



**WE ARE THE PRESBYTERY
OF WESTERN COLORADO**

Pressing News

January—February 2015

Post Nativity

Rev. Steve Nofel

Inside this issue:

Post Nativity Continued	2
Post Nativity Continued	3
Internship	3
Prayer updates	4
Manual of Operation's	4
The Parish Paper: Our future Pastors: assessing the State of the Pipeline	5
Conti. Our Future Pastors	6
The Parish Paper: How to Avoid the Potholes on the road to Retirement	7
Conti. Retirement	8
Job Posting PILP	9
Save the Date WNLT	10
Recalibrate 2015	11
Omaha Pastors School	11

The Montezuma Valley Presbyterian Church in Cortez gifted the four corners community with a life-sized Nativity presentation all of Advent and through Christmas in 2014.

For a full year we focused on the coming of Jesus Christ. It was a labor of love, a witness to whom and what we believe, a gift to our neighborhood, an inspiration for church members and a vehicle of inspiration, renewal and invigoration of our worship and ministry. We were immersed in a season of dedication, hard work, Bible study, worship, discernment, and renewal.

The idea for it all came in December of 2013 during an intense time of physical frailty. The idea came when members of our church went to Phoenix and saw a life-sized Nativity display made of plywood and were instantly enchanted and inspired. The immediate reaction was to say (and maybe even believe) “We can do this!” Suddenly we had a project and no real idea that, indeed, it would enliven our faith, or fulfill the call to “Go out to all the world... in my name.” Matthew 28:19.

We worked on this for over a year. Over thirty figures were cut out of plywood, stuccoed to give them texture, and hand painted. It was put up in the backyard of the church manse on Sunday, November 30 and was available for people to see all of December. Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday night, we invited the community to walk through it from 6 to 8 p.m.

Each group that walked through received an original children’s book

(Continued from page 1)

written by Pastor Steve Nofel and illustrated by member Sheryl Bruce. It was the story of Anawim the Christmas Lamb (Anawim meaning 'Little one who depends on God.')

This Nativity was meant as a gift for the whole community, but it revitalized our whole church family. It became a growing year for our congregation.

Hundreds of hours went into making the Nativity backed by our prayer warriors praying especially for those who would experience Christ in a new and deeper way.

The project was funded by the money we received when we were awarded the Al Ruth Award for Evangelism and Outreach in 2013. We thank Western Colorado Presbytery for making this a reality.

We were also able to record and broadcast the Christmas story on a low watt FM station. Pastor Steve Nofel recorded the narration over original music by Stacey Baxter.

In the end it was a growing and incredible experience. However it didn't go quite as planned.

You remember Jim Nabors as Gomer Pyle often yelling out: "Surprise, surprise, surprise!" This sums up how we experienced the actual presentation of the Nativity in December 2014.

There were only a few people each of the weekend nights we were "open" who parked and walked through the scene. It probably averaged less than a dozen per night.

BUT, we were not disappointed by the amount of traffic.

One after another cars would drive up to the fence and stop. They would sit there anywhere from a few seconds to several minutes. They would look at the scene and listen to the story either through their car radios or through the speakers. From dusk until around 7:30 – 8:00 each night the traffic, while never heavy, was steady.

One absolute highlight was a toddler who kept going back and hugging the figures. She stayed nearly 45 minutes gazing in wonder, jabbering, smiling and embracing the whole scene.

On the first several nights, we thought it would be a good idea to approach the sitting cars offering our cookies and kid's book. Each time the cars would drive off – quickly.

Pastor Kim, who tried several times to help people move out of their car, finally came back laughing after one attempt saying, "It is like trying to sneak up on a deer in the woods." The only word that came to mind for the people in those in the stopped cars was skittish.

It is hard to say why so many people came and so few either welcomed our approaching their car or actually got out and walked through the display. Pastor Steve Nofel has theorized that yes, people want to be a part of the Nativity. They want Jesus to come into their lives. Especially if they never have had a personal relationship with Him, it can be frightening. It can be frightening to talk to someone about Christ, their faith and your spark of faith. We want Jesus, just can't be sure how to go about having him.

