



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

October 2014

From the Pastor's Desk

Making Visitors Welcome



A couple of years ago Nancy and I attended a conference by evangelism consultant Chris Walker, who also maintains a website called evangelismcoach.org. One of the pages on his site is titled "20 Blunders in Welcoming Church Visitors." The whole list is a bit too long, but here are some of the highlights from the list:

- No one said, "Hello."
- 20 question doctrinal exam to make sure you are acceptable
- Survey of family history and marital status and background check
- No follow-up contact
- Stale snacks / donuts / cookies
- Bad coffee
- Too friendly—smothering and not respecting boundaries
- Apathy in making a greeting
- Too much enthusiasm
- "Is this your first time here?"
- Swarming on visitors all at once, like flies on fresh meat
- Unclean bathrooms
- Unsafe nursery

One interesting point about Walker's list is that the extremes are to be avoided: being unwelcoming, and being overbearing. When welcoming visitors we have to avoid both extremes.

One other comment I would make along these lines, and confirmed by Walker and many others, is that we must

express interest in visiting families (while avoiding "smothering" them), but not try to convince them that our church is just right for them. Instead we have to give them the respect and freedom to make that decision themselves. We are obviously not able to determine whether WRPC is a good match for a visitor or visiting family; only they can make that decision. All that we can do is make sure they are warmly welcomed, but not overwhelmed. The rest is up to the Holy Spirit.

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.

New Beginnings

The six New Beginnings small group meetings were completed on Sunday, September 21. The New Beginnings leadership team (Jennifer Holmes, Ken Holmes, Bob Reinovsky, Christine Haven, Nancy Guthrie, and John Guthrie) greatly appreciate the dedicated participation of so many WRPC members and friends over those six weeks. Now the New Beginnings team will work to distill the many ideas that have come from the small group meetings.

What can we say at this point? At least the following:

- Our congregation recognizes that some form of sweeping change is necessary to ensure the viability of our church beyond the next few years. We cannot continue doing the same things and expect different results.
- Our church is committed to that sweeping change, recognizing the resource limitations of the congregation.
- Our church is generally agreed that “Mission Redefinition” in the parlance of the New Beginnings program is the best option going forward for WRPC. (Compare this to some of the other possible options: Relocation, Restarting, Parallel Starting, Adoption, and Closure.)
- The small group process revealed a desire among participants to continue some facets of the “attractational model” for church growth, focusing on church visibility in the community.
- Participants recognize that WRPC will need to identify a very small number of local ministries to strengthen or start, perhaps only one. (The New Beginnings paradigm strongly recommends a focus on local mission.)

Several new local ministry candidates surfaced out of the small group meetings. The New Beginnings leadership team will work with the Session, and in concert with WRPC members and friends, to identify the best candidate(s) for local mission, either to strengthen existing ones or to start new ones.

Please keep the remainder of the New Beginnings discernment process in prayer. See any member of the New Beginnings team for more information.

Pastor John

Session News

At the September meeting the Session began considering how to lay out a road map for the remaining 27 months of our mutual commitment with Rev. Guthrie for his designated pastorate. Some time before December 2016 (the end of the designated pastorate) Rev. Guthrie, the Congregation, and the Session will need to make decisions about the future of White Rock Presbyterian Church going forward from January 2017. That date may sound remote but it will be here QUICKLY.

The New Beginnings process will provide important input for decisions needed to ensure that what begins in January 2017 will be prepared prayerfully and thoughtfully. We have completed (on September 21) the six “house meetings” of the New Beginnings process. The Session will soon hear from our New Beginnings team their observations and perhaps some conclusions and recommendations from those meetings.

Then the serious work of decision making will come. The Session will be in communication with the congregation about a road map for those decisions and we will constantly be open to input. Don't be silent during the coming months, since decisions will be made that will determine the future of White Rock Presbyterian Church.

