



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

January 2015

From the Pastor's Desk



Grace and Gratitude

I receive a periodical publication from the national office of the Presbyterian Church (USA) which is dedicated to topics related to corporate worship: the theology and practice of what we do when we gather for worship on Sundays and other times. The most recent edition of this publication contains several articles on the topic of "Grace and Gratitude." In simplest terms, how do we respond (in worship and otherwise) to the grace (unmerited favor) of God, especially as expressed in the gift of his Son? These articles explore the gratitude that is the natural response to that grace.

One article is the work of the Rev. Cindy Cushman, who works on the national staff of the PCUSA, connecting new seminary graduates with small churches. That article discusses how grace and gratitude are related to the efforts by so many PCUSA churches to engage in revitalization and renewal. In particular, Rev. Cushman believes that growth and renewal are dependent on three critical hallmarks: spiritual energy, openness to change, and a sense of call.

Churches that have lost their spiritual energy have an extremely difficult time recovering and revitalizing. The article recognizes that in many small churches a handful of people commonly do the lion's share of the

necessary work and ministry of the church, and they can and do easily become worn down and discouraged. One remedy is for all church members to remember and celebrate all that God has done in the past for them individually and for the church they serve, rather than lamenting all that has been lost.

Rev. Cushman notes that the church, and every particular church, exists to promote change: change in the lives of those who devote themselves to following Christ. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" When we recognize the work that God is doing in us individually, through grace, we will be much more eager to transform our churches so that they may also be instruments of transformation.

Churches, like WRPC, are also able to sense and respond to God's call to them, to engagement in their communities and the world, when they acknowledge God's grace to them, and in particular the many gifts and assets they possess, even if they are not as vital as once they were. The question becomes, "How can we say 'thanks' to God by serving others in the name of the risen Christ?"

Spiritual energy, openness to change, and sense of call are all produced more easily, fully, and joyfully when we as individuals, and as White Rock Presbyterian Church, respond to the unmerited favor and gifts of God with gratitude. I intend to be working on it in 2015.

Joy in Christ,
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 New Beginnings Team (Jennifer and Ken Holmes, John and Nancy Guthrie, Christine Haven, and Bob Reinovsky) met numerous times over the fall months in the prayerful effort to discern what God might have in mind for the future of our church. As of this date that process is not quite done but is nearing completion. The team anticipates one or two more meetings in January and possibly February to complete its work. Recommendations from the team will then be relayed to the Session and to the congregation for comments and feedback.

The team does not anticipate proposing a new and radical design for mission. Rather, we have discerned that current mission initiatives, local, regional, and otherwise, are aligned with God's purpose for us at the present time. The team is seriously considering recommendations that would strengthen our mission and other collaborations with other local churches. Another likely set of recommendations will focus on effective means for WRPC to evangelize in the name of Christ, with compassion and empathy as the hallmark of those efforts. A third likely set of recommendations will center on ways for us as individuals and as a congregation to grow deeper in discipleship under Christ. What means are available to us to promote a vigorous and joyful continuing journey of spiritual growth in Christ Jesus?

God willing, these recommendations will take concrete form in the opening weeks of 2015, and will then be sent forward to the Session and to you. Your continuing prayers for our faithful discernment are most certainly sought and appreciated.

Pastor John

Session News

At the Session meeting in December Susan Buxton presented a preliminary 2015 budget for the Session review. The budget was reviewed, discussed, and minor changes suggested. It appears that the income will be less than the expenditures, and it was discussed that the short fall should be taken out of the Transition Reserve Fund. (Any additional income that comes in will reduce the amount that will need to be taken out of the Transition Reserve Fund.) The final budget could not be approved at the December meeting as there were too many unknowns, but will be approved by Session in January before the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Susan presented two fundraiser ideas that our church can take part in, which the Session approved. There will be fliers out soon to discuss them. Look for them!

Al Medendorp

Call for the Congregation and Corporation Meetings January 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of White Rock Presbyterian Church and the Annual Meeting of the Corporation of White Rock Presbyterian Church will be held at the church, in Memorial Hall, on Sunday, January 25, 2015, following morning worship.

All members of White Rock Presbyterian Church are asked to attend these meetings and vote on the matters brought before them.

Friends of White Rock Presbyterian Church are encouraged to attend these meetings (without voting privileges) to better understand topics of importance to the WRPC family.

Matters to be brought before these meetings include:

- approval of the minutes of congregational meeting of January 26, 2014, and of the corporation meeting held January 26, 2014
- reception of printed reports

- reception of the church nominating committee report and election of officers and at-large members of the church nominating committee
- review of the 2015 budget
- approval of the pastor's Terms of Call
- voting on proposed amendments to the WRPC bylaws (see below)
- action to enable the Session to name a new corporation board
- such other matters as may properly come before either meeting.

