



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

March 2015

From the Pastor's Desk



The Ministry of Members

The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA), a part of our constitution, has a section entitled, "The Ministry of Members," which reminds all of us of at least some of the components of faithful membership in our Presbyterian churches, but more importantly, as members of the one, holy, catholic (universal) church. Here is the content of that section:

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
- studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,

- demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and
- reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

I would be the first to confirm that this list is a bit daunting. How many of us can do all of these things faithfully and well?! The good news is, of course, that God's grace applies to us in our efforts to carry out the ministry of members, too. We are not expected to fully and perfectly perform all of these activities and functions, but they serve (much like the Ten Commandments) as a reminder of what faithful response to God's grace looks like.

God's blessings and peace to you during this Lenten season, as we all review and pray over our faithful response to the grace of God in Christ, the Anointed One, who suffered for each of us, and for all of us together.

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

At the January and February Session meetings our focus topics gave special attention to the ministries of Equipping, Service, and Support, affording an opportunity for the Session to review the current state and direction of each Ministry.

Elder Joyce Haven described the current Sunday morning program for our younger worshipers, which is a major part of the Equipping Ministry. The first Sunday includes an in-service message from Joyce, the second and fourth Sundays a lesson outside the service, and the third Sunday an in-service message from Pastor Guthrie. This seems to be working well, although the highly variable number and ages of young folks attending presents some planning challenges. Joyce expressed a concern about having qualified adults available to staff the nursery. This need is unpredictable but it's important to meet the need, especially when we have visitors with very small children.

Elder Rod McCabe highlighted the long-range goal to have 10-15 percent of WRPC's annual budgeted income spent on Service Ministry efforts. Typically 40-50 percent of that spending has been unified giving through the PC(USA). This budgeted Service spending is supplemented by fund-raising efforts. Rummage sales have been a key part of this fund-raising and will likely be so in the future. We were again reminded that many of WRPC's most successful Service efforts have originated with an individual or two in the congregation who saw a possibility and championed it. ARTA, Love for Life, Operation Christmas Child, and House of Fellowship are good

examples. The New Beginnings process has led us to seek a local mission that will catalyze new WRPC growth through new service in the community. So far we haven't found that mission.

Elder Terry Buxton addressed the Support Ministry and noted that a long range plan for facilities and other support elements really requires a long range plan for increasing our numbers and participation—without more people the facility really becomes secondary. That said, we have implemented a number of facility improvements in the past year to enhance the first impression that visitors receive. In addition the Session has identified numerous options for further facility improvement and is working to develop a rational plan for making those changes at the right times.

George Callaghan

New Beginnings Update

The New Beginnings Discernment Team (Christine Haven, Bob Reinovsky, Jennifer Holmes, Ken Holmes, Nancy Guthrie, and John Guthrie) has nearly completed its work. The team's report to the Session is in preparation, and will be in the hands of the Session ruling elders very soon. As reported earlier, the broad recommendations of the discernment team are these:

- The initiation of ministry and programs to promote the continuing spiritual development of ruling elders and the membership at large;
- Continuing efforts to raise the visibility of WRPC in our community and new efforts at evangelism in the community;
- The initiation of conversations with other churches in our community in order to develop ecumenical mission projects for the future.

Please pray for the Session as it considers these recommendations. More information will be forthcoming soon.

Pastor John

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right."

Acts 10:34-35

Lenten Visual Meditations

During this season of Lent, we will offer a series of silent, pre-service visual meditations to provide a time for prayer and meditation prior to Sunday Worship. The Gospel lessons from the Common Lectionary for this year are drawn primarily from the Gospel According to Mark, supplemented by readings from the Gospel According to John. The image of the “Son of Man” features prominently in the Lenten readings from both gospels—and is the theme for our visual meditations.

Jesus refers to himself much more frequently as the Son of Man than he does as the Son of God, and this is especially true in these Lenten readings. At one level the two terms, taken together, highlight the (sometimes puzzling) doctrine of Jesus as wholly and completely divine, and simultaneously wholly and completely human. Another usage of Son of Man is an eschatological one referring to one who comes in end-times to rule and/or judge the world and all the world’s people.

We opened the Lenten visual meditations with a painting by Botticelli, from the Sistine Chapel, depicting (in the background) the three temptations of a very human Christ, in the desert, who responds with super-human clarity and certainty to Satan’s offers and promises. For the second Sunday of Lent we will return to Michelangelo’s “Last Judgment,” which we also encountered on the first Sunday of Advent, exploring the eschatological meaning of the term. In subsequent Sundays we will explore the Son of Man as seen through the eyes of yet other classic artists.

Please share your thoughts and reactions to the art.

Bob Reinovsky

Holy Week Worship

Holy Week at White Rock Presbyterian will include a Maundy Thursday service of worship at 7:30 pm on April 2. Please plan to come as we together recall the sacrifice of Christ for us, each one, and all together. Other worship opportunities may be available on Good Friday and/or Holy Saturday. More information will be available soon.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is April 5. Be sure to come for this most joyous day of the year, as we together celebrate Christ’s victory over sin and death. Consider inviting a friend!

Ecumenical Lenten Series

For a number of years several Los Alamos churches have joined together during the season of Lent to offer weekly gatherings for food, spiritual growth, and worship. The tradition continues in 2015, and the sponsoring churches are eager to include White Rock Presbyterian Church. Other participating churches include Bethlehem Lutheran, First United Methodist, Trinity on the Hill Episcopal, and The United Church.

The Lenten gatherings are set for every Thursday evening through March 26, meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Each evening consists of a simple soup and bread supper, a number of classes offering growth in discipleship, and worship. Dinner begins at 6:00 PM and worship ends about 8:00 PM. You are welcome to come for any or all of the evening events. Each week is independent, so you may come for as many Thursday evenings as your schedule allows.

This year the theme of the Lenten series is “Building the Beloved Community,” focusing on God’s love for us in Christ, and our mutual love for each other in Christ. See Pastor John for more information. Come and observe Lent with saints from many Christian faith traditions.

Pastor John

Journeys in Faith

The Journeys in Faith (JIF) group, which meets regularly on Thursday nights, will suspend meetings until Thursday, April 9, so that WRPC members may attend the ecumenical Lenten gatherings at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Beginning April 9 the JIF group will begin discussion of a book by physicists Deborah and Loren Haarsma, *Origins: Christian Perspectives on Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design*. WRPC members, friends, and others are always very welcome.

Pastor John

Cultural Exchange to Cuba

John Guthrie, Nancy Guthrie, and Jennifer Holmes from White Rock Presbyterian Church will join nine others from the Presbytery of Santa Fe on a cultural-exchange trip to Cuba in April. We plan to take donations for the local people when we visit. We are looking for donations of:

- baseballs
- luggage (large enough to hold 40-45 pounds)
- Spanish language Bibles and children's books
- flash drives
- knitting needles and sewing notions (not fabric—it's too heavy)
- calendars
- stationary
- over the counter medications
- travel size toiletries

Contact one of us if you would like to donate anything for us to take to Cuba.

Thank you, and please remember our trip in your prayers.

Jennifer Holmes

PW News

We are planning an outing at a local eatery for the PW monthly First Wednesday Luncheon, March 4. The location will be announced. All women are warmly invited and encouraged to attend and share in Christian fellowship.

For the time and location of the weekly Bible study group, please contact Mary Medendorp. For information about the monthly Circle/Bible study (third Thursday), contact Selma Reinovsky or Joyce Berzins.

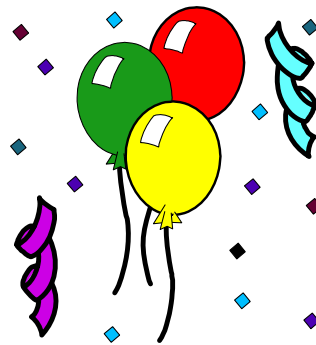
Our spring outreach mission is again to share fresh-baked cookies with the Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico (Española). We plan to make a visit sometime in April. The date will be announced later. If you would like to participate with a donation and the time is not convenient, your cookies can be received ahead of time and kept in the church freezer till then. Contact Linda Burns or Joyce Berzins. These cookies are always a big hit with the residents and those who attend the required counseling sessions.

We continue to collect Campbell's products labels (bar code portion only) and Box Tops for Education. You will find a basket in the hallway. We also accept donations of small health care items (hotel-size shampoos, lotions, soaps, etc.) Thank you for your contributions!

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.

March Birthdays



John Guthrie	7
Vernon Kerr	11
Jean Callaghan	23
Marge Wilson	23
Jennifer Holmes	26

CAESAR: The Ides of March are come.
Soothsayer: Ay, Caesar; but not gone.

William Shakespeare,
Julius Caesar, Act 3, Scene 1

Save the Date!

Coro de Cámara Concert

Coro de Cámara, the local instrumental and vocal ensemble directed by Nylea Butler-Moore, will present “*S Wonderful, ‘S Marvelous: An Evening of Gershwin Greats*” on Friday, March 6, at 7:00 pm at Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church.

Empty Bowls Project

Los Alamos Self Help, Inc. presents its annual Empty Bowls Project on Saturday, March 7, from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Betty Ehart Senior Center. Attendees may purchase hand-made ceramic bowls and enjoy a terrific soup luncheon. Proceeds go to the Emergency Fund of Self Help, Inc., which assists low-income families with basic needs throughout the year.

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8. Remember to set all clocks forward one hour!

2015 Women2Women Event

Women2Women is an ecumenical event featuring worship, prayer, testimonies, fellowship, and refreshments. This year’s theme is “Living in God’s Peace.” Women2Women is set for Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Los Alamos Church of Christ. For reservations and information call Tanya Stidham, 505-695-5890.

Music Director Update

The Worship Ministry Committee continues its search for a Music Director or permanent Worship Accompanist. For the time being WRPC will continue to employ guest accompanists on Sunday mornings. Your prayers for the search process are most surely appreciated.

2015 Rummage Sale?

We are looking for a lead coordinator for a rummage sale in 2015. The August 2014 Rummage Sale was, by all measures, a big success. The sale was hard work and took many hours of time. However, nearly

everyone in the church family contributed to this effort through prayer, sale item contributions, purchases, preparation and contributions. The rummage sale also involved participation from members of the House of Fellowship (HOF) and a White Rock Baptist Church youth group cleanup crew. In addition, we used the rummage sale as an opportunity to reach out to the community of White Rock through mailings to each WR residence advertising the sale and offering space to individuals for their own sales. As a result of the postcard advertisement, quite a few people from the community supported the sale by dropping off sale items, as well as by coming to the sale. Through this effort we were able to raise \$2700 that was split between LA Cares, the Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico, and the HOF firewood ministry. Please consider whether this is an effort you can help coordinate in 2015.

Rod McCabe.

Treasury Notes

Signup for Smith’s Community Rewards® for WRPC: #26299

Would you spend less than 10 minutes to sign up for a program that would earn up to \$60 in 2015 for our church, just for doing your regular shopping at Smith’s Food and Drug Stores? If the answer is, “Yes,” please consider signing up for the 2015 Smith’s Community Rewards® program.

You can help our church earn dollars simply by signing up for the program so that your card is linked to our organization, shop at Smith’s, and then swipe your rewards Card or enter your telephone number when checking out!

Register your Smith’s reward card number online at www.smithscommunityrewards.com. If you do not have a Smith’s reward card, you may secure one at the customer service desk at any Smith’s. If you do not have access to the online signup method, you may complete a form at the Smith’s Money Services Booth.

There is no cost to enroll and enrollment will not affect your fuel points or coupon discounts.

If you are a new online customer, click on ‘Create an Account’ box. Sign up for a Smith’s Rewards Account—entering your email address and creating a

password, by entering zip code, clicking on your favorite store, and then agreeing to the terms and conditions. *Please note that Smith's does not sell, trade, or rent their customers' personal information to outside companies or marketing firms.*

You will receive a message to check your email inbox; then click on the link within the body of the email. Click on "My Account" and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step. Click on Edit Smith's Community Rewards information and input your Smith's rewards card number. Update or confirm your information. Enter the NPO 26299 for White Rock Presbyterian Church, select our organization from the list, and click on confirm. To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see our church's name on the right side of your information page.

If you normally use your telephone number at the register instead of swiping your reward's card, please call 1-800-576-4377, and select option 4 to get your Smith's rewards card number.

Smith's will be giving away up to \$2,500 quarterly to organizations participating in the program. Please sign up for this painless fundraiser for WRPC.

Susan Buxton

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Letter from Markie Bee

Julie's Helpers Memorial Scholarship Committee
White Rock Presbyterian Church
310 Rover Blvd.
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am a student that was awarded the Julie's Helper Memorial Scholarship, I am so grateful for your community's help, and receiving this scholarship has helped my son and me tremendously. I am going into my last semester for my chemical engineer bachelors. I have been able to focus on my education more and also give back to my community and fellow students. My son and I depend on scholarships to help pay for necessities such as utility, electric, and additional expenses. Being able to not worry about income has helped me spend more time with my son and also concentrate on my curriculum. I also spend free time tutoring for the chemical engineering department at New Mexico Tech. I was also a mentor of incoming freshmen enrolled in the chemical engineering program, and helped them with their chemical car project. I would meet with a group on a weekly basis and helped them with chemical reaction calculations, design, and whatever they needed help with. This was a great opportunity because I was able to give guidance to a group because doing the project myself it was hard having no mentor and finding resources on our own. I also went to Magdalena High School to talk to seniors about the option of going to college and answered questions they had about financial aid and registration. It was amazing to see how many students were ambitious to attend college to help their parents or to do something for their community. I am glad to be part of these students decision to attend a high education institution.

Once again I want to thank you for helping me get a step closer to obtaining my degree. Your scholarship has helped me and I know that it can help change someone else's life in a positive way. If you have any question please feel free to contact me at 505-258-0359 or at beemarkie@gmail.com. Attached is a copy of my resume.

Thank you,
Markie Bee

Meet Dennis and Maribel Smith



Dennis and Maribel began a new chapter of ministry in South America in January 2011. Dennis is the regional liaison for the Southern Cone and Brazil. (The Southern Cone of South America includes Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay.) They previously served in Guatemala. Maribel serves in ministry in the home and continues her volunteer work as part of a network that treats post-traumatic stress and seeks alternatives to violence.

From their home in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Dennis and Maribel continue to practice the gift of hospitality that so enriched their lives in Guatemala. “Our home is known as the Hotel Smith Pérez,” comments Maribel. “Over the decades we’ve had the privilege of welcoming hundreds of people into our home—especially young people. Helping guests discover how and where God is present in our homeland has been a special gift. Now, in Argentina, we hope to join our guests in discovering a new world.”

As regional liaison, Dennis has three main responsibilities: developing the PC(USA)’s relationship with its historic mission partners, accompanying (supervising) PC(USA) mission co-workers in the area, and providing resources and advice to presbyteries and congregations that have mission partnerships in Brazil and the Southern Cone. “The PC(USA) has been engaged in mission in this region for over 150 years,” Dennis says. “We have more than a dozen mission partners who have strong and vibrant ministries. Their priorities include evangelism, promoting social justice—especially for the impoverished and the sinned against—and excellence in graduate-level theological education. I am grateful that through my work in the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) I already know many women and men now in positions of leadership with our partner churches and ecumenical institutions. They are valued friends and respected colleagues.”

Dennis and Maribel have 33 years of mission service in Central America, and so many stories to share of how God is at work in our world. Yet, they say, there is so much more to learn. “I witnessed how God’s people reach out to each other in difficult times”, says Dennis. Guatemala has offered the world stories of faith, stories of the resilience born of hope in the God of Life. This is one of the great gifts that our Central American mission partners offer Presbyterians in the United States.”

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Dennis was an honor graduate in speech communications at Wheaton College in Illinois and subsequently completed a one-year graduate fellowship at the National College of Education in Evanston, Illinois. The following year his new home church, First Presbyterian in Evanston, sponsored him on a one-year volunteer assignment as a communication consultant to the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala.

Following this volunteer year, Dennis returned to Chicago and worked for two years in the private sector. His desire to continue working in communication with the Guatemalan Presbyterian Church led him to accept a five-year assignment with the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) beginning in October 1977. His duties included religious film distribution and workshops on radio, drama, journalism and interpersonal communication. He also taught communication at the Presbyterian Seminary in Guatemala.

In July 1984 Dennis received a new appointment at the request of the Latin American Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies (CELEP), based in San José, Costa Rica. From Guatemala, he coordinated CELEP’s Education for Communication program. In addition to communication training, Dennis joined other Latin American colleagues in social research on the conversation among media, religion and culture. In 1996 CELEP devolved into its regional offices and Dennis’ work came under the umbrella of the Central American Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies (CEDEPCA), where he served until 2010. In 2008 Dennis was elected president of the WACC.

Maribel was educated in Guatemala and received training as a bilingual secretary at the National Secretarial School in Guatemala. A Roman Catholic, in 1983 she began to minister in her neighborhood with a congregation of Italian nuns. Together they discerned her gifts for ministry and her commitment to her community. She was trained as a lay pastoral agent and worked with base ecclesial communities in her neighborhood. In 1987 Maribel began working on the publications team of the Centro de Estudios, Publicaciones y Servicios de Evangelización (CEPSE), an educational resource center for base communities. In 1989 Maribel and Dennis were married and Maribel was appointed as a mission co-worker of the Presbyterian Church. In 2004 Maribel began to be mentored in holistic therapies designed to help people manage stress and seek wholeness by Karen Woehler, a PC(USA) commissioned lay pastor and retired nurse from Minnesota.

The Smith family are members of the San Juan Apóstol Evangelical Church in Guatemala City, where Dennis was ordained to the office of elder and Maribel to the office of deacon. Dennis and Maribel have two sons, Lucas and Benjamin.

March 2015

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

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