matching the new carpet.
- New carpet installation will begin after the hallway painting is done. The carpet pattern selected by the Facilities Planning Team (FPT) is now on display in the hallway.
- Both of the main building restrooms will be remodeled with new toilets, vanities, paint, and tile.

Funding for these projects has been and will be provided by the gifts of WRPC members and friends. Donations for facility improvements are most welcome! See Susan Buxton for more information. All of these projects will serve to update and enhance our physical facilities. Questions may be addressed to any member of the Facilities Planning Team: Susan Buxton, Joyce Haven, Nancy Guthrie, or Craig Kelley.



# Fourth Annual Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship Awards

The Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2014 scholarships, given to Navajo women who desire to serve their people and need help funding a challenging academic course of study.

The recipient of this year's \$2,500 Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship Markie Bee, a senior at New Mexico Tech, majoring in engineering. chemical Markie is single mom who hopes to serve the Navajo tribe by working with oil and gas industries to ensure more efficient processes and to minimize environmental damage to Native American land. Markie has a passion chemistry and for through volunteered the



Markie Bee

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) to encourage other Native American youth to pursue college degrees. She will be the first in her family to graduate from college.

The scholarship committee is also excited to announce a second award of \$1,000 to Tinisha Spencer. Tinisha just graduated with honors from Gallup High School will attend University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She plans to study athletic training and dance, with the career goal of becoming physical therapist. She would like to serve the Navajo Nation by promoting healthy lifestyles and activity among those of her people who suffer from a



Tinisha Spenser

high rate of diabetes on the reservation.

The Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship program recognizes one or two Navajo women each year who are seeking to further their college education and then serve the Navajo Nation in a professional capacity. Scholarships are based on academic merit, dedication to serving the Navajo people, and financial need. JHMS has supported seven young Navajo Women since 2011 when the fund was started to honor Julie Meadows, a caring member of the Los Alamos community who died of a brain tumor in 2009. Members of her family, her sorority (Alpha Zeta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi), and WRPC manage the

scholarship each year. Since 2011 the scholarship has funded Navajo women in the fields of education, nursing, nutrition, and engineering. Donations may be made to White Rock Presbyterian Church, designated to "Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship."

#### Thanks to Sheila Schiferl



Sheila Schiferl, our Music Director and service accompanist has resigned her position with WRPC for personal and health reasons. Sheila has taken a number of music roles at WRPC over the last two decades, including as a member of the choir, choir

accompanist, and Music Director on two separate occasions. Most recently Sheila has provided a wide range of service music and has planned and arranged a truly amazing array of music offerings by our small but talented and dedicated Chancel Choir. Sheila is also a music teacher, mentoring some in our own congregation. She is also a vibrant contributor to the music and cultural life of Los Alamos and the surrounding area. We give thanks for her many contributions to WRPC, her leadership, and enormous gifts. Please continue to pray for Sheila, for relief from her health concerns, and for all God's blessing for her in the future.

The Worship Ministry Team is arranging for interim service accompanists on a Sunday by Sunday basis. The team has begun a search for a permanent Music Director. Suggestions of candidates for both the interim and permanent positions are very welcome. Please contact Pastor John.

#### "Everfound" in Concert

On Saturday, September 6 at 7:00 PM the Christian pop/rock band Everfound will perform a concert for the community at White Rock Baptist Church. Everfound consists of four brothers, originally from Russia, with a passion for Christ. They are nationally acclaimed, with songs *Never Beyond Repair* and *God of the Impossible*. Everfound has been touring with such bands as Newsboys, Lecrae, Plumb, Toby Mac, Red, and others. More information on the band can be found at <a href="https://www.everfoundmusic.com">www.everfoundmusic.com</a>. Come hear Everfound on September 6!

# Immigration Forum Set for September 20

A forum on immigration issues is set for Saturday, September 20, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. The forum is sponsored by the New Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice and by the Presbytery of Santa Fe.

The forum will feature speakers and discussion on the history of immigration in the US, how Christian faith affects perceptions and responses to immigration issues, and immigration legislation and policy. The forum will include several speakers who will share their personal stories, and there will be time designated for group discussion and interaction. More information will be available in the September issue of the *Overlook*. Please mark your calendar!

## **Important Contacts**

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### Meet Mission Co-Worker Kristi Van Nostran

The Central American nations of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala are currently very much in the news as thousands of children cross the US Mexican border monthly to escape violence and terror at home and seek reunification with family in the US. Thee Presbyterian Church's mission in Central America is more important than ever.

As the Joining Hands Network facilitator in El Salvador, Kristi Van Nostran is helping to build

bridges of solidarity between churches in the United States and a network of churches, grassroots groups and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in El Salvador. Together they work to combat the root causes of poverty and suffering through community education, advocacy, alternative economic activities, lifestyle changes and spiritual grounding. The goal is to restore the wholeness of God's creation and the healing of the human family through prayer, mutual visits, accompaniment humble and mutual transformation.

El Salvador is the most densely populated country on the mainland of the Americas. An independent nation since 1839, El Salvador is known today for its volcanos, its world-class surf, and for something far less engaging - rampant violence. Its recent history has been plagued by civil war and natural disasters. The 12-year long civil war, which was rooted in vast inequality between a small elite class and the overwhelming majority of citizens, began in 1980 and ended with a United Nations-brokered peace agreement in 1992. While the peace agreement brought political reforms, El Salvador's efforts to recover from the civil war have been hampered by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and a series of earthquakes in 2001. Poverty, natural disasters, and civil war have contributed to a high rate of crime in El Salvador. While El Salvador is highly industrialized, its economy relies heavily on money sent to the nation by Salvadorans working in the United States.

A generation of young Salvadorans has tried to find its way in a context where corruption, drug trafficking, and gang-related violence are the new normal. The Reformed Calvinist Church of El Salvador (IRCES) is responding by reaching out to youth and young adults entangled in gang culture or at risk of becoming so. IRCES has partnered with other Salvadoran churches to support the Pastoral Initiative for Peace, an effort to unify support for a peace process. Since a negotiated truce between warring gangs in February of 2012, gang violence has decreased, and violence-free zones are being established across the country. Nonetheless, El Salvador is considered one of the most violent countries in the world.

Kristi's love Central for America began when she took her first Spanish classes and grew tremendously during two terms as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission volunteer in Guatemala. With support from her home church, she worked with denomination's the Reconciliation and Mission program from 2005 to 2006; her duties included women's health domestic violence education, advocacy, and empowerment training. She returned to Guatemala in 2008 for seven months to help facilitate mission partnerships

between Presbyterians in the United States and Guatemala. In El Salvador Kristi hopes that her faith will continue to grow and that she can encourage others to faithfully pursue God's mission.

A native of the Pacific Northwest, Kristi grew up in First Presbyterian Church in Vancouver, Washington. As a young adult she was actively involved in the Presbytery of the Cascades, serving several summers as staff at Camp Magruder on the Oregon Coast. Kristi is a 2003 graduate of Pacific Lutheran University, where she studied Spanish and religion. In addition to mission service in other countries, Kristi has directed an adult English-language program in Oregon and a youth outreach program in Texas for Latino middle and high school students.



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