



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

January 2016

From the Pastor's Desk

"Remembering the Future"

During the Season of Advent, the persistent theme of "remembering the future" appeared in the scripture passages which were read during worship. We read the Song (Canticle) of Zechariah in the first chapter of Luke. Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, is filled with the Holy Spirit when his son is born, and sings...

- ✦ that the Lord *has* looked favorably on his people, and has redeemed them;
- ✦ that the Lord *has* raised up a mighty savior for his people, from the house of David;
- ✦ that the Lord *has* shown the mercy promised to Israel's ancestors, remembering his covenant promises.

In the same chapter of Luke, Mary the mother of Jesus sings her Magnificat, which affirms...

- ✦ that the Lord *has* scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
- ✦ that he *has* brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
- ✦ that he *has* filled the hungry and sent the rich away empty.

Both Zechariah and Mary sing as if the Lord has already done something which in a final and conclusive sense has not yet been done. Zechariah's mighty savior is not yet present; the proud and the powerful and the rich still have the advantage over the lowly and the hungry. How

can both Mary and Zechariah sing as if these things have already happened?

They can do so because they have developed the Spirit-given ability to remember the future. What the Lord has done in the past, the Lord will do again. The Lord has redeemed the Lord's people from bondage in Egypt, from annihilation at the hands of their enemies, from exile in Babylon, from seeming endless occupation and subjugation by foreign powers. Mary and Zechariah can claim that what the Lord has always done, the Lord will do again. What the Lord has always been, the Lord will continue to be.

Perhaps, like me, your anxiety over the future of White Rock Presbyterian Church is persistent and distressing. We know that we are told (some 365 times in scripture) not to be afraid, but the anxiety is still present. Progress towards renewal and revitalization has been slow; indeed, it is difficult to see any real progress so far.

Perhaps one way to persevere even in the face of discouragement is to sing the songs of Zechariah and Mary. The Lord is what the Lord has always been; the Lord will do what the Lord has always done, for White Rock Presbyterian Church as for the people of Israel. Perhaps we simply need to remember the future.

Peace and joy,
Pastor John

WRPC Contact Information

White Rock Presbyterian Church is located at 310 Rover Boulevard, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544. The pastor, John Guthrie, can be reached at 505-709-8207 or by email at jguthrie@wrpchurch.com. The church office administrator, Gillian Erickson, can be reached at the church office, 505-672-3682, or by email at officemanager@wrpchurch.com.

Session News

The Session of WRPC met for its stated monthly meeting on December 13, 2015. Among the more noteworthy items of business were these:

- ✦ The Session discussed overlap and alignment of duties and responsibilities within the new ministry structure (including the new ministry of Evangelism) adopted in November. Few conflicts of interest are anticipated, but certainly details will require adjustment over the coming months.
- ✦ The Session discussed a renewed emphasis on development of a local mission focus, primarily since collaboration with other local churches is not, at this time, looking promising; such collaboration is one of the initiatives which emerged from the New Beginnings process in 2014. The Session will immediately begin to develop a strategy for selecting a new local mission, relying in large part on ideas coming out of the New Beginnings process.
- ✦ The Nominating Committee is at work and has identified a candidate for Deacon and one candidate for Ruling Elder. Another Ruling Elder candidate is needed, and also candidates for the 2016-2017 Nominating Committee.
- ✦ The Budget and Finance Committee (Bob Reinovsky, Chair) is close to finalizing a 2016 budget. The Session on December 13 discussed primarily a faithful figure for mission funding next year, and staff compensation. The budget should be formally approved at the January Session meeting. B&F continues its search for a new

Treasurer, and has developed a job description for the position.

- ✦ The Evangelism Ministry Team consists at the present time only of its Convener, Bob Reinovsky, but Bob is working to identify members to serve with him. The immediate priorities of the team are increasing knowledge and preparation for evangelism by WRPC constituents, identification of an ongoing local mission project, increasing the visibility of WRPC in the community, and training in one-to-one evangelism.
- ✦ The Worship Ministry Team continues to evaluate Rheta Moazzami as a candidate for the permanent worship accompanist position. KRSN is playing Christmas music before the holiday, with sponsorship and advertisements by WRPC. Advent worship continues to run well, with the theme, "In the Darkness, Light." The Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols has been planned, and preparations started.
- ✦ The Mission Ministry Team (primarily Jennifer Holmes and friends) has prepared 37 gift bags for Navajo children, to be delivered on December 17.