Allen Medendorp, Clerk Pro Tem

Proposed Changes to the WRPC Bylaws

The Session of WRPC is proposing a number of changes to the bylaws of the church. In summary, those changes are the following:

- A reduction in the minimum size of the Session from six (6) members to four (4) members, in response to the reduced size of the congregation over recent years and the difficulty (at times) that the Nominating Committee faces in finding individuals who feel called to service on the Session. The maximum size of the Session would remain nine (9) members.
- Elimination of references to an Associate Pastor. The current bylaws include responsibilities of an Associate Pastor, if one were to be called, but these references tend to produce confusion.
- Changing the language of the bylaws to state that the Deacons would meet as necessary rather than regularly, in agreement with their current practice.
- Changing bylaw language that states that qualified voters at congregational meetings are confirmed members "in good and regular standing." The term in quotations is unnecessary and potentially problematic. The proposal is to eliminate that term.

Redlined copies of the bylaws with proposed changes will be available for congregational scrutiny no later than Sunday, January 11. Consideration and voting on the proposed changes is slated for the congregational meeting set for Sunday, January 25.

Pastor John, for the Session

Sunday School A New Study for Adults

On Sunday, January 4, a new study of the Acts of the Apostles began with Pastor John leading. In general the study will cover two chapters of the book each week, with participants encouraged to read those chapters in advance and ponder questions, which will have been distributed the week before. Pastor John will give a succinct summary of each week's reading at the beginning of each meeting, and then participants will be invited to ask questions or describe insights from their own reading of the text.

Discipleship and spiritual growth are significantly strengthened by regular, committed study of scripture. Join us for this study of the birth and growth of the early church, as the Holy Spirit provides energy and direction to the fledgling movement of Christ's followers.

Pastor John

Worship Service Recordings Continue on KRSN

Thanks to the diligence and skill of Craig Kelley, weekly 30 minute recordings of WRPC worship services continue to air on local radio station KRSN, 1490 AM, on Sundays at 11:00 AM. The recordings include music, prayer, scripture readings, and a sermon. The weekly presentations serve those who are unable to get out for worship and also enhance the visibility of our church in the community.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

PW News

We wish for the joys and blessings of the Christmas season to be with us all throughout the coming year. PW looks forward to another year of study, Christian fellowship and serving others.

Please note that the Wednesday Monthly Luncheon will be January 7th, at the Little Saigon Restaurant in White Rock at 11:30. All women are warmly invited and encouraged to come and share in fellowship.

For information about the Thursday Bible study group, please contact Selma Reinovsky. For the weekly study group contact Mary Medendorp.

Please make suggestions for service projects or similar events this year. Do we want to do another Souper Supper?

Thank you for your donations of Campbell's products labels and Box Tops for Education. We also seek small health-care items that can be shared where needed. Donation baskets are located in the hallway.

Joyce Berzins

Winter-Time

*Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again.*

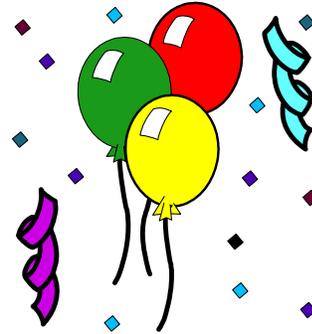
*Before the stars have left the skies,
At morning in the dark I rise;
And shivering in my nakedness,
By the cold candle, bathe and dress.*

*When to go out, my nurse doth wrap
Me in my comforter and cap;
The cold wind burns my face, and blows
Its frosty pepper up my nose.*

*Black are my steps on silver sod;
Thick blows my frosty breath abroad;
And tree and house, and hill and lake,
Are frosted like a wedding-cake.*

Robert Louis Stevenson

January Birthdays



Nathan McCabe	8
Rod McCabe	22
Irene Davis-Dellinger	28

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.

Music Director Search

The Worship Ministry Committee was authorized by the Session to conduct a search for a Director of Music and/or Worship Accompanist, depending on the gifts and interest of the candidates who respond to the opening. Advertisements have run recently in the Los Alamos Monitor and the Los Alamos Daily Post. Five individuals have responded to those advertisements or to knowledge about the opening as transmitted by word-of-mouth. Some of the candidates expressed more interest than others, but at this time the position remains open and the search continues. Your prayers for the search process, and for the engagement of the person God wants for us, are greatly appreciated.

Pastor John

Treasury Notes



What Your Donations Accomplish

What has been accomplished with your donations to the WRPC Budget for 2014?

While we expect several more bills in 2014, expenditures for the majority of the year 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 54 worship services on Sundays (including during Lent and on Christmas Eve) 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 \$57,396.83 or 44% of our budget actual expenses. These expenditures cover: approximately 25% of Pastor Guthrie's time/salary, pension dues, professional and continuing education opportunities and books; our part-time Music Director and Accompanist, Sheila Schiferl, for over half of the year; Worship Accompanist, Frances Naffziger, and numerous guest accompanists; sheet music for our choir; guest pastors; worship service supplies; piano tunings; and 90% of wages and employer taxes for our part-time Office Administrator, Gillian Erickson, for custodians Joyce Haven, Jeremy Goettee, and Max Goettee; 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 a third of our operating Budget to provide: weekly Sunday adult classes and children/youth Sunday classes on a less frequent schedule; 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 \$41,571.56 or 32% of our budget actual expenses. These expenditures cover approximately 60% of Pastor Guthrie's time/salary, pension dues, professional and continuing education opportunities and books; Sunday School curriculum; 5% of other employee staff salary, wages, and taxes, facility overhead expenses, and postage.

