

Southwest Winds

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

Native American proverb

The All Church Retreat September 6 and 7

We settled in one Friday evening to hear Pastor Lorelei tell the story of her sabbatical experience. She related her experience at three Gay Pride parades, and again during her next sermon (see audio file of the September 8 sermon on the Westminster Presbyterian website, <www.wpcgallup.org>). Besides visiting her family, she visited old and new friends here and in Europe. Friends guided her to several art museums where her goal was to experience the art. She promises that she will give a picture presentation later, and some of her photos of art will appear on our Sunday bulletins.

Saturday morning we gathered again in the Gallup Chamber of Commerce meeting room. About seventeen people were divided into four groups to discuss the questions, where have we been, where are we now, and where are going? Large group sessions after each of the small groups reported their discussions which were outlined on a newsprint flip chart.

After a tasty lunch, leaders of each of the four groups posed several questions from the Congregational Survey done through the internet and computers, again shared in the small groups, then the large groups. These questions were: (1) How do we help members deepen their spiritual relationship to God? (2) How do we help people discover their own gifts for ministry? (3) How do we train lay-leaders for committee and task assignments? (4) Finally a question about study groups. What topics interest and what might you commit to attending and or leading?

At the end of the afternoon the group formed a council circle with a talking piece and went around twice for each of two questions.

The consensus to the first question, how do we train people to be active at all levels in the church was summarized by the council circle "Road Chief."

- There are job descriptions currently written out to help folks understand what they are expected to do, but to a certain extent people should be allowed to do things in their own way. The descriptions could be updated and expanded.
- To aid communication a book of meeting minutes could be kept at the back of the church for all to read.
- Mail boxes could be installed in the hallway to facilitate communication, especially with hard copy information sheets.
- An interesting comment called for a closer community, not "better" organization. (Editor's comment: A close community was in evidence during the times WPC had no pastor, but of course the group then was much smaller).
- Post necessary schedules with phone numbers and back ups.

The second council circle question was how do we help members deepen their spiritual relationship with God?

- Hold regular council circles to strengthen and enrich each other.
- We need teachings about use of the labyrinth, and other modalities of meditation.
- Bible studies were mentioned, possibly connected with a book study by a biblical scholar helping us understand current scriptural interpretation beyond our own.
- Use the tools that we currently possess, such as the Taize Service and the labyrinth on a "Surprise Sunday."

Continued on the next page:

Retreat Report Continued:

- A focused time to share experiences that brought individuals closer to Christ
- Offer films that stimulate discussion and thought.

The retreat was closed with prayer and benediction.

Many thanks to folks who worked hard to plan and make the retreat happen: Pam Burgess, Tom Funk, Kathy Mezoff, Serenea Robare, and Lucille Begay.

John Mezoff



Session Notes

(Gleaned by the editor from session minutes.)

On **June 30** the session voted to buy chairs after another \$1000 comes in for the project. The two sample chairs, blue and grey, were on display in the sanctuary in June.

A report through Mike Faz of the property committee reporting the decision of Judy Conejo and Sharna Sutherin that the Plaza Chair was more long lasting and comfortable.

Sharna's treasurer's report showed a checkbook balance of \$31,067. About a third of that amount is restricted.

Pulpit supply planning by Rev. Kay through August was published.

The **August 28** meeting minutes reported the checkbook balance was \$29,794. At that time, the chair fund total was \$7,728 including money transferred from the Underwood Memorial Fund and the Chapman Memorial fund with permission from Harrison and John respectively.

On October 6, 2019, the church service will be held at the Gallup Community Pantry.

Tom Funk reported that the last House Concert broke even.

The next regular meeting will be September 25, 2019, 7:00 PM at the church.



Alan Murray



Irish Duo at WPC, July 24

Tom Funk arranged another house concert for our enjoyment and to raise a little money for projects. We were delighted to hear the “Irish Duo.” Andrew Magill played his fiddle, and Alan Murray played his guitar and an Irish rendition of the banjo. It was an entertaining evening with very peppy, foot thumping fancy fiddle playing, guitar finger work, and singing by Alan. Thirty Five folks enjoyed group and so I thought it was a very successful evening. Unfortunately the church was pretty warm that evening.



Andrew Magill

A Record of Pastors serving Westminster Presbyterian Church of Gallup, New Mexico

I looked at the Church Record Book to extract this information. I thought that it would be interesting to some people to see the dates of pastoral service and the time when the church was without a pastor and used pulpit supply preachers. Any mistakes in the calculations are mine, and they are only approximate.
J.M.M.

Name of WPC Pastor	Recorded type of service	Beginning date	Ending Date	Approximate Duration of Tenure	Approximate Time without a pastor
Rev. Theodore Allison	Organizing Pastor				
Rev. Barrie Gray		10-22-2061	05-31-2063	1.5 years	
					4 months
Rev. David E. Nichols		05-17-1964	06-30-67	3 years	
					4 months
Rev. Marion C. Floyd		11-05-1967	03-15-1970	2 yrs. 4 mo.	
					20 months
Rev. Walter J. Mehl		12-05-1971	04-29-1976	4 yrs. 5 mo.	
					9 months
Rev. Robert Williams		01-30-1977	11-15-2097	20 years	
					2-3 months
Dick Osness, CLP	Lay Pastor	02-??-2098	06-25-2098	4 months	
					3 months
Rev. Don Poisson	Interim	10-01-2098	10-17-1999	1 year	
					2 weeks
Rev. Holly Puett	Installed	10-31-1999	03-14-2000	4 months	
					2 weeks
Rev. Albert Kissling	Interim	04-01-2000	02-18-2001	10 months	
					1/2 month
Rev. Don Poisson	Designated	03-01-2001	02-16-2003	2 years	
					4 months
Rev. Tom Oak	Stated Supply	06-08-2003	03-31-2004	10 months	

Name of WPC Pastor	Recorded type of service	Beginning Date	Ending Date	Approximate duration of tenure	Approximate time without a pastor
					15 months
Rev. Don steele	Designated	07-17-2005	10-05-2008	3 1/3 years	
					4 months
Rev. Gary West	Designated	02-22-2009	05-15-2011	2 years 3 months	
					1 month
Rev, David Philips	Temporary	06-19-2011	04-08-2012	9 months	
					12 months
Rev. Lorelei Kay	Designated then Installed	04-28-2013	Current Pastor		

Southwest Winds



Southwest Winds is a published
to report on church activities
and to be another medium of communication between members and
friends of WPC

Editor and Publisher, John Mezzoff Editor, Kathy Mezzoff

Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA)

is located a mile south
of the intersection of Historic Route 66
and Boardman (State Highway 564) on Boardman Drive
Gallup, New Mexico

Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30 AM
The Church Telephone is (505) 905-3247
The Church Website is <www.wpcgallup.org>

The Sunday morning sermons are now being recorded and
are available through the WPC Website.