The Session will focus on the future of WRPC at its January meeting, with knowledge that one year remains in Pastor Guthrie's designated term of service. The Session will meet with Harry Eberts, pastor of Santa Fe First Presbyterian Church, and his wife, Jenny, at an informal gathering on January 5, to learn about means of reviving a church through reduction in programming: a "church sabbatical," of sorts. The Session will also meet with our presbytery's Missional Presbyter, Sallie Watson, on January 31, in order to seek her wisdom and guidance at this juncture in WRPC's project of renewal and revitalization.

Report submitted by John Guthrie



Go Paperless! Save a stamp! If you would like to receive your copy of the Overlook electronically rather than through the mail, please let our WRPC Office Manager know and make sure she has your correct email 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.

Budget and Finance Committee Seeks Treasurer

With enormous thanks and appreciation to Susan Buxton, who has been serving as our "Remote Treasurer" since she and Terry moved to Maui in the summer, and acknowledging the superb work that Gill Erickson continues to do as our Financial Secretary, the Session and the Budget and Finance committee are seeking a new Treasurer for White Rock Presbyterian Church.

During her tenure Susan brought exceptional professionalism to the position of Treasurer, so that the new Treasurer inherits a financial system, a record system, an up-to-date Financial Handbook, and a full and transparent understanding shared by the Treasurer, the B&F Committee, and the Session of the church's operating, reserve, and memorial accounts. While WRPC continues to face financial challenges, the generosity of our members is at an all-time high, and that too makes the Treasurer's job more satisfying and perhaps even easier.

We all saw Susan "doing" an enormous number of tasks for the benefit of WRPC. It would be easy to interpret many or all of those tasks as the work of the Treasurer. In order to clarify the responsibilities of the Treasurer, the B&F Committee and the Session, in consultation with Susan and Gill, have formulated a job description for the Treasurer that delineates the Treasurer's specific responsibilities. Furthermore, the Session and B&F Committee understand that further refinement of those responsibilities may be

appropriate, and are prepared to negotiate ways to share some of the workload with the Committee, or perhaps an Assistant Treasurer. The job description is available in the office or from Bob Reinovsky.

Please prayerfully consider if service to the congregation as Treasurer might fit in your plans for service. I am always available for discussion.

Bob Reinovsky, Moderator
Budget & Finance Committee

Annual Congregational and Corporate Meetings Set for February 7

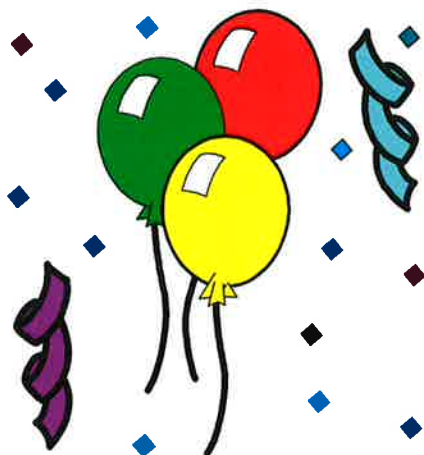
The Session has set the date of the annual stated meetings of the White Rock Presbyterian congregation and corporation for Sunday, February 7, following worship, in Memorial Hal.

All WRPC members are strongly encouraged to attend and vote on matters brought before them. Friends of White Rock Presbyterian Church are also most welcome, without privilege of the vote.

