



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

September 2014

From the Pastor's Desk



Speaking of Evangelism

For a number of years, perhaps decades, Presbyterians in general were reluctant to use the word “evangelism,” preferring the less loaded word “outreach” or perhaps one of several other euphemisms. It appears to me in recent years that the negative bias somehow attached to the word has largely evaporated, which I much appreciate. I have never fully understood the origin of the bias anyway.

Certainly there are some less respectful ways of practicing evangelism, but in my experience very few Presbyterians are likely to use them. We tend to be very tentative evangelists, believing strongly in respecting the opinions and sentiments of others. There is certainly nothing wrong with that form of respecting others. Often, however, I suspect that the underlying reason for our aversion to evangelism is a fear of being rejected.

However, our scriptures teach pretty clearly that a part of the work of Christ followers is to share the good news of Jesus. The New Beginnings literature has reminded me again of the Great Commission that appears at the end of Matthew's gospel. “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing

them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (*Matthew 28:18-20, New Revised Standard Version*)

Like the original disciples, we have been commissioned to make new disciples of Christ, to baptize them, and to teach them all the things that Jesus commanded us. Nothing has lifted that commission. We are commissioned to evangelize.

If this passage was the only one that provided a motivation for the evangelistic enterprise, we might be able to ignore it, but, of course, the New Testament is filled with narratives in which disciples of Jesus go out to make new disciples. Skim the “The Acts of the Apostles” to see how strongly the Holy Spirit drives Peter, Paul, and others to preach the good news.

What is our motivation for the same task? It is the same motivation as they experienced: the joy of belonging to Christ, and the intense yearning to share that joy with others. It's really all about joy. If we have the assurance of redemption and new life that is ours in Christ, what would prevent us from sharing the elation and sense of purpose that derive from that assurance?

Evangelism for most of us is one-to-one evangelism, and generally it requires developing a relationship of trust and caring first. We are not likely to be used by God to produce thousands of new Christians in the style of Billy Graham, but we can surely be used by the Spirit to draw a friend into the life we share with one another, and with Christ.

Jesus commissions us to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them what it means to be a disciple. We can do this! Why? Because he is with us always, even to the end of the age.

Pastor 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 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, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. You may email her anytime at officemanager@wrpchurch.com.

Session News

The FOCUS Topic for the August 17 Session meeting was “Budget Philosophy,” in preparation for our upcoming stewardship efforts and preparation of a 2015 budget, which will be approved by the Session and communicated to the Congregation at the annual meeting in January. Our attention was drawn to three issues: (1) keeping the proper balance in our stewardship discussions between stewardship of money and stewardship of time and talent, (2) balancing general fund giving and special purpose giving as we anticipate significant facility improvements in the coming years, and (3) use and communication of general fund surpluses. As we discussed these matters we also were reminded of two related questions: How much control are we (or should we be) willing to relinquish when we give and how should we reflect operating surpluses or deficits in the budgets communicated to the Congregation?

We're probably not far enough into planning for larger facility changes to address the balancing of general fund and special giving. We may not even be there in the 2014 stewardship effort but we need to have this in our thoughts as we proceed. Regarding use and communication of general fund budget surpluses or

deficits, there seems to be a Session preference for reflecting these clearly in our budget rather than showing budgets somewhat artificially balanced by using prior year surpluses. Certainly prior year surpluses will be used to cover deficits, provided we have them. However, we need to communicate clearly if planned income for the coming year is above or below planned spending.

Hold the more philosophical of these thoughts in your minds and prayers as we head into the stewardship campaign, which is being planned by Sumner Barr and Rev. Guthrie.

Regarding the continuing work of the Facility Planning Team, the Session approved the Team's proposal to remove the wall between the current elementary classroom and the storage room with the resulting space to be painted and furnished as a youth room.

George Callaghan

Stewardship Season

The 2014 stewardship season will begin in early October and finish in mid-November. This year WRPC will again be employing the New Consecration Sunday stewardship materials and approach, which was used with success in 2013. Sumner Barr is the moderator of the 2014 Stewardship Committee.

The New Consecration Sunday (NCS) approach to stewardship is based on the principle that pledging and giving to churches must be motivated by a sense of joy and thanksgiving for what God has done in the lives of individuals and in the life of the church. NCS emphatically does not begin with a budget that the congregation is asked to fund. Rather, NCS asks every individual or family to consider God's blessings, and pledge (and give) accordingly. NCS asks individuals or families to make a pledge, a promise, a covenant, with God (not the church), in response to God's grace.

