

Southwest Winds



Lord...

We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you. Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace. Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children - Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow - will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen.

- The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Jennifer and Lorraine, A Local Mission Project Story of White Rock Presbyterian Church

Let me tell you a story about Jennifer and Lorraine and a mission project. Jennifer is an Anglo teacher who met Lorraine, a Navajo, when Lorraine was Jennifer's fourth grade student in the 1970's. A relationship jelled and has remained to this day. Skip ahead now to today. Lorraine is married to Fred Thomas, a pastor of the "House of Fellowship Church" (HOFC) in Bread Springs, New Mexico. Jennifer is now married to Ken Holmes and both are active members of the White Rock Presbyterian Church (WRPC) and both are school teachers. White Rock is a suburb of Los Alamos, New Mexico, which is the home of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, of World War II atomic bomb fame. Some of the lab's scientists and engineers are part of the WRPC community.

Because the church has a strong service commitment, in the past the White Rock Church traveled to other countries on mission trips. Then WRPC discovered HOFC just south of Gallup and were thrilled because it is relatively local.

Fred Thomas started House of Fellowship Church some years ago. A Navajo man, Fred was "Convicted by his grandmother," as Jennifer tells the story, "to become a Christian." In his younger years he had been through struggles with alcoholism, poverty, and health issues, and then Fred was called to serve. Now Fred and Lorraine serve the people in their area who come to them literally 24/7, and often the pastor and his wife contribute out of their own pockets. Fred also drives the Rehoboth Christian School bus on the Zuni route.



Jennifer and Ken Holmes, December 2018

As you might imagine the two churches and their worship styles are very different. The HOFC is a charismatic, community Protestant church. They are almost Pentecostal, where speaking in tongues, testimonies, and a praise band of guitars and drums are part of their church life. White Rock Presbyterian Church is, well, Presbyterian mostly attended by well off folks of the surrounding community. But in spite of their differences the two churches are able to work together. If you check White Rock's web site (<wrpchurch.com>), they have several other ministries besides the "Navajo Mission Project."

So White Rock started doing trips to HOFC to help out, and HOFC people have traveled to White Rock because of personal friendships. Fred Thomas has even preached at White Rock when they were between pastors. The two groups attend each others weddings and funerals, have done mutual fund

raisers, and so have become partners, and the ties have grown stronger with time.

White Rock Presbyterian's first mission trip to HOFC was in 2008. Twenty people were involved in tearing down an older building. This turned out to be quite hard labor. HOFC now has their own church building with electricity, but not running water. Jennifer told about how the church building was not entirely on the church's property, so the community jacked up the building and moved it, to avoid having to tear down their church.

The story takes a turn when tragedy struck on the 2017 mission trip. George Callaghan, the WRPC Clerk of Session, suddenly died while working on the project. Jennifer told how our own Lorelei Kay came and offered aid and comfort at the time. Jean Callaghan, George's widow, came up with the idea of a sewing workshop and led the 2018 project utilizing our facility for space. There were 12 participants who worked to make curtains for their church. Each participant was then given a gift card so that they could buy material for their own curtains. The project now has 10 sewing machines and the plan is to make Blue Bird Flour aprons out of the flour sac material.

Other WRPC Navajo Mission projects are the Tool Belt Initiative, a scholarship project called "Julie's Helpers" to give support to Navajo women attending college in New Mexico, (<http://julieshelpers.com>), the Chimney Kit Project, a wheel chair ramp project, and a skills training project.

The Navajo church is an unincorporated community church with no affiliations, perhaps because of lingering skepticism stemming from toxic missionary activities in the past. Jennifer said that in order to raise money they had to form some form of non-profit entity. "Our Fathers's Business" became a reality after many meetings, much talking, and creating a set of bylaws and a mission statement for this non-profit. In Navajo it is called Nihitaa' Binaanish. Jennifer admits that this is not a good marketing name, but it is important to pastor Thomas. The purpose is for self-help by connecting the two cultures and the two worlds. They have received grants from the PCUSA and the Presbytery of Santa Fe which came from unassigned funds designated to help Navajos. You can see more information about NiHitaa' Binaanish, Our Father's Business, at <https://binaanish.weebly.com/>.

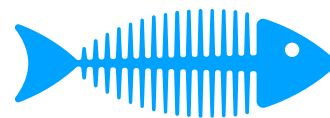
Jennifer, Ken, and I then began to talk about Native American ways compared to modern

American culture. Jennifer used to attend the Zuni Christian Reformed Church, and has listened to Mark Charles talk about the Doctrine of Discovery. Some basic lessons learned have been about living on Navajo Time, and circular rather than linear thinking. To western, middle class people poverty is a very complex issue that we really do not understand, although so many of us think that there should be a solution.

The project has grown, and is becoming known in the community, said Jennifer. NiHitaa' Binaanish, Our Father's Business now gets referrals from the chapter house to supervise college students on their winter break, or to do service work in the community. The McKinley County Court System needs to order community service through a registered organization, which Nihitaa' Binaanish, Our Father's Business is. The hope now is to be able to hire a director. There are five on the board of directors for this 501(c)(3) organization, and the meetings are public and transparent.