George Callaghan

Bible Study

Study of Luke's Gospel, led by Pastor John, will resume on October 12. (The study was suspended in order to facilitate the six New Beginnings meetings which were held after worship.)

On October 12 Pastor John will provide a review of the gospel through chapter 16. A new reading schedule will be provided to all participants on that date as well. About five meetings remain in order to finish Luke. Come join us! Learn, grow in Christ, continue your sanctification, and become a more fully committed disciple of Jesus.

Stewardship Season

The 2014 stewardship season will begin October 19 and finish on November 16, which is Consecration Sunday. As noted in the September Overlook, 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, with George Callaghan and Susan Buxton completing the membership. Pastor John serves as a consulting member.

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 2 Corinthians, chapter 8, Paul writes to the saints in Corinth, “We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing

in this ministry to the saints.” The Macedonian faithful gave even beyond their means to alleviate the distress of believers in Palestine. The NCS program encourages all of us to examine ourselves and our use of God’s gift of financial blessing.

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.

As we prepare for the time of self-examination and joyful response that is Stewardship Season, I encourage you to ponder and pray over the same question I offered last month: “What can I give back to the Lord for the blessings he’s poured out on me?” (*Psalm 116:12, The Message version*)

Pastor John

House of Fellowship Mission Trip: October 11 and 12, 2014

Our partnership continues. House of Fellowship sent a delegation up here last month to help out with the yard sale. Now it’s our turn. Our next trip is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 11th and 12th.

Those of you who have been down to the House of Fellowship area of Bread Springs, Two Wells, Vander Wagen, know that the harvest is great and the workers are few. Yet each time we go, we are encouraged by God’s grace in these particular Navajo communities.

Lorraine and Fred are working on plans to have us help them on a construction project for a community family that also is very active at the House of Fellowship (HOF). Many of you already know Curtis and Victoria Long, who participate in many evangelism and outreach activities with HOF. They have started a house in the Red Rock area, a few miles north of HOF, but work has been at a standstill for many reasons recently. Their family is growing with adult children and grandchildren now living with them. Their current house is very small and has many structural problems. Our lead construction engineer, Lorraine, envisions that with the help of WRPC and some other community members, that we could put floor joists down, apply construction adhesive, put down plywood, and perhaps even start on the walls.

In addition, HOF has been ministering to a very needy family living about 40 miles away in Pinedale, NM, northwest of Gallup. There are 16 family members, including children on oxygen, living under one roof, and that roof is partially made up of a plastic tarp. House of Fellowship members, with financial support from WRPC, have already started building a foundation for a small house

for this family. Lorraine suggests that a few of us could bring a care box with blankets, non-perishable foods, Bibles, personal care items, etc., as a friendship gesture to them. We might also bring a load of firewood. This could be the beginning of more substantial help later on. Establishing a relationship is the first step.

As always, there is the big job of feeding the groups gathered to work. We envision that WRPC would be responsible for Saturday lunch, the Saturday evening meal, and a simple breakfast Sunday morning.

We have discerned from past trips that if our WRPC members provide for their own lodging on Friday and Saturday nights, we are able to use more time for the physical work that needs to be done and less time on logistics, like sharing the outhouse or finding warm places for all to sleep.

For those of us who cannot make the trip, there will be ample sign-up sheets for needed donations of food, ice chests, tools, care-box items, and, of course, PRAYER! Also, if you would like to make a monetary donation to help buy a load of wood or otherwise support the trip, just memo a check for the Navajo project, or see me personally.

Please let Jennifer or Ken Holmes know if you are interested and could make the commitment of two nights. (It’s best to go down on Friday night to be there early on Sat. morning. Otherwise it’s an early 4 hour drive on Saturday morning.) Depending on the way the construction work goes, there may be work left on Monday, but we are not scheduling that. Folks may decide to stay and help, depending on need and schedule. It’s also possible to come for a Saturday only day of work, although that is a very long day.