On Wednesday, December 31, 2014, we took down the Nativity. Then on first Sunday of 2015 we put it all away in the shed behind the church.

It left a hole for many of us. End to end we had been working on, thinking about, sharing, discussing, and praying over the Nativity 13 full months. It had become the center of many of our lives and the center of the faith life of our congregation. Many of us have been left asking: O.K. Lord, now what? Pastor Steve addressed in his sermon the day

(Continued from page 2)

we put our “guys” in the shed.

Some spent a year working on the Nativity. Now it is done.

O.K. Lord, what’s next?

O.K. Lord, what do you want me to do?

We need to be willing to be led by the Spirit into the wilderness of uncertainty. We need to be willing not to have all the answers this morning. We need to go into the desert of doubt. Take time alone to pray, study, and live in retreat. Who has time? Who has the wherewithal? Who can do it?

As Jesus often did, get yourself alone with God. Take some quiet time and talk to your Father in heaven. Just put yourself in God’s presence. Review your life, your faith life, how you are doing. Don’t worry read the Bible. Don’t take big chunks, but small bites. Go slow and take your time answering the question: O.K. Lord about “talking to God” as much as you can just be in the Lord. That can be just a minute or two or for however long you need or can sit quietly. Also , now what?



Deb Kennedy and Maxine Baker working on some of the figures.



Ed Duran taking some measurements as he prepares to build the stable.



John Thompson heading up the crew stringing lights on a 30 pine that help illumine the Nativity.



The cover page of the children’s book given away at the Nativity.



Sheryl Bruce supervising Steve Nofel and Rob Kennedy constructing a figure at the Bruce’s “Mud Creek Ranch”



Just part of the Nativity set up in the backyard of the Manse of MVPC

10-Month Internship-Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole WY

This is a wonderful opportunity to work full-time at PCJH on our Children, Youth and Family Ministry Staff. Our internship runs from September through June, with an option to work for our summer camp in July and August. We are currently accepting applications for our internship (from December 15th - February 28th). TO APPLY, PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE [APPLICATION PACKET](#). If you have any additional questions, please contact Ricky Emlyn at remlyn@pcjh.org.

Prayer Updates



Clarke Atkinson:

Clark's surgery went well and we praise God for that. Now is the time of healing for Clark and Caring for Mary. They have three specific prayers

So...3 things for Prayer since you are quite the prayer warriors!

Praise there seems to not be infection at present (pray stays that way!)

Prayers that the new bone supplement will graft in

Prayers for the partial necrosis of the tibia (dying of the main weight-bearing bone) that it can revive

And let us not to forget the overall recovery of Clark

Bob Galbraith:

Praises that Bob and Jo Etta Galbraith are home in Durango, and Prayers for comfort as Bob heals.

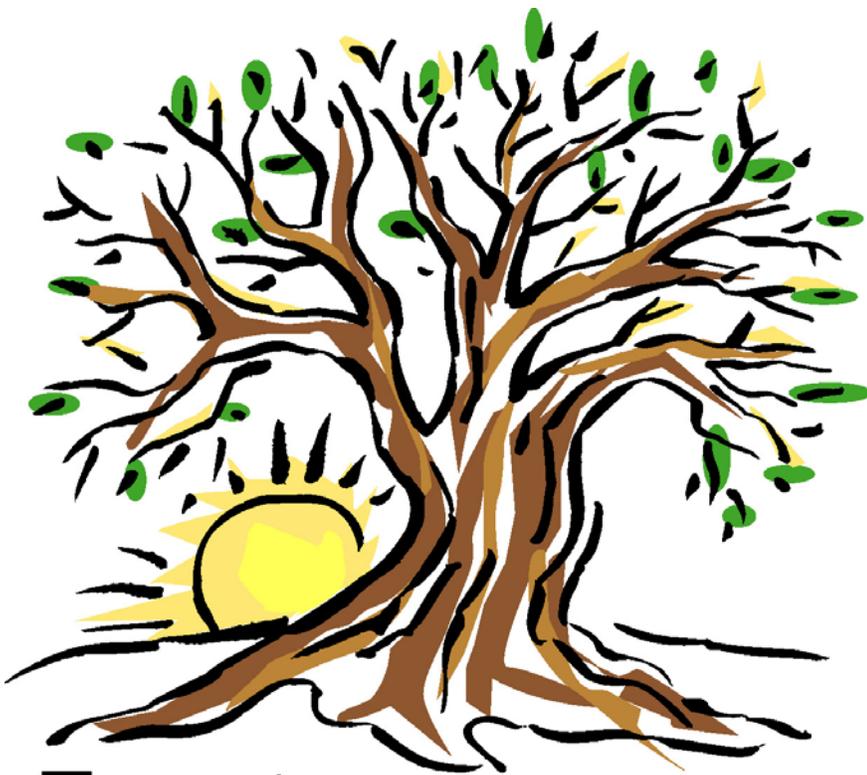
Rick and Faye Underwood:

Rick and Faye have moved temporarily to Grand Junction while Rick has been in the hospital and Rehab. Rick was moved home with Faye at the end of January which he was looking forward to. Their mailing address is P. O. Box 2354, Grand Junction, CO 81502. They appreciate all prayers and would like prayers of thanks and praise as they go forward in this journey.

Jean Gilleece: (Beth's Mother in Law)

The surgery for Jean's elbow went really well. During the follow up appointment on 2/6/2015 the surgeon felt as though she was fighting an infection in the elbow and so didn't remove the stitches. Prayers for the infection to clear up and for Beth and Jim as they work through the decisions of care for Jean as it isn't safe for her to stay by herself any longer.

Remember the 2015 Round of Prayer and keep praying !



Lent

Correction for the Manual of Operations 2015

In the Manual of Operations the date for the September Meeting should be September 25-26, Friday and Saturday.

If you are in need of a Manual of Operations there are several ways to receive one. Contact one of the cluster leaders they have both Printed and cd's of the Manual. You can contact Beth in the office she can mail, or email you a copy. There will also be manuals at the Council meeting in March.

THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Editor: Cynthia Woolever - www.TheParishPaper.com

January 2015 - Volume 23, Number 1

Copyright © 2015 by Cynthia Woolever

Our Future Pastors: Assessing the State of the Pipeline

Significant trends suggest that attracting and preparing people for pastoral leadership is becoming more difficult. What obstacles stand in the way of supplying congregations with the kind of leadership required in the future?

Their Preparation for Ministry

Those who wish to be congregational leaders typically obtain the Masters of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) lists a membership of 275 schools, with enrollment of around 30,000 M.Div. students. Currently, two out of three M.Div. graduates seek to serve in parish ministry.¹

Seminary enrollments peaked in 2006, but have declined about one percent annually since. Student enrollments reflect the changing religious environment—declining attendance, weakening denominational support, and financial challenges. Those tracking seminary enrollments do not predict substantial growth of the student population over the next ten years.²

Question: Two trends stand out in theological education—a declining number of people attending seminary and a decreasing number of current ministry students planning to seek a pastoral position. Will there be an adequate supply of seminary-trained pastors to meet the demand in the future? It is not clear because two other trends stand out in the context of the local congregation. Currently, the average age of pastors is 55; therefore, the number of retirements will rise, creating vacancies. With the shrinking size of many congregations, fewer churches will be able to employ a full-time pastor after the retirement of their current one. How will these trends affect congregational needs for pastoral leadership?

The Demographics of Current Students

The profile of those seeking theological education shifted in terms of average age, gender, race, ethnicity, and marital status over the past decade. The enrollment decline in recent years is almost entirely linked to a falloff in white student enrollments.³

Over the same period, the percentage of Hispanics enrolled increased by 50 percent; the African-American percentage grew by 13 percent.

Seminary enrollments show a decline for students in their twenties, thirties, and forties. However, enrollments for students fifty to sixty-five years of age grew modestly and stabilized. The cohort over sixty-five years of age continues to grow. Once overall enrollments began to fall, enrollments for women fell faster. The percentage of women currently enrolled in M.Div. programs has stabilized at about 30 percent. Further, the profile of women preparing for ministry confirms that they are more likely than men to be unmarried, older, or single parents.