Jennifer and Ken are engaging as well as energetic. As I listened to them talk, I wondered if Westminster could have a role in this project. We have already donated a needed space for a sewing project. We are close to Bread Springs and could be some sort of stepping stone or helper in these interesting and very useful efforts. Ken and Jennifer said that the long term relationship has been stimulating, daunting, and they have made a lot of mistakes. But is it ultimately joyful and fulfilling work. Progress is not linear, and this is very much doing the Lord's work.

John Mezzoff interviewed Ken and Jennifer Holmes at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Gallup, on December 2, 2018 after they attended a Sunday morning service and Potluck.



From Pastor Lorelei

Dear WPC Family,

The work of restructuring moves forward! We have had good participation for our new teams: Worship & Education; Outreach, Mission & Caregiving; Property & Finance. This week, Session and the Vision Team will meet and part of our agenda is to share how we see the process going. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for specific teams - if you haven't, please add your name to the large chart in the sanctuary.

You will receive an email with a sign-up for your offering of time and skills. Please let us know as soon as you can the specific activities you would like to participate in. You will receive a 'job description' for the activities you have signed up for. We have tried to break them into manageable parts, and to give a clear idea of what each activity entails. We hope this will encourage you to join in the life of the church in a way that excites you! We will also be posting the information on our website, so you can review activities at any time. Of course, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call/text/email me!

Just last night we had the first gathering for our four-part study of privilege. Twenty-three people attended! We continue to provide a safe place for our community to have difficult conversations, a place where people can challenge themselves and grow in both their personal and spiritual life. Please take advantage of these opportunities! The comment I hear most often from people who do is that they were tired at the end of a long day and didn't think they would enjoy another activity, but they found it energized and encouraged them, and they were happy they had come.

I would also like to ask you to continue the discipline of praying for the life of our church, and for our part in making the hope of God visible in our community. At 7:00 each evening, please take just a few minutes to pray. When we pray together as the Body of Christ, it strengthens us and helps to give us direction. See how far we have come in the last two years - I believe this is the result of faithful prayer, which is the beginning point for the faithful work which has been done.

So many things are happening at WPC. There is great excitement and there are also challenges ahead. In her book *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success: How We Can Learn to Fulfill Our Potential*, Carol S. Dweck points out that a "growth mindset" takes the attitude that challenges (and even mistakes) are great opportunities for learning. Think of the first disciples, and all they had to learn! They certainly made mistakes. Peter seems to have taken the lead in that, and was even reprimanded by Jesus for a few, but in the end he learned the most valuable lesson of all - that to love God's people is to love Godself.

Thank you for being a family of learners! Blessings,
Pastor Lorelei

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Rev. Lorelei Kay
Westminster Presbyterian Church
151 State Highway 564, Gallup, NM
Church Email: wpcgallup.org
Church Phone: 505.905.3247
www.wpcgallup.org

NEW BOOK STUDY IN FEBRUARY ----- Join us for a book study/ discussion group on **"The Great Divorce"** by C.S. Lewis this February (4 weeks). If you aren't familiar with the book, don't be fooled by the title. This entertaining parable explores issues of grace, judgement, and religion, and is less than 150 pages. You can buy the book used, new, or on Kindle for around \$10 - \$13 on Amazon or Thriftbooks.com. This book has been around a while, so you might know someone who can lend you their copy. We will be meeting from 4:00 – 5:30 pm Sunday evenings at Lorelei's house. February 3, 10, 17, and 24. Contact Juliana if you plan to attend or if you have questions at (616) 502-9681 or Juliana.networking@gmail.com.

Study on Privilege and Race

Friday Nights – Potluck and Discussion (6:30 pm)

February 1: discussion of the book **"Waking Up White"** by Debby Irving [ISBN 978-0-9913313-0-7], chapters 1-3 at Pastor Lorelei's home (509 Cactus Road)
February 8: [Waking Up White](#), chapters 4-6
February 15: [Waking Up White](#), chapters 7-9
Please call Pastor Lorelei to RSVP, sign up for the potluck, or for more information! (505) 290-5357

Around the Church at Christmas Time:



Loren Omoth

Loren played the organ for our service December 9, and we are looking forward to having him as one of our regular musicians.





December Session Summary

- Meeting held **December 13, 2018** at Pam and Sharna's house.
- A festive desert celebration to honor Deacons who have served the church long and well. Heather Nasi could not make the meeting, but Eryn Hannink, Barbara Paredes, and Nicole Jones enjoyed some delicious desert and fellowship with the session.
- Resignation from session was received, with regrets, from Juliana Stravers. She was thanked for her service, and then left the meeting.
- Resignation as Treasurer was received from Valdine Brower effective January 18, 2019.
- Certificates of Membership Transfer were accepted for Anna Redsand and Lauren Heredia.
- Pam Burgess has accepted the position of Clerk of Session for one year.
- Approvals of dates for communion for the year 2019, the special offerings for 2019, the 2019 budget which will be presented to the congregation at the 2nd half of the annual meeting in January.
- Pastor's report: Pastor's activities since the last session meeting were reviewed.
- A lengthy building report was received from Sharna Sutherin including various bids she had asked for.
- The vision team report from Pam Burgess was received reporting that she will step down as chair for 2019.
- The next regular session meeting will be January 30, 2019 at the church.
- Team meetings for next year:
 - Jan 9..... Worship and Education
 - Jan 16.....Outreach, Mission, Care Giving
 - Jan 23.....Property, Finance
 - Jan 30.....Session, Vision Team

J. Mezoff

Lee and Valdine are Moving Away

Lee and Valdine came to Gallup in 1978 with one child and found Westminster Presbyterian Church. Valdine said that they were looking for a church home. They had two more girls and raised their family within the church family. Lee has been a Ruling Elder quite a few times, and a Deacon, and has served on many of the committees of the church. Valdine has been a Deacon, also a Ruling Elder many times and most recently Clerk of Session and the Church Treasurer all at the same time.

They are escaping the cold weather of the Colorado Plateau for the warmer climate of Southern Arizona. They are moving to Casa Grande which is a little south of Phoenix.

We all wish them well, and wish them Godspeed in finding a community in their new location.



A special cake honoring Lee and Valdine's long participation in the WPC family



Eryn Hannink presents a small but memorable gift to Lee and Valdine from Westminster

Lee and Valdine open their present
Marcia Monterroso approves



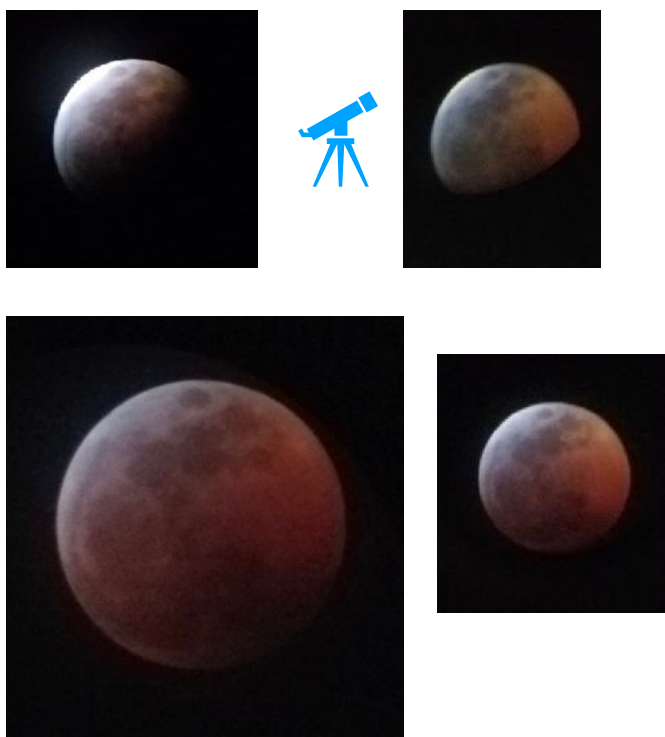
Southwest Winds Production in 2019

Kathy and I have agreed to continue to assemble and produce the church newsletter for another year. The change that I would like to make is to make the publication schedule more fluid. Since I will no longer be on session, I will not be at meetings taking notes for the publication. ***My hope is that when each of the church committees has information or announcements that they want published in the church news letter for the congregation, that someone will send it to me.*** When I have enough items to warrant a publication, then it will be assembled and published. So I envision a flexible publication schedule. We will see how well this plan works.
John and Kathy Mezoff



Rev. Diane Hill and Rev. Lorelei Kay
Pastors from Gallup at 2018 Witness

MOON PICTURES



Pictures taken by Emily Moore through her telescope of the eclipse and blood red moon on January 20, 2-19. Thanks Emily

CROP Hunger Walk Update

As previously noted the caring Gallup Community raised \$3,646 to support programs that address local food insecurity and those individuals who are victims of hurricane, earthquake, flood & fire devastation, and the many refugees worldwide. The Community Pantry received a check for **\$911.50** from Church World Service. This is the 25% local allocation. Though short of our \$1,000 goal what a great New Year's gift to the pantry from the community!

Betsy Windisch
CROP Hunger Walk Team

Sherwood Forest Farms Fund Raiser for the General Fund

Best Year Ever for Evergreen Sales!

Thank you to **everyone** who purchased an evergreen or those adorable reindeer sets this year for yourself, a family member, friends, or to help decorate the church. Our profit from the sales was **\$770.10!** This was almost double our previous profit of \$443.35 last year. Special thanks to those who helped solicit orders: **Nicole Jones and Kay & Mark Jordan.** Additional thanks to **Katy Thompson** who helped deliver orders! This year WPC sold **151** items. A special note of thanks to Katharine Nelson-Balabanis, though living in California, she continues to order gifts for family and friends across the country from this church fundraiser. For the first time this year, WPC collaborated with Harriet Adam of First United Methodist Church on case orders and remainder sales, with additional assistance from Betsy Robertson for after hours sorting and pick-up at FUMC.

Betsy Windisch

Southwest Winds, January 2019

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>