This trip is open to all ages and abilities. There will be jobs for all and of course a chance to worship with our friends on Sunday morning. House of Fellowship will feed their congregation and ours on Sunday after the worship service. Their worship style is different than ours, but centered on the same message: being servants of our Lord Jesus Christ in this broken world.

Jennifer Holmes

“I loved autumn, the one season of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it.”

Lee Maynard

“Don’t you love New York in the fall? It makes me want to buy school supplies. I would send you a bouquet of newly sharpened pencils if I knew your name and address.”

Nora Ephron

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 to bring a regular, Sunday morning worship opportunity to 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 outreach effort as multiplying the impact of our Sunday morning message by 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.

Thanks go to Craig Kelley for editing the recordings of our regular Sunday worship for broadcast. Thanks Craig! We are also indebted to David and Gillian Sutton for working with us to bring this service to the community.

Bob Reinovsky

PW News

Our Presbyterian Women First Wednesday Luncheon will be at 11:30 on October 1 at Little Saigon Restaurant in the White Rock Village (formerly Lee's Chinese Restaurant). All are welcome.

The Bible Study/Circle will meet Thursday, October 16, at 10:00 AM, in the church parlors. We will continue with the book "*The Woman Who Named God, Abraham's Dilemma and the Birth of Three Faiths*," which will be our book for study again this year. Discussions will be led by our knowledgeable study leader, Selma Reinovsky. Come join us!

For the weekly Bible study schedule, contact Mary Medendorp or Joan Barr.

We continue to collect "Box Tops for Education," Campbell's products labels (bar code portion). Look for the donation basket on the table in the hallway. These are sent to Menaul School (Presbyterian) in Albuquerque to be redeemed for educational items, not funded in their budget.

There is also a box for donations of your "hotel-size extras" of shampoos, lotions, and similar items that are shared with the Family Shelter of the N.N.M. Crisis Center in Espanola, which also serves Los Alamos County. Thanks for all!

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.

October Birthdays



Kirsten McCabe	7
Cameron Meadows	7
Nancy Guthrie	9
Leith Fujii	18
Linda Burns	22
Dave Clark	23
Christine Haven	30

Grace Notes

The Worship Ministry Team continues its search for a new Director of Music. Advertisements in the local media will appear soon, and the team is pursuing other means of finding candidates, as well. Please pray for the Music Director search process.

Treasury Notes

Please note that the deadline for LANL employees to set up donations to our church through the United Way matching program is October 10. Thanks most sincerely for your generous giving to God through our church.

Here is some information drawn from the LANL website:

2015 Employee Giving Campaign

Each year, employees make monetary donations through the Employee Giving Campaign to support the United Way of Northern New Mexico, United Way of Santa Fe County, and other nonprofit organizations. Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS), the Lab's manager, invests through the Giving Campaign by matching \$1 million to the contributions of LANL employees. LANS also delivers in-kind services and other community investments to provide additional support for our neighbors. Our employees' generosity and the LANS financial match resulted in a \$3.1 million campaign in 2013.

This year's Employee Giving Campaign runs September 15–October 10. The monies collected will be allocated to 2015 nonprofit programs.

Susan Buxton

Facilities News

Max Goettee has joined the Church staff as a part-time custodian, replacing his brother Jeremy, who is off to college. Max will be responsible for vacuuming the carpet and blowing leaves. He also will be acting as a spotter and replacer for burned out light bulbs and will check the sanctuary for misplaced chairs and any overlooked papers. He will also be emptying the trash and relining the trash cans.

Max will spend most of his time working on Saturdays in order to have the main building ready for Sunday Services.