The agenda for the congregational and corporate meetings includes:

- ✦ Approval of the minutes of congregational meetings of January 25, 2015 and December 6, 2015, and of the corporation meeting held January 25, 2015
- ✦ Review of printed reports
- ✦ Reception of the Nominating Committee's report and election of Deacons and Ruling Elders (Classes of 2019) and at-large members of the 2016-2017 Nominating Committee
- ✦ Review of the 2015 budget
- ✦ Approval of the pastor's Terms of Call (compensation package) for 2016
- ✦ Action to enable the Session to name a new corporation board
- ✦ Any other matters that may properly come before either meeting

January Birthdays



| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Nathan McCabe | 8 |
| Rod McCabe | 22 |
| Irene Davis-Dellinger | 28 |

Engage: Growing in Discipleship and Evangelism

Engage is a resource designed by the Office of Evangelism of the Presbyterian Church (USA) intended to help local churches become more intentional about growing in discipleship and in the theology and practice of evangelism. The manual for the *Engage* program includes this:

Evangelism is good news. The good news is not about introducing a program, gaining more members, or increasing budgets. Evangelism is the good news of God's healing and saving love in Jesus Christ. Evangelism is a lifestyle in which a follower of Jesus Christ both shares faith and serves others in need.

Engage is designed to help churches recover the good news we have to offer one another and the people in our communities. In order to recover the best of what evangelism has to offer our lives and churches, this resource will help people engage the gospel, discipleship, the community around the church, and shifts in

church life that will move the church from a membership model of ministry to disciple-making.

If the church is to be an effective witness in our communities, then we are called to equip growing disciples of Jesus Christ to share faith and serve others. We are called to both embody and proclaim the faith. For the church to pursue its full redemptive potential, a passion for the life and work of Jesus Christ must be reclaimed.

WRPC members and friends will begin working through the *Engage* resource on January 10, and the study will run for 8-10 weeks. Participants will meet after worship and coffee fellowship (beginning at 11:00 a.m.) for up to one and a half hours.

Engage is not a Bible study. It is a resource intended to promote transformation in individuals and churches: to allow room for the Holy Spirit to make both more alive in Christ and prepared to share the gospel with others in their communities.

I highly encourage you to join us for our corporate journey through the *Engage* program. Perhaps the Spirit will do something amazing.

Pastor John

Important Contacts

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Stewardship and the Epiphany of Christ

Minner Serovy
Ministry Relations Officer of the Presbyterian Foundation

If you have felt lost in the secular, Santa Claus flurry of Christmas, I invite you to look ahead to a much calmer celebration of Epiphany. Merriam Webster defines epiphany as "a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way."

Epiphany is the recognition of Jesus as the manifestation of God on earth, and traditionally is the time of the arrival of the Magi, guided by a star to the holy infant. Our PCUSA liturgical resources tell us: "Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world, but also calls the world [us!] to be witnesses to God's true Light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation, God in flesh, leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God's gift of grace and salvation for all persons."

This IS the true meaning of Christmas. As we move forward from the secular, we can take the time to contemplate the meaning of God's gift of grace for us, and what we want to do in this new year to improve our response. How can we better witness our faith to a world that is so troubled? It invites us, perhaps, to think about our faith resolutions. Am I doing all that I can to become a light to the darkness?

Stewardship involves our whole being response to God's grace and calling. Are there activities at the church that I should know more about or become involved with? Apart from making a pledge to the annual campaign, is there more I can do to financially support the church's programs? Do I want to make support of a program permanent through a planned gift or bequest? How can I acknowledge God's gift of an incarnate Savior?

ENGAGE in Evangelism

The *Engage* program which will begin in January supports two initiatives that emerged from our New Beginnings process: discipleship and evangelism, exploring both the scriptural imperative and some of the practical implementation of both. Acknowledging that the "E-word" has some scary connotations for Presbyterians, but asserting also that techniques for evangelism in the twenty-first century may not be the same as we have known in the past, the Session has established evangelism as one of the critical ministries to which we commit ourselves.

The Session furthermore invites members and friends of the congregation to participate in a new Evangelism Ministry Team, as we explore and implement a contemporary approach to evangelism for WRPC.

We have identified a strategy with four constituents as a first-pass approach to evangelism in our context, the community of White Rock:

- ✧ Bible Study
- ✧ Mission-mindedness
- ✧ Increased visibility, and
- ✧ One-on-one contact with friends and acquaintances

These constituents give the new Team a starting point, but flexibility and innovation will be necessary as we move forward.