Question: Today's seminary students are less likely to be mobile and able to relocate compared to students in the past. To overcome the barriers of location, seminaries opened extension centers or branch campuses, offered night and weekend classes, created "online" or "distance" education, and/or created hybrid courses using these new strategies. Will these new approaches meet the needs of underserved populations seeking to answer the call to pastoral ministry?

Why Do They Go to Seminary

Most seminary students say that they are seeking a M.Div. degree because they are responding to a call



"I SEE YOU RECEIVED YOUR SEMINARY DEGREE THROUGH A DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM..."

from God. Other reasons are important as well—a desire to serve others, to find spiritual fulfillment, for personal growth, and for intellectual development.

Pastors and other leaders spend significant amounts of time mentoring and training people for ministry. A number of seminary students named the congregation in which they grew up as a significant influence in their sense of call to ministry. They spoke of the “tap on the shoulder” by the pastor or an admired member, who recognized their gifts for ministry.⁴

Question: Some congregations emphasize a theology of vocation, which expects that God calls everyone, every day, to ministry. Other churches that practice a culture of calling, a place where people hear God’s call, are relationally healthy and create many leadership-development opportunities for both young people and adults. Does our congregation identify and nurture future ministers?

Their Financial Lives

Although the average cost of theological education is modest compared to other graduate degree programs, tuition rates prohibit many from enrolling. Students now pay an average of 88 to 139 percent more in tuition (in real, after inflation dollars) than enrolled students in 1991. Increasingly, students carry forward educational debt from their undergraduate degree, plus any amount of debt incurred during seminary. Almost two out of three students today incur some debt to complete their masters’ degree. Roughly one in four students graduate with more than \$40,000 of debt.⁵

Post-graduation debt profoundly affects the personal, family, and work lives of students. Faced with loan payments, most wish they had borrowed less. Half said that they face difficult financial circumstances. Debt-laden students report a reduction in their standard of living, postponing health care, or making the difficult choice to take a higher paying non-ministerial position (with the hope of making their loan payments).

Question: Churches of all sizes set aside annual funds, or establish endowments, for financial assistance to seminary students. Some churches also create scholarships for college students who plan to enter seminary. Many congregations develop supportive relationships with one or more of their denomination’s seminaries. What role does our church play in making seminary training more accessible and affordable?

Their Evaluation of Seminary and Preparation for Ministry

Seminaries vary in the amount and quality of vocational guidance they provide students. Some graduates feel they received little counseling about career oppor-

tunities and experienced poor placement services. As a result, they were more uncertain about seeking ordination and less knowledgeable about, and thus less interested in, congregational ministry.

M.Div. graduates said they were most satisfied with the teaching and overall academic experience, support, and accessibility of faculty, helpfulness of administration and staff, and their friendships with other students. They believe that the seminary prepared them for ministry by developing their trust in God, self-knowledge, ability to think theologically, and ability to use and interpret Scripture. They reported lower levels of satisfaction with their ability to administer a parish.⁶

Question: Some congregations offer internships—paid or unpaid—to help people practice their ministry gifts. Other churches frequently invite seminary students to preach in their pulpit or actively seek out students looking for a “first call.” Does our congregation build the kind of relationships that form bridges for individuals making the transition from theological student to pastor?

The Bottom Line

Every congregation serves the wider church by strengthening the traits that attract people to ministry in the first place. For example, leader-generating churches take seriously the task of making disciples. They also align their resources with their vision for vital ministry rather than operating in maintenance mode. By their involvement in local mission and outreach, future ministers in their midst cannot miss ministry’s relevancy to the world.

Some churches identify, support, and send out one or more future pastors each year. Others cannot claim that a single member has entered preparation for ministry during the past twenty years. Which kind of leader-sending congregation describes our church?

1. Data based on 2010 Graduating Student Survey from ATS. Sharon Miller, Director of Research, Center for the Study of Theological Education (CSTE), conversation, November 2014.