Terry Buxton



Facilities Renovation Report

Here is a list of just-finished or in-progress facilities update projects:

- All three white panels have been installed in the Sanctuary.
- A digital projector has been installed in the Sanctuary.
- Both main building hallway restrooms have been remodeled.
- The wall between rooms 4 and 5 has been removed. The new larger room has been painted and equipped to serve as the Youth Room for both middle and high school students.
- The main building hallway has been painted.
- New tile carpet has been installed throughout the main building.
- Interior door frames throughout the main building have been painted.
- The inside of the main building exterior doors have been painted.
- Pastor Ro's office has been painted.
- Pastor John's office has been painted.
- The children's restroom between the Elementary Room and Nursery is currently undergoing renovation. It will have new ceramic tile, paint, vanity, and toilet when it is done.
- New white rock is being installed between the front sidewalk and street.
- Work is ongoing to improve the appearance of the church grounds.

Near-future projects include these:

- New carpet for the chancel (raised platform) in the Sanctuary.
- Furniture purchases for the hallway.
- Decorations for the hallway.

No other major updates are planned for 2014. The coming year will bring some new projects, particularly in Memorial Hall (including restrooms).

All updates and renovations are intended to make our physical facilities more inviting, welcoming, and warm for visitors and guests. Thank you for your support of our ongoing efforts to improve the appearance and functionality of our facilities!

Pastor John

The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:5-6

Bits and Pieces

All Church Picnic

An All Church Picnic is set for Sunday, October 5, at 12:30 PM at Rover Park. Please bring a dish to share with others, chairs for seating, and sun protection. The Fellowship Ministry Team will provide burgers and dogs, utensils, and drinks. Come join us for a great time of food and fellowship!

Journeys in Faith Dialogue

The "Journeys in Faith" group is reading a book by Brian McClaren, *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?* McClaren explores ways in which faithful Christians can be in dialogue with people of other religious traditions. Join us at the Reinovskys', Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Call Bob or Selma Reinovsky for more information.

Jemez House Thrift Shop

Jemez House needs volunteers who can help one day per week. Please see Selma Reinovsky or Joyce Haven.

Ruling Elder and Deacon Nominations

The 2014 Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to serve as deacons and ruling elders. Is God calling you? Please see a Nominating Committee member: Terry Buxton, Jennifer Holmes, Lori Kelley, Joan Barr, or Dick Heaton.

Jazzercise

A community Jazzercise class meets in Memorial Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 4:10 p.m. For more information, please call the church office.

Free Subscription to "Presbyterians Today"

"Presbyterians Today," the official monthly publication of the PCUSA, is offering free one-year subscriptions for new subscribers, including full access to the website. If you would like to participate, please call or email the church office no later than October 19.

Moms in Prayer International

Moms in Prayer International meets weekly throughout the school year to pray for our schools and our children. Find out more at www.MomsInPrayer.org. The Los Alamos group meets Wednesday mornings from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. at

the Church of Christ, 2323 Diamond Drive. For more information, call Pam at 661-6133.

Important Contacts

Pastor/Session Moderator:

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GATHERING LEAVES

Spades take up leaves
No better than spoons,
And bags full of leaves
Are light as balloons.
I make a great noise
Of rustling all day
Like rabbit and deer
Running away.
But the mountains I raise
Elude my embrace,
Flowing over my arms
And into my face.
I may load and unload
Again and again
Till I fill the whole shed,
And what have I then?
Next to nothing for weight,
And since they grew duller
From contact with earth,
Next to nothing for color.
Next to nothing for use.
But a crop is a crop,
And who's to say where
The harvest shall stop?

Robert Frost

Meet Mission Co-Workers Rev. Doug and Elaine Baker

Rev Doug and Elaine Baker have been Presbyterian Mission co-workers in Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom since 1979.



Doug is the PC(USA)'s regional liaison for Ireland and the United Kingdom. In this role he helps grassroots Presbyterians from the United States become involved with, and learn from, ministry in Ireland and the UK, maintaining relationships with partner churches. Doug coordinates the Northern Ireland site for the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program for people between the ages of 19 and 30 who serve in communities of need for one year.

YAV volunteers support work with youth and children and perform other ministries in congregations. They also spend part of each week in community projects addressing the legacy of decades of civil conflict. Doug mentors YAVs as they learn to live in an intentional Christian community, serve the church's mission, and engage in vocational discernment. About one-third of YAVs go to seminary after they complete their year of service.