(3) WITNESSING OUR FAITH IN SERVICE. Through our Unified Giving and Per Capita Apportionment we have: supported the work of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to provide mission co-workers and programs to those most in need around the world; provided support for mission coworkers Carol and Leith Fujii; supported John Heaton in his work with EFCA in Tajikistan; donated monthly to YoungLife Christian ministry, which serves teens locally and nationally; donated to LA High School Senior Appreciation Night; hosted Rabbi Schwab to speak on the Torah Restoration Project at Temple Beth Shalom; donated regularly to the L.A. Cares food pantry; 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 \$31,777.54 or 24% 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, and professional and continuing education opportunities and books; facility overhead expenses; and 5% of staff salary, wages, taxes, and office expenses.

Susan Buxton, Treasurer

Important Contacts

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January

January is the first month of the year in both the Julian and Gregorian calendars. It is also one of seven months with the length of 31 days. It is typically the coldest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern hemisphere, January is the seasonal equivalent of July in the Northern hemisphere.

January is named after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and transitions. Janus is often represented by a head with two faces, one looking forward and the other back.

According to tradition, the original Roman calendar consisted of 10 months totaling 304 days. The months of January and February were added sometime around 700 BC, allowing the calendar to equal a standard lunar year with 354 days.

During the Middle Ages various feast dates were used for the New Year, including March 25 and December 25. It wasn't until the 16th century that European countries made January 1 the start of the New Year.

The zodiac signs for the month of January are Capricorn (until January 19) and Aquarius.

A Christmas Carol

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk,
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air,
But only His mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1872)

Meet Mission Co-Workers Rev. Sara Armstrong and Rusty Edmondson

Rev Sara Armstrong and Rusty Edmondson have been Presbyterian mission co-workers in Peru since 2009.



They were appointed in January 2009 to serve in Peru as delegations and partnership coordinators. They host PC(USA) delegations visiting Peru and work with partner churches. Rusty and Sara serve at the invitation of

the Evangelical Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Peru (IEPRP) and the Peruvian Evangelical Church. The IEPRP traces its beginnings to the arrival of John McKay from the Free Church of Scotland in 1916.

Rusty and Sara organize, coordinate, and translate for visiting delegations, helping to ensure that these visits reflect the mutual mission priorities of the partner churches. They set up in-country logistics, assist in planning the itinerary, and work with the trip leaders and the communities in which the delegations visit. They accompany and translate for the delegations.

Peru was home to several Andean civilizations, including the Inca Empire, which was conquered in 1533 by Spain. Due to the vast territory and gold and silver production, Peru was by far the most important colony held by Spain. Peru declared its independence in 1821 and, with the help of General San Martín of Argentina and Simón Bolívar of Venezuela, the Spanish were defeated in 1824. Most Peruvians have not benefited from the nation's abundant natural resources. The majority of the wealth is controlled by a small group of people of Spanish descent. Millions of people in the indigenous population live in poverty. Presbyterian missionaries from the United States and Scotland were first sent to Peru in the early 1900s. The PC(USA) works in partnership with the church that resulted from those early missionary efforts, the Evangelical Presbyterian and Reformed Church in Peru. The PC(USA)'s major involvement in Peru is through the Presbyterian Hunger Program's Joining Hands initiative.

Sara grew up in Ithaca, New York, where the Presbyterian youth group traveled on mission teams each summer. Rusty led his first mission team to Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Since then they have led numerous teams to Mexico and Central America. They enjoy building bridges between diverse people and cultures and witnessing the huge impact that cross-cultural trips make on people's faith and life. They serve on the board of a nonprofit organization in Mexico.

Sara is a minister member of the Presbytery of Santa Fe. The joys and struggles of intercultural work have led Sara and Rusty to a call to live and serve Christ in Peru. Prior to this assignment, Sara was the associate pastor for mission and pastoral care at Central United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has also served bilingual Presbyterian congregations in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Alamosa, Colorado, and also Pioneer United Church in Del Norte, Colorado. From 1989 to 1997 she worked outside the parish as chaplain at Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and then as executive director of The Storehouse, a faith-based charity that serves people in need in Albuquerque.

Sara was ordained in Scioto Valley Presbytery, where she served Covenant, Amanda, and Woodside Presbyterian churches. She holds a bachelor's degree in religion from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and a Master of Divinity from McCormick Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.

Rusty established Zapata Builders LLC, a commercial construction company, and SimpleVentures, a marketing/investment firm, in Colorado and New Mexico. Prior to that Rusty worked in the Maintenance and Interpretive Divisions of the National Park Service for 22 years. He enjoyed interpreting natural and cultural resources to park visitors, historical structure restoration, wild land fire fighting and the logistics of constructing and maintaining park infrastructure.

Rusty received an associate degree in agricultural engineering from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He grew up in Des Moines, New Mexico, served in the U.S. Navy from 1970 to 1974, and is currently a member of Alamosa Presbyterian Church in Colorado.

January 2015

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

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