2. B. Wheeler, A. Ruger, and S. Miller, *Theological Student Enrollment*, CSTE, August 2013.

3. A. Ruger and C. Meinzer, *Through Toil & Tribulation: Financial Theological Education 2001-2011*, July 2014.

4. B. Wheeler, et al., *On Our Way: A Study of Students’ Paths to Seminary*, CSTE, February 2014, 30.

5. S. Miller, “Where’s the Pipeline: Female Students in Theological Education,” presentation at the Religious Research Association, November 2014.

6. S. Miller, “Where’s the Pipeline.”

THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Editor: Cynthia Woolever - www.TheParishPaper.com

February 2015 - Volume 23, Number 2

Copyright © 2015 by Cynthia Woolever

How to Avoid the Potholes on the Road to Retirement

Gordon, a pastor in his late sixties, ignored all the warning signs. Despite his waning energy, he believed he was the exception to every retirement rule. The congregation's anxiety grew with each passing year and concerned leaders braced for the brewing crisis. Would the pastor have a medical emergency that suddenly suspended or ended his ministry? Would the church's financial and mission vitality outlast the pastor's "treading water" years? Would the congregation eventually confront Pastor Gordon and force him to exit?¹

Big Potholes for Pastors to Avoid

If the pastor, along with the congregation, prepares for the next chapter, they likely will encounter only a few minor bumps. However, six issues repeatedly pose problems along the way.

1—The hasty or unplanned exit. One of the biggest errors is starting retirement planning too late. Pastor Mark took his first step toward retirement planning at age 50. He participated in a denominational workshop that assessed four aspects of his life linked to a healthy retirement: financial concerns, health issues, spiritual life, and call or vocation. Before addressing the latter three aspects, Pastor Mark reviewed his financial retirement package to identify an age when he could realistically retire without undue hardship. His wife took part in the planning—would she retire before, after, or about the same time? Which options would be financially possible for their family?

Once a timeline for the ideal retirement age is in place, a second assessment process begins about five years before retirement. At this point, pastors should be thinking about a number of things:

- What is the status of available retirement funds? Are we as a family still on track with our financial planning?
- Are there indications of future medical problems if some lifestyle issues are not addressed?
- What spiritual practices currently nurture my ministry that I want to carry over into retirement?

What kinds of non-church activities, interests, and friendships are being developed?

- What is my sense of call or vocational discernment now? Where do I feel my energies should be focused in the remaining years of my ministry? Where do my gifts and the church's greatest needs intersect?

Answering these questions and having an understanding of what life after work looks like is important to ease the anxiety that comes with retirement. Pastor Mark took his mentor's advice to think of retirement not as quitting but as "answering a new call, with a different income source."² He investigated volunteer opportunities for the causes he deeply cared about. Always avid travelers, he and his wife discussed the long list of places they still wanted to see. He also looked forward to spending more time with family and friends and supporting them in ways he was unable while he was in full-time ministry.

2—The "I'm indispensable" syndrome. One year before retirement a pastor should start thinking of a date when he or she will lead worship for the last time. Pastor Gordon kept postponing making this determination, even to himself, because of his concern for the church's future. He didn't think the



church could afford a full-time pastor after his retirement and worse—the church might close. But his inaction increased those probabilities.

3—*A spouse on the sideline.* Too often a spouse doesn't get to be a part of retirement planning (such as participating in workshops). If the pastor's moves dictated where the family lived, perhaps retirement is a chance for the spouse to set the agenda. Many denominations stipulate that the pastor and spouse join another church immediately upon retirement. This rule can be difficult for the spouse who loses long-term friendships and meaningful church leadership roles. Experience shows that a spouse that remains in the church suffers many awkward moments—hearing all the deserved and undeserved criticism of the new pastor—without being able to respond. In some cases, the family sells their home and relocates to a new community. If the spouse wants to keep working, that option complicates the timing of separation from the church and community.

4—*The lame duck problem.* Generally, lay leaders know the pastor's retirement is coming. In a healthy church, retirement conversations come up in the pastor's annual performance review. Every church situation is different and opinions about "best practices" vary. But the guideline for how far in advance to announce a retirement date is somewhere between three to six months. If the pastor announces earlier than six months, the church stalls because the pastor's ability to lead the flock is compromised.

5—*Unclear communication and boundary issues with the congregation.* The pastor sets the tone for this major transition and his or her attitude is what matters. The pastor should communicate hope and enthusiasm for the church's next chapter. An optimistic message of faith that the congregation will continue to live out their mission in significant ways should come from the pastor. The pastor's retirement gives everyone a time to express thanks for their ministry together and to seek forgiveness for any past conflicts.

One way to insure that everyone gets the retirement news at the same time is a pastoral letter to the congregation (see the NW Synod of Wisconsin Resource Center for an excellent example).³ The pastor is responsible for making clear that the pastoral relationship will end and after the retirement date, he or she can no longer conduct funerals, weddings, and baptisms for former church members.

6—*The grief tsunami.* Despite doing all the right things, Pastor Don was not prepared for the tidal pain that washed over him. Before retirement, his answering machine blinked with multiple mes-

sages each day. But in retirement, the machine light read "zero" day after day. He confessed, "That's how I felt."

A pastor forms deep attachments in ministry and officiates at long-time members' funerals. Retirement then opens up a space for "carried grief"—unacknowledged and unmourned loss.⁴ Another part of the emotional response stems from identity loss. Pastors hold the privilege of being an important part of people's lives. One pastor wrote, "My collar says our conversation could be very important. You can trust me to know that now could be the time for the moment of truth."⁵ Those sacred moments and conversations cease to be central to the pastor's daily life.

How the Congregation Can Help

The pastor and governing board meet to discuss concerns and issues related to the transition. In most cases, the governing board appoints a transition team (this is not the same group as the search committee) shortly after a retirement date is announced. The transition team takes charge of reviewing denominational policies, planning a celebration event and appropriate gifts for the retiring pastor (for example, cash in the form of a love offering helps defray moving expenses), assisting the pastor with housing, and updating members about the process. The church benefits if the governing board chair or key lay leader conducts an exit interview with the pastor.

Every family believes that they are the exception to the policy that prohibits the retired pastor from officiating at weddings and funerals. When the retiring pastor has baptized their daughter, led her confirmation class, and known the parents for decades, the family naturally wants that pastor to officiate at their daughter's wedding too. Nevertheless, an exception request is always awkward for the retired and current pastor. Simply don't ask.

1. Many thanks to the anonymous pastors and leaders who shared their insights and experiences.

2. Marcia Clark Myers, former director of the Office of Vocation, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

3. http://synodresourcecenter.org/admin/personnel/retirement/0001/transition_and_retirement.html

4. Alan Wolfelt, *Living in the Shadow of the Ghosts of Your Grief* (Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2007), 7.

5. Samuel Wells, "Dressed for the Moment," *Christian Century*, November 26, 2014, 33.



Job Posting Vice President, Sales & Marketing, PILP

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc. (PILP) – a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) corporation - has an opening for a Vice President of Sales & Marketing to be filled in the first quarter of 2015. PILP provides low-cost loans to churches, governing bodies and related entities of the denomination for capital projects. This position will manage the Program's sales, promotions and marketing functions; supervise and develop the sales team; create advertising and promotional materials, and develop and implement the Marketing Plan.

Duties and responsibilities include:

- ◆ Regular interaction with the President, Chief Operating Officer, Director of Loan Operations, Director of Credit Operations, other staff, internal consultants, contractors and the Board of Directors and its Marketing Committee.
- ◆ Leads the corporation's sales efforts, selling loans and offering investments; develops the sales function, and coordinates the sales and marketing team, including goal-setting and performance management.
- ◆ Consults with congregations and Mid-Councils on debt capacity, loan structure, and guaranties; manages relationships with borrowers, prospects and Mid-Councils.
- ◆ Oversees advertising agency services, and develops advertising and promotional materials.
- ◆ Works with the President and Board to review and modify the Marketing Plan, setting organizational sales goals and strategies.
- ◆ Prepares Marketing Committee and Board agenda items dealing with sales, promotions and marketing, and participates in education of the Board.
- ◆ Handles special assignments and other duties as requested by the President.

