



Southwest Winds



Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one who Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. They were running together, but the other disciples ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. Bending down to take a look he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.

John 20:1-9; CEB

Sad News From Presbytery

We received the very sad news today that the Rev. Buddy Monahan was killed in a car accident near the church that he was serving in Odessa, TX. Buddy had been a member of our presbytery until recently, serving as the Chaplain of Menaul School for 17 years. He was also involved at the national level with the Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns and Native American advocacy throughout the country. Please keep his wife Dyanna and their kids, Jordyn, Brandyn and Ashdyn, in your prayers during this very difficult time. We also pray for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Odessa, La Mesa Presbyterian in Albuquerque (where the family attended) and Menaul School.

As soon as we get more information about services, we will let you know.

Thanks,
Sharon

Covenant Commitment at Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church has added a new category of affiliation for our

congregation. Recognizing that life in Gallup, New Mexico can be relatively transient, and that there are those who are fully committed to their relationship with Westminster but might like to retain their original denominational affiliation, we conceive of an intentional, limited membership that allows people to affirm their participation in the church and to be part of the discernment and decision-making process of the congregation without becoming formal members or changing their prior denominational membership.

Therefore, **covenant commitment** is limited to one year. Each year, participants will be required to renew their commitment by signing the covenant anew.

Covenant commitment will assure participants of their open inclusion in the life of the church, their ability to serve in all aspects of church life with the exception of the ordained offices authorized by the Presbyterian Church (USA)* – ruling elders, deacons, or ministers of Word and Sacrament – and of their voice and vote at all committee or team meetings, and at meetings of the congregation. **Giving a vote to people who are not formal members of the denomination is the single significant difference between traditional membership and the covenant commitment concept.** **Covenant commitment presupposes**

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Leadership Workshop

involvement through the offering of time, resources and participation. It is not meant to be passive.

People who are already members of the congregation are welcome, but *not required*, to participate in **covenant commitment**, too. This is one way we can show our mutual support for all those who are part of this church. **Covenant commitment** in no way reduces or changes your membership, only adding your *annual affirmation* that you have chosen to be an active part of Westminster.

We, the Session of WPC, recognize that this is a new concept. We know that there will be learning in the process and are fully open to making adjustments as we reevaluate **covenant commitment** after the first year. We are taking a step in faith. We hope that all of the church's participants will help the development process by giving their positive support and thoughtful feedback. *We serve a living God, and do expect change as part of the life of the church.* We thank you for your consideration, and are thankful to serve a congregation which sees the future as a joyful adventure with Jesus as our companion!

*The polity of the Presbyterian Church (USA) prevents ordination of people who are not formal members of the denomination.

Letter to the congregation by
Rev. Lorelei Kay

New Study on Friday Night

"How Jesus Became the Christ"

A study of the biblical development of theology about Jesus and who he was, and what that means for us. Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. (RSVP to Pastor Lorelei so you can be added to the e-mail reminders and receive study information. RevLoreleiKay@gmail.com, phone 505.290.5357) The first study group will meet at the home of Pam Burgess and Sharna Sutherin (1825 Milda) on April 6 to consider the apostle Paul's understanding of Jesus. April 13 we will look at the synoptic gospels (Mark, Mathew, and Luke). April 20 will encompass the gospel attributed to John, the non-Pauline epistles, and the Revelation to John.

Saturday, March 17, 2018 your entire session, Rev. Kay, and Heather Nasi attended a two hour teaching by Gallup McKinley County Chamber of Commerce CEO, Bill Lee on the topic of Responsibilities and Duties of Non-Profit Boards. Westminster Presbyterian Church is a 501 3 (c) non-profit organization. To meet the legal criteria we have to function under the law and according to our documented policies. He reviewed the legal and ethical duties of board members and how vision statements, mission statements, and a strategic plan all guide the direction and success of an organization at arriving at its goals.

I learned about the legal responsibility of non-profit boards and took away some ideas of how a board can be more efficient.

JMM

Session Notes

Highlights for 3/8/2018

- Share and Care use of the building was reviewed, and have now departed from us.
- Anna Bond is our new accounting consultant and is helping Valdine get our financial books up to speed on the latest version of Quick Books.
- As of February 28, 2018 the bank balance was \$20,353.77; the checks that cleared the bank amounted to \$7,517.65 and the cash received was reported to be \$ 6,876.30.
- Valdine has worked the computer systems with Pay Pal so that folks can donate to the church now through Pay Pal. Once a month Pay Pal deposits are transferred to the WPC checking account.
- Session minutes and the WPC Record book will be reviewed in Albuquerque for all the items required by PCUSA on either May 5th or 6th.
- The church phone has not been working reliably, and so the phone has been switched over to Hughes-Net, who is our internet provider. Sacred Winds will no longer be our telephone land line provider.

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- The organ maintenance man made a special trip up from Texas on March 15 to do routine service on our instrument. He found no major issues. He said that the organ is standing up quite well for its age, and at this point has an indefinite life span.
- Note the ground floor bathroom remodeling with hot water from a demand water heater under the counter, a new sink and cabinet, and classy paint job, thanks to Sharna and others who painted and helped out.
- Note the changes in the entry area clothes closet. The doors were removed, stored stuff removed, repainted, and now ready for convenient placement of coats while you are in the church.

There are other things going on in the church that your editor is not aware of or not a witness to. If you had an church activity that I missed and you would like reported on, please tell me and I'll try to include it in future issues.

John Mezoff



Milo, adored by grandfather and pastor



The Path from the Labyrinth up to WPC



Remodeled upstairs rest room



The Lord is Risen!

Delegates Report from Presbytery

On February 24, Pastor Lorelei, Pam Burgess, and I attended the first of this year's Presbytery meetings. I had been appointed the "back-up" commissioner in case Valdine Brower wasn't able to attend. Members from churches throughout Northern New Mexico came together into one congregation to spend time in worship and communion together. We heard reports and stories from representatives and individuals from throughout the region about what has been going on in the lives of our congregations and communities. We celebrated a new banner representing the Belhar Confession and also celebrated the retirement of 3 faithful clergy and their many years of service. It was great to be reminded that our sacred space in Gallup is part of a larger body of passionate and faithful followers of Jesus.

We also had a discussion and small group breakout on the topic of privilege. I'm glad that we did! It became clear that many of us have a lot to learn about what privilege is all about and how it impacts our society. There is a lot of room for growth. It was also an important reminder that as

Christians we need to be willing to engage in difficult conversations publicly.

There were several committees, commissions and teams who shared ways that they are moving the mission of the Presbyterian church forward and expressed a desire for additional participation/ membership. I also received (and am passing along to the Session) a folder with information on the mission engagement activities of PCUSA.

The final portion of the meeting was devoted to adopting an overture about making public statements between Presbytery meetings. I resigned my vote to Pam Burgess as I was concerned about my stamina for my long drive home.

As the "back-up" commissioner, I was humbled by the amount of activity that happens in our presbytery and overwhelmed with the amount of information I was being asked to absorb. God willing Valdine will be able to attend the next Presbytery meeting!

Respectfully submitted,
Juliana Stravers

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Is published nearly every month as an effort to strengthen the community of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Gallup, New Mexico. This newsletter is edited by John and Kathy Mezzoff. The next **date for submissions** for the May edition is **Friday, May 4, 2018**.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Location: A mile south of the Boardman and Historic 66 Intersection on Boardman

Pastor: Rev. Lorelei Kay

Services: Sunday Morning: 10:30- 11:30 AM

Church Phone: (505) 905-3247

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Gallup, NM 87301

Physical Address: 151 State Road 564

Gallup, NM 87301

WPC Mission Statement: We are a family of believers in Jesus Christ who imperfectly embody the love of God. We desire to live in harmony with Mother Earth and all of God's creation. We are a community that cherishes and practices worship, healing, hospitality, justice, peace making, and spiritual growth. We welcome and publicly affirm all peoples as created in the image of God and invite all to join us on this journey.