



White Rock Presbyterian Church

Overlook

An informative newsletter published by the White Rock Presbyterian Church

July 2014

From the Pastor's Desk



With the passing of those two consecutive Sundays known in liturgical calendars as Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, traditional churches like ours enter a long period called "Ordinary Time" in those calendars. Ordinary Time is not "ordinary" in the usual sense. Rather, the term is given to this period of time because the Sundays are all numbered to keep

them straight. Hence we have the "Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time," which is July 6, and so on, until we reach Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) Sunday on November 23.

The liturgical color for this long stretch of Ordinary Time is green, in recognition of the growth of green plants during these summer and fall months. Ordinary Time is a time for Christians to grow in discipleship.

During the current liturgical year, Matthew is our primary gospel for Sunday readings. I have a deep affection for the Gospel of Matthew, because he refuses to let us off the hook when it comes to discipleship. Try reading the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7) without being convicted, and perhaps chastened, by what Jesus calls us to do and to be as his followers, and especially his followers in community with one another.

One thread that runs through Matthew's tapestry of teachings on discipleship is the call for individuals to voluntarily assume positions of lesser authority or power in their communities. In one passage (Matthew 19:30) Jesus reassures his disciples that they will be rewarded, in the end, for their sacrifices on his behalf: "Many who are last will be first, but the first will be last." He echoes that statement more forcefully in the next chapter, in the parable of the laborers. You may remember that in this parable the

laborers in a vineyard are all paid the same wage, even though some have worked longer than others. Jesus concludes the parable with the saying, "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." (Matthew 20:16)

In chapter 18, the disciples come to Jesus and ask him who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? (They should have known better than that.) Jesus brings a little child in the middle of the group and tells them that instead of seeking greatness, they must become like children or they will never enter the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:4)

The mother of James and John comes to Jesus and asks him to grant that her two sons may sit at his right and left hand when he comes into his kingdom. (She should have known better than that.) The other ten disciples are a bit miffed over this request. He says to them, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:25-28)

I will be the first to grant that this intentional reversal of status is exceedingly difficult for most if not all of us. Our very genes prompt us to promote ourselves over others. Matthew won't let us off the hook. Jesus won't let us off the hook. We are to intentionally make ourselves last, to humble ourselves, to be slaves to others.

I am convinced that, while the most immediate application of these passages is to life in the Christian community (like WRPC), they also apply to the task of making disciples, in the sense of welcoming new people into the sheepfold of Christ (which may also be WRPC). To repeat a phrase you will often hear from me, "It's not about us. It's about them." It's about those outside the sheepfold who do not yet know the joy and thrill of loving Christ, being in relationship with

Christ, dedicating their lives to Christ. So it is that even projects like upgrading our physical facilities are not about us, at least in my understanding. Projects like that are intended to demonstrate our warm and loving welcome to those who may, for the first time in their lives, be wandering through our doors, wondering what these Christians are all about, what this Christ is all about.

Yes, even to them, I believe, we are called by Jesus to be last, to be humble, to be slaves.

On the discipleship journey with you,
Pastor John

WRPC Contact Information

White Rock Presbyterian Church is located at 310 Rover Boulevard, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544. The pastor, Rev. John Guthrie, can be reached at 505-709-8207 or by email at jguthrie@wrpchurch.com. Our church office administrator, Gillian Erickson, can be contacted at the church office (672-3682) Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. You may email her anytime at officemanager@wrpchurch.com.

Office Hours for Gillian Erickson
Tuesdays and Thursdays only, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Letter from the Editor

On my recent trip to Africa I was fortunate enough to visit Victoria Falls. Near the falls on the Zimbabwean side there is a monument and statue of David Livingstone. If you are like me you learned in school that David Livingstone was a famous explorer devoted to searching for the source of the Nile River and, after having been lost for a number of years, was found by Henry Morton Stanley, who greeted him with the immortal phrase, “Dr. Livingstone, I presume.” However, David Livingstone is, even today, a folk hero to the people of central and southern Africa. Clearly there is more to the man than I learned in school. So I decided to investigate and here (briefly) is what I found.

Dr. Livingstone was in fact a Christian missionary; his first expedition to Africa was supported by the London Missionary Society. Unlike other Europeans at the time (mid-nineteenth century), Livingstone treated the African people with respect and learned their languages and customs. His motto, inscribed on the base of his statue was, “Christianity, Commerce, and Civilization.” By establishing commerce and implementing Christian missions he hoped to improve the Africans’ standard of living, raise their esteem

in the eyes of the Europeans, and provide an alternative to the slave trade. Some progress was made but commerce was limited by the wild and untamed nature of the Zambezi River.

While Livingstone is remembered as one of the great missionaries in Africa, he is only known to have actually converted one person. However, that person was Sechele, who was the chief of the Kwena people of Botswana. Sechele’s conversion led to many others. Furthermore, as Livingstone supported his efforts by writing books and pamphlets about his travels, many other Europeans were encouraged to engage in missionary activities in southern Africa. Partly as a result of these activities much of this part of Africa became Christian and remains so even today.

Southern and central Africa in the middle of the nineteenth century was the epicenter of the human slave trade. The American slave trade was only a part of this; the Arab slave markets were equally brutal and inhumane. Livingstone was appalled at the way Africans were treated by the slavers and by Europeans in general. It is recorded that at one time, after observing the massacre of some 400 Africans by slavers, he was so affected that for a period of months he could not continue his explorations. Through his many writings and through those of his supporters he did everything he could to expose the suffering caused by the slave trade and to try to end it. While David Livingstone didn’t live to see the end of the African slave trade, the outcries raised by his writings and those of his contemporaries ultimately prompted the British government to act. When Britain threatened a naval blockade of Zanzibar, the sultan finally moved to close down the Arab slave markets forever.

Livingstone died in 1873 in Africa. His remains were returned to England and buried in Westminster Abbey. His epitaph reads,

“Brought by faithful hands over land and sea, here rests David Livingstone, missionary, traveler, philanthropist, born March 19, 1813, at Blantyre, Lanarkshire, died May 1, 1873, at Chitambo’s village, Ulala. For 30 years, his life was spent in an unwearied effort to evangelize the native races, to explore the undiscovered secrets, to abolish the desolating slave trade of Central Africa. Where with his last words he wrote, ‘All I can add in my solitude is may Heaven’s rich blessings come down to everyone, American, English, or Turk, who will help heal the open sore of the world.’”

And so it is not surprising that David Livingstone remains a folk hero in central and southern Africa and, according to a 2002 UK-wide vote, is remembered as one of the top 100 most influential Britons.

Dick Heaton

Session News

Community visibility and facility improvements continue to be the objects of much attention by the Session. At the June meeting decisions were made to begin communicating WRPC's activities in the LA Daily Post on a weekly basis beginning in August with the announcement of our Garage Sale; this advertising will run at least through Christmas. Soon we will begin sponsoring a Sunday morning radio broadcast on Station KRSN; this will be a four month trial. You can get a sample of what's planned for the KRSN broadcasts on the WRPC website. Both of these efforts are expected to give a positive boost to our community visibility.

See an article elsewhere in this issue of the Overlook for more information on planned facility improvements.

In the June Overlook we reported on the election of officers of the Corporation of White Rock Presbyterian Church for the year June 2014 – May 2015. At the June Session meeting Ministry leadership assignments for the coming year were decided. Incoming Session member Rod McCabe will lead the Service Ministry, while Terry Buxton (Support Ministry), Joyce Haven (Equipping Ministry), and Vernon Kerr (Fellowship Ministry) will continue in the leadership roles they have previously filled.

Note also that Elder Terry Buxton has agreed to represent the Session on the Church Nominating Committee for 2014; he will chair the Committee. Members-at-large of the 2014 Church Nominating Committee are Joan Barr, Dick Heaton, and Lori Kelley, all elected by the Congregation at its annual meeting on January 26, 2014. The Committee will be completed by selection of a Deacons' representative by the Board of Deacons.

George Callaghan

General Assembly

Some Thoughts from the Pastor

Elsewhere in this edition of the Overlook you will find an article on the recent PC(USA) General Assembly written by the editorial staff of *The Presbyterian Outlook*, an independent voice on things Presbyterian for many decades. *The Outlook* has done an exemplary job, in my opinion, of summarizing in few words the major decisions coming out of the General Assembly.

If recent past history of WRPC is any indicator, there will be an array of responses among you regarding the more controversial GA decisions. It is important to keep in mind

that all of us, members and friends of WRPC, are not of one mind on those issues.

So what do these decisions portend for the immediate future of our church? Since, to the best of my current knowledge, none of them impact White Rock Presbyterian immediately, my emphatic encouragement is for us to continue on the way we have sensed God calling us: a continuation of ministry in Christ's name to our community and to the world; a deep dedication to loving others and loving God; and a commitment to discerning what God is calling us to be and do in order to revitalize and renew our church so that we can continue ministry and mission, with joyful vigor, for many years to come.

You are encouraged to share your thoughts on the recent GA decisions with any member of the Session, including me. Your prayers for White Rock Presbyterian Church and for the Presbyterian Church (USA) are always most sincerely valued.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor John

New Beginnings

Small Groups Start in August!

The time is almost here! The series of six weekly small group meetings that are central to the New Beginnings revitalization process will begin in August. The New Beginnings Team (Christine Haven, Bob Reinovsky, Jennifer Holmes, Ken Holmes, Nancy Guthrie, and John Guthrie) will be establishing a schedule for those weekly meetings in the next couple of weeks, in the attempt to maximize participation by members and friends of WRPC. We anticipate the formation of three small groups meeting on different days and times during the week.

We realize that travel and other conflicts may cause you to miss one or more of the weekly meetings, but we encourage your attendance for as many as you can possibly manage. Some have asked us if, due to a schedule conflict, they may attend the meeting of another small group (other than their regular group) in a particular week. The answer is absolutely, "yes."

As a recap from the longer description of the meetings that appeared in the June edition of The Overlook, here is a quick listing of the meeting topics.

- Session 1. Vitality and Discipleship
- Session 2. Interpreting the Assessment Report
- Session 3. Examining Our Community
- Session 4. Our Church in God's Mission
- Session 5. Discovering Our Options

- Session 6. Navigating Change

Remember that the ideas and visions that emerge from these meetings will be used by the New Beginnings Team and the Session to identify particular projects, ministries, missions, and directions for the future of White Rock Presbyterian Church, and for the renewal and revitalization of our church. Your prayers for the New Beginnings process are most certainly welcome.

Pastor John

PW News

Presbyterian Women are taking a break from our usual activities for the summer. The weekly Bible Study group continues to meet. Contact Carol Honig for schedule.

We are a small group. However, continuing to support our mission projects is important to us. Some of the “budget projects” we have done in the past are no longer feasible so we are trying something new.

If interested, take time to look through the “book cart” on Sunday during the coffee fellowship time. Take a book for a small donation and/or donate books you might want to pass on. Also, if you have an abundance of garden produce you would like to share, please bring it on Sunday to display for others to take for a small donation. Your donations will allow us to continue to support Presbytery and a child in India through Child Fund. Thank you for all your support.

Looking ahead to Fall, we are eager to sponsor again our “Soup-er Supper. All donations from this go to support hunger-relief organizations. We also look forward to another “cookie sharing” for the Crisis Center Family Shelter in Espanola. Your fresh-baked cookies are a special delight for the children and are equally appreciated by individuals attending weekly mandated counseling sessions.

Much appreciated are your donations of product **Labels for Education**, including: Bic, Campbell’s, Franco-American, Pace, Pepperidge Farm, Post Cereals, Prego SpaghettiOs, Swanson, V-8, and Wolfgang Puck. We also appreciate **Box Tops for Education**, including Betty Crocker, Bisquick, Juicy Juice, Cheerios, Chex, Green Giant, Pillsbury, Hamburger Helpers, Old El Paso, Progresso, Ziploc, Avery, and Hefty. Complete lists of accepted products can be found online or by the donation basket on the table in the hallway.

We pray for safe travels and happy summers with family and friends.

Joyce Berzins

Operation Christmas Child

It's not too early to start thinking of purchasing or preparing items for our 2nd annual Operation Christmas Child (OCC) packing party. I'm sure you've probably heard the phrase “Christmas in July.” It was suggested to me to start a “kick-off” of OCC in July to start collecting needed supplies. Each month we will have a collection of different items for packing in our shoeboxes.

For instance, July is usually the start of summer clearance sales so stores can gear up for back to school clothes and items. Watch for good buys on short sleeve t-shirts. Also places like Hobby Lobby, Joann Fabrics, Michael’s, Walmart, and Target start to get rid of their summer craft/camp items as well as summer toys, like jump ropes, stamp & ink pad sets, coloring books, kazoos, yoyos, ball caps, sunglasses, etc.

In August we'll be collecting school supplies of all kinds and usually kids socks and underwear are good buys.

In September look for hygiene items, such as washcloths, soaps, combs, hairbrushes, etc.

During October search for toys, like small cars, balls, dolls, harmonicas, small Etch-A-Sketch pads, watches, flashlights, etc.

I will put a collection box out each month. Be alert to good buys when you're out shopping. Pick out those special things you've always enjoyed putting in your box for a special child.

By the way, if you have any empty shoeboxes around, I am collecting those too!

Contact me if you have suggestions or questions.

Mary Medendorp

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

July Birthdays



Ken Wilson	1
Glenn Clemons	7
Sumner Barr	12
Carol Fujii	16
Hayden Meadows	17
Max Goettee	18
Dick Heaton	18
Darren Meadows	19
Veronica Kelley	30
Griffin McCabe	30

WRPC Rummage Sale August 23

The Service ministry is having a church wide Rummage Sale on Saturday, August 23! This is coming up soon, so you need to start getting your items ready to donate.

The purpose of the Rummage Sale is:

1. to raise money for our Service Ministry projects,
2. to benefit people in our and neighboring communities, and
3. to help all of you to get rid of usable stuff you no longer need, or want.

There are a lot of things that need to be done, so as August gets closer, expect to be approached to sign up in various ways.

Here are some ways that you can help in getting your items ready:

1. If it has some real value – mark it as such (suggest a price if you can/wish).

2. To maximize the salability of donated items (plus minimize our work effort), please have your items as clean and neat as possible – dusted, folded, and washed. Put small items in Ziploc bags so they don't get lost or overlooked in your box or bag.
3. If you have items that are in good condition but in need of minor repair or work, PLEASE label it with that information.
4. Bring items early the week-end before the sale, so that we'll be able to get everything organized early in the week.

We suggest you go through your cupboards, closets, drawers, garage, shed, attic, etc. to see if you have any of the items listed below (not all inclusive), that you no longer need or want.

Suggested Items for rummage sale:

- Clothes-of all kinds
- Coats, jackets, sweats, swimwear
- Shoes, socks, boots, hose, slippers, robes
- Purses, backpacks, luggage
- Jewelry, scarves, belts, hats, gloves, ties
- Baby, Children & teens clothes & related items
- Toys & games for all ages, stuffed animals, puzzles
- Books, magazines, office-school supplies
- Wrapping paper, gift bags, bows, ribbons, greeting cards
- Holiday items, candles
- Pet related items
- Hobby or arts & craft items, yarn, sewing supplies, fabric, cross-stitch
- Electronics, stereos, TVs, DVDs, CDs, VHS tapes
- Auto Supplies
- Tools of all kinds
- Bikes, scooters, kids riding toys
- Bed & Bath items, linens, towels, sheets (mark sheets, blankets as to size)
- Tablecloths, napkins, placemats, kitchen towels
- Large & small appliances
- Furniture, lamps
- Household goods – drapes, curtains, blinds (mark size on them)
- Decor, frames & pictures, wall hangings
- Glassware, utensils, cookware, dishes
- Vases, canning jars, baskets, tins
- Sporting goods, camping equipment
- Picnic/holiday paper plates, cups, napkins, plastic-ware
- Garden tools, pots, plants, & yard items, bird feeders
- House plants, perennials
- Any other miscellaneous items. Old eyeglasses

Remember, “One man's JUNK is another man's TREASURE!”

A New Bulletin Board

Our new Facility Committee is exploring ways to both improve the safety and functionality of our facilities and to update our appearance. The old bulletin board in the hallway, an enduring friend that has served the WRPC family for many years, is entering a well-deserved retirement. Like the good steward that it has been, the old bulletin board is not entering retirement without training up a new, young, and energetic replacement. The new, digital bulletin board is installed and working.

If you have something to share you can send material to Gill at officemanager@wrpchurch.com or to Bob Reinovsky at reinovsky@att.net. The Facility Committee includes Joyce Haven, Nancy Guthrie, Susan Buxton and Craig Kelley.

Bob Reinkovsky

Parking Lot Project

Since mid-April, Glenn Clemons has been spearheading a project to repair our parking lot--all while working on the grounds on the other side of the church buildings. Work to fill cracks started the end of April and squeegeeing on the resurfacing sealcoat was completed on June 28 by a multitude of volunteer work hours from 20 WRPC friends and members. Striping of the parking stalls will take place in early July.



Volunteers squeegeeing the final 935 gallons of resurfacing material to seal the parking lot.

You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism.

Erma Bombeck

Church Facilities

Some Thoughts from the Pastor Part 1

In March I attended a workshop on the New Beginnings process with several members of White Rock Presbyterian Church. The workshop was intended to give us a better understanding of the process and the ways in which it could benefit our particular church.

A couple of brief sound bites from the workshop remain with me. (1) "Every institution is ideally suited to achieving the results it has been achieving." (2) "Here's the definition of insanity: doing the same thing over and over, and expecting the results to be different."

I am constantly engaged by a number of the remarks written in the "Extended Mission Statement" drafted by your Session and ratified in March of 2013. Here is one of the most cogent of those remarks: "Our vision is to carry forward this mission for decades to come, growing in both numbers and spiritual maturity as a Christian community, grounded in the scripture and tradition of the church. To realize our vision, we seek to REVITALIZE our congregation and GROW so that we will have the resources of heads, hands, hearts, and material resources needed to support an expanding sense of mission. Absent revitalization and growth, we know that we face continuing decline." There are a number of other points within the "Extended Mission Statement" that indicate the strong desire for WRPC to execute necessary changes in order to produce new growth in numbers and discipleship.

The recent appointment of a Facilities Planning Team by your Session is a prayerful effort by your elected leaders to pursue changes in one aspect of congregational life, that is, the facilities in which we worship, learn, meet, fellowship, and minister. It is legitimate to ask whether large-scale facility changes are necessary in order for WRPC to revitalize and grow. My answer to that question is a resounding "yes." I also believe it is possible and surely desirable to renew and revitalize physical facilities while maintaining respect for WRPC tradition and history.

Nancy and I have twice attended a conference sponsored by the Ginghamburg Methodist Church just outside of Dayton, Ohio, a church which grew from less than 100 members to more than 5,000 in about 20 years or so. Ginghamburg is one of the most missional churches you will find, requiring every member to find some form of service in the church or the world, and donating millions of dollars over the past decade to various causes, but especially aid to Darfur in terms of education, clean water, agriculture, education, and child safety.

So are facilities important to a church driven so much by mission as Ginghamburg is? Kim Miller has served in

various volunteer capacities on worship and facility teams at Ginghamburg for twenty years. Here's what she writes in *Redesigning Churches: Creating Spaces for Connection and Community*: "You see, what I know now is that how our church buildings are cared for, how the gardens are weeded, how the glass shines, how the spaces are intentionally designed – these details all whisper to human guests that they will or will not be cared for." In a chapter entitled "God in the Details" she writes, "Great design – and our subsequent calling – is not to impress our guests with all our dazzling efforts but to prepare places where people can experience connection to God and community with others in the best way possible."

There is too much to say with respect to facility changes in our particular context, for one newsletter article. I will continue these thoughts in the August edition of *The Overlook*. Here's what I have tried to convey here:

1. Change is necessary in order for growth to happen. We do not have the option of continuing to do (exactly) the same things if growth is our goal.
2. WRPC's "Extended Mission Statement" relays a strong desire to change in accordance with God's purposes for our church.
3. I am convinced that change for WRPC includes changes to our physical facilities, while maintaining respect for tradition. (More on this in August.)
4. Both members/friends of WRPC, and our visitors/guests are affected by the appearance and state of the spaces in which we gather.

Blessings,
Pastor John

The New Colossus

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glowed world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Emma Lazarus (1883)

THE 221ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) DETROIT, MICHIGAN — JUNE 14-21, 2014

A report by *The Presbyterian Outlook*

by

LESLIE SCANLON, *Outlook* national reporter
and JACK HABERER, *Outlook* editor

Following years of debate, the 2014 General Assembly decided to act — choosing to divest from three American companies whose products support Israel's occupation of Palestine, and granting PC(USA) ministers permission to perform same-sex marriages in civil jurisdictions where such marriages are legal.

Realizing that their actions would please some and alienate others both in the United States and overseas, commissioners also pleaded for reconciliation with those who would disagree. "In no way is this a reflection of a lack of love for our Jewish brothers and sisters," moderator Heath Rada said immediately after the divestment vote, one of the first by an American mainline Protestant denomination.

Asked after the votes on same-sex marriage how much it would cost to send representatives to each presbytery for conversations about unity, Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons said he wasn't sure, but "the cost of not doing this is higher."

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASSEMBLY

MODERATOR. The committee chose as its moderator Heath Rada (christened #modeRada on Twitter), the only ruling elder among three candidates, and a hearty North Carolinian who selected as his vice-moderator his demographic opposite, Larissa Kwong Abazia, a young Chinese-American pastor from New York. From the start, the young adult advisory delegates (YAADs) resonated with the white-haired Rada, who passed out Heath bars and danced during breaks on the platform.

DIVESTMENT. Two years after a GA rejected a similar proposal by just two votes, commissioners gasped when the divestment vote result was posted – 310-303 – for a proposal that the PC(USA) begin phased divestment of about \$16.5 million from three companies that provide equipment used by the Israeli military in the occupation of Palestine: Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions. The assembly did specify that its action was "not to be construed" as support of the global Boycott, Divest and Sanction (BDS) movement.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. In response to the contention that the denomination's restrictions were impeding pastors' ability to provide pastoral care to committed same-sex couples in their churches, the GA approved two measures to permit ministers to perform same-gender marriages in jurisdictions where legal (at present, 19 states plus the District of Columbia). An

authoritative interpretation, approved 371-238 (61 percent in favor), took effect immediately after the assembly adjourned, giving PC(USA) ministers freedom of conscience to perform same-sex marriages. The assembly also voted 421-175 (71 percent in favor) to recommend for ratification by the presbyteries a constitutional amendment adjusting the definition of Christian marriage, changing the phrase “a man and a woman” to “two people, traditionally a man and a woman.” Both actions support freedom of conscience. The proposed amendment says explicitly, “Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service” that either of them “believes is contrary” to their “discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the Word of God.”

Adoption of the amendment requires ratification by 87 of the 172 presbyteries, the votes to be taken over the next 12 months.

BELHAR CONFESSION. The assembly approved recommending for presbyteries’ ratification (by two-thirds vote) adding the Belhar Confession, written in South Africa and focused on justice and reconciliation, to the PC(USA)’s Book of Confessions.

BROKEN PRESBYTERIAN RELATIONS. Already 350 churches have left the PC(USA) for other denominations over the past four years. Now more departures are expected. Also, Hunter Farrell, director of World Mission, said preliminary inquiries indicate 17 of the denomination’s 54 global-partner denominations may break relations with the PC(USA) over the same-sex marriage decision.

LANGUAGE ABOUT ISRAEL. The assembly disavowed a controversial study guide, “Zionism Unsettled,” produced by the Israel Palestine Mission Network. The commissioners overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to trim back references to Israel in liturgical materials published by the church.

GUN VIOLENCE. The assembly appealed to fellow Presbyterians to work to reduce gun violence by advocating for stricter background checks and a ban on semi-automatic assault rifles.

FOSSIL FUELS. Despite pleas from the YAADs that “we can’t wait” to protect the earth, the assembly voted not to divest from fossil fuel companies, choosing instead to explore related issues that might lead to action by a future assembly.

DRONES. The assembly passed a resolution criticizing secrecy in the U.S. military’s use of drones for surveillance and targeted attacks, calling for legislation governing the use of military drones.

YOUNG ADULT COMMISSIONERS? A proposal to turn YAADs into voting YACs failed, given that the new title would not require them to be ordained elders.

MID COUNCILS. The assembly approved consolidating the number of synods from the current 16 to somewhere between 10 and 12 reconfigured synods.

*For complete reporting, go to www.presoutlook.org.
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A song of Ascents

*I lift up my eyes to the hills —
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

*He will not let your foot slip —
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The LORD watches over you —
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

*The LORD will keep you from all harm —
he will watch over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.*

Psalm 121

Meet Mission Co-Workers Jeff and Christi Boyd



As regional liaison for Central Africa, Jeff Boyd facilitates partnerships between the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and churches in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea.

Besides the Congo, Christi Boyd works in three other French-speaking African countries, Madagascar, Niger, and Rwanda, and one non-French-speaking country, South Sudan. Her work seeks to remedy the marginalization of women and children in their communities, and to engage with Presbyterian constituencies in the U.S. that wish to come alongside and promote those efforts.

Jeff, a former math teacher, brings to his duties as regional liaison more than two decades of experience as an educator in the United States, Pakistan and Africa. Education is a priority for the partner churches with whom he works. Jeff says his agenda is guided by “what the local partner is already doing or is committed to do.”

Though trained as a physical therapist, Christi has longstanding experience bringing people together to address root causes of hunger and poverty. Having completed 13 years as facilitator for the Joining Hands Initiative in Cameroon, she has particular expertise in building bridges that connect people and tackle problems of a globalizing world.

Since arriving in Africa in 1990, the Boyds have lived in Tanzania, Cameroon, and are now in Congo for the second time.

Most of the countries where Jeff and Christi work are rich in natural resources but only a small and powerful segment of the population benefits from the revenues they produce. In fact, poverty is rampant, educational access is limited, and disease is widespread.

In the Congolese village of Zapo-Zapo, parents proudly send their children to a new Presbyterian school complex that was built thanks to joint Presbyterian efforts brought together

with Jeff’s help. A new Presbyterian education initiative in Congo began when Jeff connected the national leadership of the Presbyterian Community in Congo (CPC) with a couple from First Presbyterian Church in Evanston, Illinois, who were doing volunteer mission work in Congo.

Christi works with women like Julienne, a Presbyterian evangelist from the West-Kasai Province in Congo. After the death of her husband Julienne found compassion and solidarity with the CPC. Following traditional widowhood rites, her in-laws had dispossessed Julienne of her home, her farm, and her children. With support from the Presbyterian Women’s Thank Offering, the CPC is offering hope in such times of mourning and striving to curb harmful cultural practices.

Across the African continent the well-being of women and children is compromised—and authentic Christian witness undermined—by customs that send people into poverty and deprive them of their rightful opportunities. Christi helps bring together U.S. Presbyterians and African partners in order to maximize their collective mission.

Jeff, a native of California, holds a B.A. degree from Whitworth College and an M.A. degree from California State University. Christi earned her physical therapy degree from Academie voor Fysiotherapie in Groningen, The Netherlands, the country of her birth.

Jeff and Christi are the parents of three grown children, Matthias, Salome, and Naomi.

July 2014

Office hours: T, Th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm +++ 672-3682, officemanager@wrpchurch.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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<p>6</p> <p>9:15 AM Worship with the Lord's Supper</p> <p>10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 PM "Out-to-Lunch Bunch"</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Group</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 PM Journeys in Faith Dialogue</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 AM PM in the AM</p>	<p>12</p>																																																	
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