Northern Ireland is perhaps best known for its tragic history of violence and inter-community conflict. These "Troubles," have left behind serious economic, emotional and spiritual needs. Violence has been reduced significantly in recent years, but deep sectarian division remains a feature of Northern Irish society. In spite of a peace agreement and new power-sharing arrangements, mistrust remains between unionists who favor Northern Ireland remaining part of the United Kingdom and nationalists who want it linked to the Republic of Ireland. The legacy of hurt from decades of fighting and deep-seated polarization along religious, political and cultural lines means that achieving full reconciliation will take generations, and will need the churches, voluntary bodies, and community groups to work alongside politicians.

After more than 30 years of working for reconciliation in Northern Ireland, Doug Baker has seen tensions lessen and violence abate. However, the tall, graffiti-covered metal walls that separate some unionist and nationalist

neighborhoods remind him that much work is still to be done.

Doug serves as a resource to the Irish churches as they develop their own understanding of, and capacity, for peace-building. This includes facilitating dialogue within particular churches about the place of reconciliation in Christian ministry and dialogues between those from differing religious, political, and cultural backgrounds. Such dialogues, Doug says, have helped build understanding and nurture relationships.

"In the first 15 years of my ministry in Northern Ireland, people spent a lot of time debating whether they could accept one another as Christians, and how the answer to that should determine how they treated each other." Now, the discussions have changed, he explains, because of a "rediscovery of what's at the heart of the gospel, the command to love God and to love our neighbor. The question now becomes not whether they are in Christ, but what difference our being in Christ makes in how we relate to our neighbors—whoever they are.

Doug invests much time preparing future church leaders. In addition to his role with YAVs, he teaches ministerial students, equipping them to be agents of reconciliation within the parishes they are to serve.

Like the YAVs he now mentors, Doug Baker experienced Northern Ireland in a formative stage of his life. He was a college student in the summer of 1970 when he was invited to work in Northern Ireland through a program sponsored by University Presbyterian Church in Seattle. "Being there for a summer stimulated an interest and gave me a deep concern for what the people there are going through."

Eventually Doug returned to Northern Ireland as a mission co-worker and has invested his life in the region. There he met and married Elaine, a former teacher in Belfast who had long been active in reconciliation efforts. Their work with the churches has made a lasting impact on society in Northern Ireland and their influence on YAVs promises to bear fruit for years to come in the PC(USA).

Doug graduated from the University of Washington and received his Master of Divinity degree in 1976 from Princeton Theological Seminary. He served Trinity Presbyterian Church in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, until his appointment to Ireland. He is a clergy member of the Presbytery of Donegal.

Elaine is a native of Belfast, a mid- and high school teacher, who first became involved in reconciliation efforts with the Corrymeela Community in the early 1970s. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and an active elder in their local congregation, Stormont.

Elaine and Doug are the parents of three grown children.

October 2014

Office hours: T, W, Th, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm +++ 672-3682, officemanager@wrpchurch.com

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<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">5</p> <p>9:15 AM Worship with the Lord's Supper 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>12:30 PM All-Church Picnic</p> </div>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">6</p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Group</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">7</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">8</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">9</p> <p>7:30 PM Journeys in Faith Dialogue</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">10</p> <p>6:30 AM PM in the AM</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">11</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p>Trip to House of Fellowship</p> </div>																																																																																												
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<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">19</p> <p>9:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Study 12:00 PM Session</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">20</p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Group</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">21</p> <p>7:00 PM Service Ministry</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">22</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">23</p> <p>7:30 PM Journeys in Faith Dialogue</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">24</p> <p>6:30 AM PM in the AM</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">25</p>																																																																																												
<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">26</p> <p>9:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">27</p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Group</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">29</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">30</p> <p>7:30 PM Journeys in Faith Dialogue</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">31</p> <p>6:30 AM PM in the AM</p>																																																																																													