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says to a crowd gathered on a mountain, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” The NCS program encourages all of us to examine ourselves and to determine where our treasure lies.

Pledging and giving to God through one's church is fundamentally different from all other kinds of

charitable giving. Our giving to God is motivated by the joy we have in being redeemed, made whole, and restored in the cross and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Nothing the world has to offer compares with that motivation!

As we prepare the time of self-examination and joyful response that is Stewardship Season, I encourage you to ponder and pray deeply over the question raised by the psalmist: "What can I give back to the Lord for the blessings he's poured out on me?" (*Psalms 116:12, The Message version*)

Pastor John

Save the Date!

Everfound Concert

The Christian rock band Everfound will be in concert on Saturday, September 6, at White Rock Baptist Church. Everfound consists of three Russian-born brothers whose parents became Christians by listening to banned Christian radio broadcasts while they were living in Russia. The family eventually immigrated to the US, and the three brothers were compelled by the Holy Spirit to begin a music ministry, primarily to teens and young adults. More information may be found on the band's website: <http://www.everfoundmusic.com>.

The doors will open at 6:00 PM on September 26, and the concert will begin at 7:00 PM. Be sure to let children and grandchildren know about the concert, and come join them to hear this respected Christian band with a unique testimony.

Hand in Hand Schools Presentation

Hand in Hand Schools is a system of private schools in Israel/Palestine that intentionally welcomes both Jewish and Muslim students in the effort to build understanding and tolerance. On Wednesday, September 17 at 7:00 PM, Lee Gordon, a staff member with Hand in Hand will speak in the WRPC Sanctuary. The community is invited. Bring a friend!

Immigration Forum

You are invited to a forum on immigration issues: "Your Story, My Story, Our Story," on Saturday, September 20, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, 1801 Montano Road in Albuquerque. This forum, sponsored by the Presbytery of Santa Fe Mission Network Committee, will include: (1) a sharing of personal stories, (2) a brief history of immigration by Norman Levine, former New Mexico Refugee Coordinator, (3) a panel discussing the influence of faith on immigration perspectives, (4) a presentation by Teresa Waggner of the PCUSA Office of Immigration Issues, and (5) an opportunity for dialogue. A \$10 donation will be welcomed. Lunch will be provided. To register, contact Gloria Mirabal: mirabalg@msn.com; 505-565-4765 (home); 505-920-3961 (cell).

Presbytery-Wide Pulpit Exchange

The Presbytery of Santa Fe has organized a pulpit exchange among some two-thirds of the pastors in the presbytery on Sunday, September 28. Pastor John will be traveling to Gallup to lead worship at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Carl Boaz, Parish Associate at Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian in Albuquerque, will fill the pulpit in White Rock.

These occasional exchanges are an excellent way to connect the churches of the presbytery more intimately as we serve Christ together as Presbyterian Christians. Please make Carl welcome on September 28!

All Church Picnic

The Fellowship Ministry Team has scheduled an all church picnic at Rover Park for Sunday, October 5, following worship. The team will provide hamburgers and drinks. Please plan to bring a salad, dessert, or other dish to share, and lawn chairs. Invite a friend, too!



House of Fellowship Mission Trip

A work/fellowship/worship mission trip to House of Fellowship Church, near Gallup, is set for the holiday weekend of October 11-13. Opportunities abound for service, fun, and witness for all ages and abilities. Please mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information.

New Beginnings Meetings

The series of six weekly New Beginnings small group meetings is now underway. By the time you receive this issue of the Overlook, we will be half way through the series. Thus far we have completed the first three sessions:

- Session 1. Vitality and Discipleship
- Session 2. Interpreting the Assessment Report
- Session 3. Examining Our Community

The last three sessions remain:

- Session 4. Our Church in God's Mission
- Session 5. Discovering Our Options
- Session 6: Navigating Change

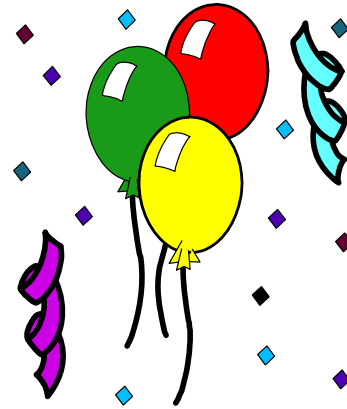
The New Beginnings Assessment Report for WRPC has been distributed. More copies are available, and a version in color is available by email. See, call, or email Pastor John to receive a paper or electronic copy.