Please prayerfully consider if the Spirit might be calling you to participation in the new Evangelism Ministry Team. Look for an opportunity to attend a first team meeting in January, and feel free to talk to John Guthrie or Bob Reinovsky.



Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum Gathering

The ecumenical Faith and Science Forum will gather next on Tuesday, January 19, at 6:00 p.m. in Kelly Hall, Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church. The Forum's winter series focuses on the question, "What Makes Us Human?" The January 19 topic relates to human genetics. Everyone is very welcome.

Meet Cobbie and Dessa Palm

Cobbi and Dessa Palm are Mission co-workers serving at the invitation of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

The 90 million Philippine people live on only about 11 of the 7,100 islands that comprise their island group. After centuries as a colony of Spain, the Philippines are now an independent democracy whose political experience has been trying and uncertain. More than 80 percent of the population of the Philippines is Catholic, nearly 3 percent is Protestant, and about 5 percent is Muslim.

Cobbie serves as a mission facilitator, enhancing the skills of Philippine pastors in church development and revitalization. He also develops curriculum and trains churches in peace and reconciliation through the Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform. Dessa coordinates the UCCP's Theater for Evangelism and Advocacy, training church workers and members to creatively communicate the gospel and bear witness to the transformative role of a caring and compassionate church.

Cobbie facilitates three mission priorities of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines: church development and evangelism, international partnerships, and peace education and advocacy. Cobbie works to nurture and strengthen churches and communities that are hindered by realities of fatigue, fear, apathy, and conflict caused by the

lack of resources and an overwhelming disbelief that change can help their lives and communities.

Cobbie and Dessa are on a journey of "faith seeking understanding." Cobbie has worked in mission for more than 20 years. He has been "taught to appreciate the wisdom of the Asian proverb, "To hear is to forget, to see is to remember, but to feel is to understand."

After she married Cobbie in 2006, Dessa began to sense a natural kinship to Cobbie's work. She pursues her calling through Christian theater which she describes as "the creative touching the divine". "I feel deeply connected to what God has tasked me to do, especially in using my gifts to educate, to heal through the arts, to minister to children, youth and women," she says.

Both Cobbie and Dessa were born in the Philippines. Cobbie's parents were longtime Presbyterian missionaries, and Dessa is of Filipino descent. Dessa earned degrees from the University of the Philippines, Silliman University and the New School for Social Research in New York City. In addition to her background in the dramatic arts she has also worked in nonprofit management.

Cobbie earned a bachelor's degree from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., and the Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He worked on the staff of the World Council of Churches before entering mission service.



January 2016

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Dec 2015</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Feb 2016</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div> | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | | | <p>1</p> <p>6:30 AM PM in the AM</p>  | <p>2</p> |
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| <p>3</p> <p>9:15 AM Worship with the Lord's Supper</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>12:00 PM "Out-to-Lunch Bunch"</p> | <p>4</p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Group</p> | <p>5</p> <p>5:30 PM Session Gathering</p> | <p>6</p> <p>7:00 PM Budget and Finance Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Epiphany</i></p> | <p>7</p> <p>7:30 PM Journeys In Faith Dialogue</p> | <p>8</p> <p>6:30 AM PM in the AM</p> | <p>9</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>10</p> <p>9:15 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 AM Discipleship Study</p> | <p>11</p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Group</p> | <p>12</p> <p>7:30 PM Worship Ministry Team Meeting</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p>7:30 PM Journeys in Faith Dialogue</p> | <p>15</p> <p>6:30 AM PM in the AM</p> | <p>16</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>17</p> <p>9:15 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 AM Discipleship Study</p> <p>12:00 PM Session</p> | <p>18</p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Group</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p>10:00 AM PW Circle</p> <p>7:30 PM Journeys in Faith Dialogue</p> | <p>22</p> <p>6:30 AM PM in the AM</p> | <p>23</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>24</p> <p>9:15 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 AM Discipleship Study</p> | <p>25</p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Group</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>7:30 PM Journeys In Faith Dialogue</p> | <p>29</p> <p>6:30 AM PM in the AM</p> | <p>30</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>31</p> <p>9:15 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 AM Session</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |