

Southwest Winds

*Don't walk behind me; I may not lead.
Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow.
Walk beside me that we may be as one.
Ute aphorism*

High Points for Lorelei Ten years after Ordination

Saturday, January 6, 2018, is the tenth anniversary of Reverend Lorelei Kay's ordination into the ministry. We are so fortunate Lorelei became our pastor, who travels with us into the next chapter, and a different way of being church here at Westminster. Earlier this week I had an opportunity to talk to Lorelei about her career as a pastor, and I asked her what she saw as the important milestones in her career over the past ten years since ordination, and so she related the following journey to me.

Her career as a pastor began as the Interim Associate Pastor at University Presbyterian Church in Tempe, Arizona. She had worked under Rev. Al Gephart as an intern, and he was now planning retirement, but he lingered at the church long enough to mentor Lorelei in the art of creative worship. She feels that her principal accomplishment at University Presbyterian was getting the social justice committee, formerly working alone, reconnected to the larger church.

After she was at University for three and a half years her position was eliminated, and she moved on to Memorial Presbyterian Church in Phoenix where she was the Co-Pastor along with Rev. Marta Lopez Laredo, who led the Spanish speaking community. The English and Spanish speaking groups were under the same roof, but largely operating as separate congregations.

Lorelei and Rev. Laredo first brought the two groups together for monthly bilingual communion services; and now today there is only one integrated congregation working and worshipping together and enjoying fellowship as friends.

Next came the call from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gallup, a church challenged by sliding numbers, multiple pastors, and a somewhat remote location up on a hill outside of town. She was told that there was only two years of money to pay her if nothing changed. And change it did. The first change was moving into a more positive mind set. WPC really does have something valuable to offer. The second change was a gentle push from folks accepting what the pastor said about theology to people thinking for themselves, which really strengthens the congregation. Such a change opens the door to a healthier conversation of who God is and what Christ teaches us. And this has allowed us to get to the place where we can open the door to many different kinds of people. A more diverse community generates a richer theology and a more compassionate ministry. When you understand how wide and deep God's love is, then you can do things in a better way. Look at what is happening. We have pledges that will almost cover the budget, we have new members, and there is a new energy palpable in the congregation.

Lorelei is also excited about her ministry beyond the walls of WPC and what WPC has allowed her to do. She is on the Rehoboth

McKinley Christian Health Care Services board of directors, and now she is looking forward to connecting with leaders in the Gallup-McKinley County community through a leadership program of community leaders and outside speakers that will run for nine months. She believes that this will connect her to area leaders, and give her a broader view of the Gallup community. The program will bring resources to the trainees to enable them to do a community project, and Lorelei hopes to involve WPC in her project. Lorelei remembers that her mentor, Rev. Al Gephart, went through a similar training program, twenty or more years ago, and it significantly changed his ministry.

And I am not done listing Lorelei's accomplishments. We have to talk about her involvement with the Presbytery of Santa Fe. She recalls that she served on four committees of the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon before she came to Gallup. Naturally when she arrived she became involved with committees of our presbytery, then was picked to be Moderator Elect for a year, and then Moderator of the Presbytery for the year that ended October 2017. She is now the chairperson of the Coordinating Team, which

operates between the three large Presbytery meetings each year.

At the presbytery level she noticed that there was no intentional process for developing new congregations or redeveloping congregations that are struggling. So now, having had experience of redevelopment with three churches, University, Memorial, and Westminster, she and Kathy Rhoad are assembling the Networking Committee for church development and redevelopment, which is her passion.

Lorelei says that "God has given me a lot of background for the work of my heart. I've never been prouder to serve with a church than with WPC when we voted to become fully inclusive and publicly affirming of people who are LGBTQ. A once-in-a-lifetime experience. I am utterly blessed to have taken this journey with this congregation."

We are so joyful to be able to celebrate with Rev. Lorelei Kay, her tenth anniversary of ordination into the ministry, and fortunate to be able to join her on this journey of love of the Lord and service to mankind.

John Mezzoff

Share Your Care

You may have noticed some extra equipment in the back of the sanctuary, a filing cabinet, a food cart, a large lazy boy chair, and a copy machine in the back closet. Share Your Care was using the United Methodist Church, but their contract ended, the rent was raised, and we are an interim solution until they find a more suitable permanent space. I have been told that their time with us could be about a month and a half. They use the building all day, Monday through Friday.

Term Ends for WPC Officers

Tom Funk has served three years as a Ruling Elder on the session accomplishing many things including the stewardship program and many building and grounds projects.

Katie McGill-Peters has served six years as a Deacon engaged in many of the deacon's projects.

When you see Tom or Katie, be sure to thank them for their faithful service.



Next Steps...

We continue to move into transformation with Westminster PC. We have 16 people signed up to participate in our All-Church Mission Retreat from



January 19-21 - and we INVITE AND ENCOURAGE YOU, if you haven't made the decision to join the group, PLEASE DO!!! We need your input! You can sign up at church on Sunday, or call Pam Burgess. If it might be hard for you to cover the cost of the retreat, please talk to Pastor Lorelei; support funds are available. The retreat begins at 8:00 p.m. on Friday and will end with us

returning to Gallup from Albuquerque for worship at ***11:00*** on Sunday, January 21.

In the meantime, we've practiced our consensus model for decision making a bit, and the result was a simple statement of covenant to use for our new approach to participation in the life of the church. Let me explain:

Not all of our active congregants are interested in taking on permanent membership with the church. There are many reasons for this, which it is not necessary to defend - each person has their own valid reasons for not joining as a formal member. Covenant Commitment is the idea we have developed to allow people to participate fully in the life of the church if formal membership is not helpful.

Covenant Commitment begins with the statement of covenant which we developed together:

"I covenant to spiritual growth in Jesus Christ, and to the life of this congregation for one year."

What does that mean? It means that you consider Westminster to be your faith home, and that you are committed to participating in this congregation through joining a study group or program, by giving your skills and time to help accomplish WPC's goals, and by helping to support the financial actions we take to share the love of Jesus with others in our community and in our denomination. It means that you are entering into relationships with the pastor, Session, Deacons and other committed members of the church, which will shape and challenge you over the year ahead, and from which you will learn more about being a follower of Jesus. It means that the leadership of Westminster can call upon you to share your vision for the church's future, and to do the work of ministry within your own parameters of ability.

While a Covenant Commitment does not subject a person to the same rules and regulations as formal membership will do, it is not to be taken lightly. To honor this step of faith, each person must prayerfully consider both the action it engenders and the dedication it will draw on.

Covenant Commitment must be approved by the Session. We are working diligently to make sure that this will not interrupt the relationship between Westminster PC and the Presbyterian Church, USA. The requirements of our denomination will be upheld, even as the definition of membership takes on a new flexibility - persons signing the Covenant will be able to serve at all levels of leadership for our congregation, and the commitment of the church is that you will have full voice and vote on decision-making, and be respected as a voice for God's guidance toward the future of the church. People who are already members need not sign the Covenant, but may if they like.

If you have any questions or feedback on this process, please call Pastor Lorelei. We hope to vote on changing membership to Covenant Commitment on Sunday, January 28 in the worship service, then will include the Covenant Commitment in worship on February 4. If you have not yet joined Westminster, please do consider this as an opportunity to make your place and to be fully vested in the life and future of our church!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Lorelei

Rev. Bill Humphreys Preaches



Sunday, December third WPC was treated with a dynamic guest preacher, Rev. Bill Humphreys. Message titled: "Hey! Wake Up"

Tamale Party at Pam and Sharna's



A tamale assembly party was held at Pam and Sharna's huse on December 10. It seems like a good time was held by all.

Back WPC Stairs and Porch Repaired



Take a look at the rebuilt back porch. There is a new deck, new railings, and new stairs. Be sure to thank Elder Tom Funk who organized the project and rounded up the materials, and David Conejo who arranged for local craftsmen to do the actual construction. Thank you for the very nice repair job.



Holly and Savannah add decorations to the beautiful WPC Christmas Tree



Betty and John Chapman
Christmas Eve



John Chapman sang December 24



Gloria, David, and Harrison Underwood



Jalyn Scott sang for Dec 31 Worship



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service



WPC Congregational Meeting 1st Half

The first half of the Annual Congregational Meeting was held after worship on Sunday, December 17, 2017.

The following people were elected for one year as officers of the corporation:

President: John Mezoff

Secretary: Sharna Southerin

Treasurer: Valdine Brower

Recording Treasurer: Albert Jordan

The following people were elected to the office of Ruling Elder, class of 2020:

Pam Burgess

Juliana Stravers

Barbara Paredes was elected as a Deacon, class of 2020.

The Nominating Committee for 2018 consists of:

From Session: Pam Burgess

From Deacons: Eryn Hannink

At Large: Serenea Robare

At Large: John Chapman

At Large: Katie McGill-Peters

The at large folks were elected by acclamation. Pastor Lorelei Kay is an Ex-Officio member of the committee.

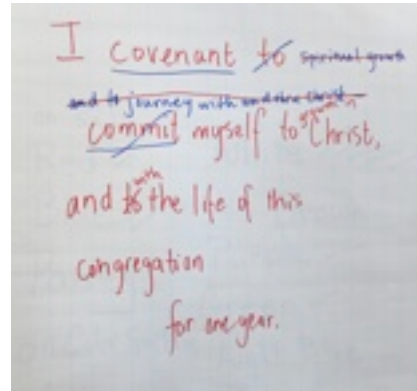
There was a discussion followed by a written vote which passed supporting the statement that "Westminster Presbyterian Church of Gallup, New Mexico is a fully inclusive and publically affirming church for persons who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or non-heterosexual."



After Church Congregational Dialogue on December 10, 2017

The meeting on council format was called to work out a statement for the congregational covenant. There was serious listening and comment, and by consensus the following covenant statement was arrived at:

***I covenant myself to growth in Christ,
and with the life of this congregation for one
year.***



This statement will be available for people to sign on Sunday, February 4, 2018.



December Session Meeting Highlights

We tried to have the meeting at the church, but on the night of December 14, the lights at the church went out, so the meeting migrated to Lorelei's house where the electricity was still functioning. Later the Gallup Independent reported that much of the town's electricity was out for a brief time because of a problem at a electrical sub-station.

A letter was received from Menaul School requesting funding. Menaul School has been in New Mexico since 1881, and was started by Rev. James Menaul, who incidentally brought one of the first printing presses to New Mexico to help publicize his mission. The school is still there, still associated with the Presbyterian Church. More can be found at their web site <menaulschool.org>. They need continued support.

Valdine consented to being the Clerk of Session, for now, as well as the Church Treasurer. She requested the latest edition of Quick Books to help her with the financial recording. There has been input about getting a bookkeeper or having a CPA look at our financial processes, and this was mentioned.

Please note, as noted elsewhere, the time of **Worship on January 21 was set back to 11 AM** to allow folks more time to get back to Gallup from the Church Retreat in Albuquerque.

Discussion in several areas followed:

- Communion dates for 2018
- Approval of special offering collections
- Request to insert in the bulletin each month the offerings (which this newsletter has been reporting monthly)
- The light on our big sign is sometimes on and sometimes off. Tom spoke to them about it, and it seems to be some sort of design defect issue.
- Lorelei is no longer Presbytery Moderator, but will continue as the chair person of the coordinating team at presbytery.
- Lorelei has enrolled in a monthly leadership training program with our local chamber of commerce.
- The bank safety deposit box has been emptied and closed, and the discussion is continuing about what type of fire safe will be needed to house a few envelopes at the church.
- A request came from the Worship Committee to pay all musicians \$35/Sunday. Those who do not want to be paid can recycle the check back into the general collections. The Idea, I believe, is to have the cost of providing music a realistic budget item.

- 40 people attended the Thanksgiving Dinner here at WPC. It was a good meal, and enjoyable.
- A recommendation for having another worship service at the Gallup Community Pantry on February 25 followed by a pot luck was discussed, and Lorelei will look into this.

Some Numbers as of the end of November:

Cash on Hand.....	\$13,020.37
Register Balance.....	13,020.37
Cash Dispersed.....	5,668.56
Cash received.....	6,328.83

Respectfully,
John Mezzoff

Items from Betsy Windisch:

CROP Hunger Walk total for 2017

The caring Gallup Community raised \$4,593.25 to support programs that address local food insecurity and those individuals who were victims of hurricane, flood, and fire devastation.

The CROP Hunger Walk was supported by individuals from the following: First United Methodist Church, Westminster Presbyterian, UNM-G Lobos Student Affairs, Catholic Charities and donations solicited at the McKinley Citizens' Recycling Council America Recycles Day event on November 4.

The Community Pantry received a check for \$1,192.31 from Church World Service. This is the 25% local allocation. What a great New Year's gift to the pantry!
Special thanks to the CROP Walk Team – Sally Carter (FUMC), Sr. Rose Marie Cecchini (Catholic Charities), Betsy Windisch and Pat Sheely (Westminster Presbyterian), and Ona Fralinger (Treasurer) for their time and effort in making this important event happen for another year. Thank You to all the "Walkers" who solicited donations for this great cause. Our "Walkers" this year from WPC were: Holly Herr, Barbara Paredes, Mirakhel Windsong, Betsy Windisch and Many Thanks to everyone who donated to

Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) this year! We would not have made our goal of \$4,000 without you!

If you would be interested in learning more about the CROP Hunger Walk and the international relief work of Church World Service please contact Betsy Windisch (722-9257) or Pat Sheely (722-7564). The team is looking for individuals to help raise awareness in our community.

EVERGREEN SALES FUND RAISER

Thank you to everyone who purchased an evergreen this year for yourself, a family member, or to help decorate the church. Our profit from the sales was \$443.35. Special thanks to those who helped solicit orders: Wonda Johnson, Nicole Jones, Kay & Mark Jordan, Mirakhel Windsong and additionally to April Forman who has volunteered the last two years to help deliver WPC's orders; this year WPC sold 88 items. A special note of thanks to Katharine Nelson-Balabanis, though residing in California, she continues to order a number of her gifts to family and friends across the country from this evergreen fundraiser. This fund raiser is a joint effort with Church of the Holy Spirit-Episcopal. ---- Betsy Windisch

RELAY FOR LIFE KICK-OFF!

Can we Can Cancer? Yes, we Can!
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 30
The Community Pantry
Bring canned goods for the Pantry!
Join us for a fun filled evening of "Can" games – stacking cans, can bowling, can trivia, etc.
Learn more about Relay For Life. Sign up for a team; join a team.

Grassroots Lobby Training

Tuesday, January 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Work In Beauty House, 113 E Logan Ave, Gallup, NM 87301

Join with concerned citizens and learn about the 2018 New Mexico Legislative Session

Understand the NM Legislative process
Learn how to talk to your elected officials
Advocate on February 1st in Santa Fe
Trainers: Rep. D. Wonda Johnson and MASE
Coordinator Susan Gordon
CONTACT: Susan Gordon, Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
sgordon@swuraniumimpacts.org 505-577-8438

Witness for the People: Budgets are Moral Documents

Thursday, Feb 1, 8:30-3:00
Prayer and Faith Witness 12 noon in Rotunda
Begin at First Christian Church of Santa Fe, 645 Webber St, Santa Fe, NM 87505
Join people of faith who are connecting the dots between social and ecological concerns at a day at the Roundhouse. Day begins with prayer, information about issues at the 2018 NM Legislative Session and instructions for citizen lobbying. Continue with lobbying in small groups at the Roundhouse. Noon Prayer with faith leaders, music and Faith Witness in the Rotunda. Continuing visits to congressional delegates. Since this is a short budgetary session, the focus is Budgets Are Moral Documents. A letter for faith leaders to sign will be circulated with delivery to legislators as part of the day. A continental breakfast and pick-up lunch items will be available throughout the day. Co-sponsors: NM Interfaith Power and Light; NM Interfaith Worker Justice; Lutheran Advocacy Ministry; NM Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. For more information contact Sr. Joan at NM Interfaith Power and Light. joan@nm-ipl.org.
Joan Brown,osf
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"There is no inner world without the outer world."
Thomas Berry, Author of The Great Work

Southwest Winds

is published usually monthly
except during the summer.

Article submissions from
the congregation are welcome
including reports on church activities, book reports on relevant
subjects, and interviews of folks in the congregation.

**The final date for submissions for the
February 2018 issue will be
Friday, February 2, 2018.**

Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA)

is located a mile south of the intersection
of Historic Route 66
and Boardman (State Highway 564)
on Boardman

Sunday Morning Worship is at
10:30 AM

Church Telephone is
(505) 905-3247
Church Website is



Birthdays and Anniversaries at WPC

January

Milo Stravers, (10th, Birthday)
Pam Burgess and Sharna Sutherin (16th, anniversary)
Vanessa Hillman (19th, birthday)
Valdine Brower (22nd, birthday)

February

Max Fax (8th, birthday)
Betty Chapman (14th, birthday)
Juliana Stravers (14th, birthday)
Mike Fax (17th, birthday)
John Chapman (23rd, birthday)

Southwest Winds, January 2018

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