The success of the group meetings is entirely contingent on strong attendance and participation from the White Rock Presbyterian congregation. The ideas and vision that arise from the group meetings will be employed by the WRPC New Beginnings Team (Bob Reinovsky, Christine Haven, Ken Holmes, Jennifer Holmes, Nancy Guthrie, and John Guthrie) to generate a set of recommendations to the Session. We trust the Holy Spirit's guidance throughout the process as we look for new ways to be faithful in our community and the world.

Please join us after worship for the next three weeks, as much as you are able. Please hold the New Beginnings process in prayer.

Pastor John

September Birthdays



Vickie Teel 10
Sheila Schiferl 11

Please accept my thanks and appreciation for all of the cards, flowers, calls, and prayers during my recent illness. I feel so very blessed.

I am also most grateful for all your prayers in support of my daughter, Julie, who is slowly but steadily improving. Thank you so much.

Irene Davis-Dellinger

PW News

PW PURPOSE: "Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace,
- and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom."

Welcome to September—already! We trust everyone has enjoyed pleasurable summer time with families and

interesting safe travels. PW is eager to serve our “purpose.” However, we are still in the thoughtful process of “reorganizing” and making decisions as to how best to pursue these goals as our numbers are small. We are looking for suggestions for speakers and programs for our Wednesday luncheons and our Bible study/circle, and also ideas for mission projects.

In view of September holidays, travels, and other commitments, the first Wednesday Luncheon will be October 1 unless announced otherwise. Watch for future announcements for Bible study/circle dates. For the weekly Bible study group schedule please contact Carol Honig.

Thank you for all your donations and for accessing the book cart this summer. We continue to collect Campbell’s product labels and Box Tops for Education for Menaul School (Presbyterian/Albuquerque) and also your surplus “travel-size” personal care items for the Northern N.M. Crisis Center Family Shelter in Espanola, which also serves Los Alamos County. Look for the donation basket in the side table in the hallway.

Joyce Berzins

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.

Treasury Notes

Special Facility Changes

In the last few weeks, I have been asked a number of times where the church got the money to pay for all of the changes we are seeing around our facility. The answer is simply that a number of our members and friends have given incredibly generously to pay for specific projects to enhance our facility. One cannot help but be inspired by the joy with which the funds

are given—much less by the fact that the gifts have been given before we have even asked for them!

Parking lot repair, resurfacing, and restriping: We received a \$7,000 gift from one member in January to help repair our cracked parking lot! Work began almost immediately to find a repair method that could be performed by our volunteers. 20 WRPC friends and members worked countless hours from April through June to fill cracks and seal the asphalt. Striping of the parking stalls was performed by AccuStriping, Inc. in early July. The \$3,770.01 balance of the total parking lot repair and restriping project cost will be paid by Session approval from the **Transition Reserve Fund** (received from a generous anonymous donor last fall).

Recarpeting the main building: In the two week period at the end of April and beginning of May we received gifts of \$20,000, \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$100 from four WRPC families toward the estimated cost of \$26,943.54 to have the main building carpet removed and replaced with commercial grade carpet tiles from Absolute Flooring in Los Alamos. As this Overlook goes to press, the carpeting is being installed. *We are hoping to receive about \$850 in additional gifts to cover the balance of the carpet cost.*

Painting the hallway and remodeling the bathrooms: In June we received a gift of \$500 from one of our member families for Building & Grounds projects, and in August we received \$5,000 from another family to pay for paint and labor to have our main building hallway and the trim of our main building doorways painted; to have two of our main building bathrooms remodeled; and to pay for the Rummage Sale postcards. The hallway painting and the bathroom remodel projects began immediately so they would be completed before the new carpet was installed. The bathroom remodel includes new chair-height toilets, grab rails, sinks and faucets in cabinets, toilet tissue and paper towel dispensers, lighting fixtures, mirrors, painted drywall, and porcelain flooring tiles. (The north bathroom in Memorial Hall will be remodeled in the near future so that it is wheelchair accessible and compliant with the ADA.) *The painting and bathroom remodel projects need some additional funding to fully cover costs.*

Susan Buxton

WRPC on the Radio

Starting in October WRPC will team with KRSN, the community radio station at 1490 AM, to bring an edited version of Sunday worship at WRPC to the communities of Los Alamos, White Rock, and Espanola.

Beginning Sunday October 5th, KRSN will broadcast a 30 minute segment at 11:00 am on Sunday morning for the purpose of bringing a regular, Sunday morning, worship opportunity for those who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend a church service in person. KRSN estimates their listenership on Sunday morning to be perhaps 400-600 people over their coverage area, and we can think of this effort as multiplying the impact of our Sunday morning message by a factor of 10-20 over our regular attendance in the sanctuary. That is substantial leverage.



While not the primary motivation, broadcasting also provides the opportunity to invite persons looking for a church home to consider visiting with us at WRPC.

The program will include scripture and sermon, plus additional material from Sunday worship, such as the Call to Worship, Confession, and thanksgiving prayers, as time permits. Some components of our worship in the sanctuary, like our Prayers of the People are probably less relevant to radio listeners, though John's pastoral prayer, including concerns beyond our walls might also be of value.

There is no expectation that the broadcast is from the current, or even immediately preceding, Sunday, allowing us the flexibility we need to edit and prepare the weekly broadcasts. We plan to conduct a few-month trial to gauge the value of broadcasting worship to the community. KRSN has been generous by asking us for no long-term contract or commitment. We thank Craig Kelley for all his work in recording Sunday worship and editing the recordings for broadcast use. Without Craig this effort would not be possible. We are also indebted to David and Gillian Sutton for working with us to bring this service to the community.

Bob Reinovsky

This is what the LORD says:

*“Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
or the strong man boast of his strength
or the rich man boast of his riches,
but let him who boasts boast about this:
that he understands and knows me,
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth,
for in these I delight,”*

declares the LORD.

Jeremiah (9:23-24)

Important Contacts

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*Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages
around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them,
“Who do people say I am?”*

*They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others
say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”*

*“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you
say I am?”*

Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

Mark (8:27-29)

Meet Mission Co-Worker Kate Taber

Kate is a Presbyterian Mission Co-Worker in Israel-Palestine starting this year. She is serving at the invitation of Palestinian Churches in Bethlehem and elsewhere in the Holy Land.



Kate is currently serving on the ministry team of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. She assists U.S. Presbyterians visiting the Holy Land and facilitates Presbyterian involvement in volunteer opportunities. In her ministry, Kate helps build relationships between U.S. Presbyterians and church partners in both Israel and Palestine.

“I want to help U.S. Presbyterians know and engage with Palestinian Christians: their lives, their ministries, their joys, and their struggles. I hope our denomination might be a faithful Christian witness in and about the Holy Land.”

Kate is working amid a longstanding political conflict that frequently takes center stage on the world scene. She has come to Israel-Palestine with the benefit of having lived there previously. She spent several months in the region on a Parish Pulpit Fellowship, an award given by Princeton Theological Seminary.

Kate knows that maintaining hope “and a vision of God’s kingdom” will not be without challenges. Yet she feels “it’s a joy to partner with the people of Christmas Lutheran Church and all our ecumenical partners there who steadfastly labor in hope for justice and peace.”

As Kate approaches her task of connecting U.S. Presbyterians and Palestinian Christians, she is convinced of the interconnectedness of the Church of Jesus Christ and the universality of God’s love.

“When we open ourselves to other cultures, languages, and worship traditions, we see aspects of God that we would never have known otherwise,” she says. “We are invited into God’s work, to partner with and be in communion with children of God everywhere.”

Building relationships with other Christians, she emphasizes, is a heartfelt need of Christians living in the Holy Land. “The Christians of Palestine and Israel especially need and ask for this communion and partnership as they struggle with daily life in a conflict zone, and I feel called to connect U.S. Presbyterians with them and their stories.”

Despite the trauma caused by the longstanding conflict and military occupation, Kate sees much splendor in Israel-Palestine. “The land is beautiful, the food is delicious, the culture is rich, and the people are the most welcoming I have ever met,” she explains. She also is moved by the deep love the region’s people have for their land and culture. “I am eager to continue to watch and learn from this love.”

Kate finds hope in the promise of Isaiah 65:19: “I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.” This scripture, she says, reminds her of God’s care for the land where she is serving and that the current situation is not what God desires. “God intends there to be—as God does for all places—peace, joy, hope, and love. The work to recreate it in this way is ultimately God’s work.”

Prior to entering mission service Kate was a resident pastor at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, serving in a Lilly Foundation-funded residency program for new ministers. She holds a B.A. degree from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and an M.Div. degree from Princeton Seminary. She is a member of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery.

Kate is accompanied in Israel-Palestine by her husband, Nathan Stock.

September 2014

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