Required skills and qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Marketing, Sales or work-related field, or equivalent work experience.
- 5 years of progressive work experience in Sales and Marketing (experience in a religious non-profit setting or financial institution preferred).
- Ability to meet travel requirements – two to three trips per month, one or two overnights each, and some week-ends.
- Experience managing, motivating and leading high-performing sales and advertising teams.
- Experience, understanding or commitment to learning Presbyterian Church ethos and structure.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills.
- Strong critical thinking skills – analytical, integrative, problem-solving and decision-making
- Demonstrated ability to effectively “close the deal.”
- Successful track record in developing sales, advertising and marketing programs.
- Strong understanding of the principles and practices of lending, investment and financial management.
- Ability to communicate effectively with all audiences.
- Strong relationship building and management skills; ability to effectively connect with and relate to potential customers and/or investors with diverse backgrounds and personalities.
- Strong proficiency with technology applications, including Microsoft Office Suite, graphic design, print, electronic and social media, etc.
- Strong communication skills – written and oral; ability to effectively relate to ministers and lay leaders of the Church.

Save the Dates

What: WNLT

Where: YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO

When: September 30 – October 2, 2015

Who: Dr. Marcia McFee

Why: Designing Innovative Worship

The WNLT event is a wonderful time to offer worship to God, engage in lively learning opportunities, discover new ways for the church to engage the 21st century, and reconnect with other pilgrims in life's journey. The WNLT planning team has listened to comments and suggestions and has been hard at work building on this tradition of excellence.

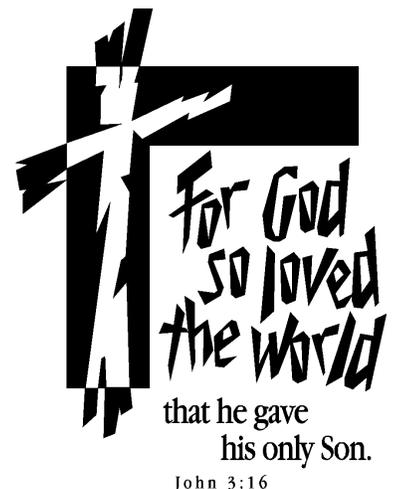
The 2015 event will focus on creative worship and features Dr. Marcia McFee, an individual who is passionate about designing ways to praise God in the sanctuary (www.marciamcfee.com). Dr. McFee grew up in a small, rural congregation in Missouri that, as she states, "let me play keyboards, sing, dance, mime and act my way through my childhood and adolescence..." And what a gift that congregation gave to the wider Church. Marcia uses ordinary things like candles, fabric, pictures, dance, various musical instruments, and a little imagination to craft sacred moments filled with fulfilling, engaging worship. In her bio, Marcia comments that she has "been continually surprised at how hungry people are for better, more meaningful and vital worship experiences and learning how to create them." And she will make it possible for you to learn how to do this in your own congregation and context.

Come and participate at this year's WNLT event on Wednesday, September 30, through Friday, October 2. The locale will be at the YMCA of the Rockies, which is located just outside Estes Park, CO, and on the edge of the Rocky Mountains National Park. The planning team is putting a fresh face on WNLT by making this annual event "a moveable feast." It is anticipated by this that more persons will have the opportunity to experience WNLT, some for the first time. Watch for the brochure to arrive just after the first of March. It will feature presenters, the opportunity to register, and ideas to experience different aspects of the Rocky Mountains in the Fall.

Plan now to be in attendance. Come to sing, dance, laugh, play, learn, worship, and be renewed. Come with the expectation that God will revitalize you and that you will carry that spark of excitement back to your own congregation. Then, maybe your church, no matter how small or large, no matter how rural or urban, will offer a gift to Christ's wider Church. See you in September.

The Presbytery now has a page on Facebook. In the search bar type Presbytery of Western Colorado and then like our page to receive fast updates and prayers.

Also check out the Blog page on the website www.wcopresbytery.org for article and other items.



Recalibrate 2015

Last year we had our first Recalibrate Church Conference and had over 100 pastors and church leaders participate here in the Vail Valley. We wanted to let you know the dates for this year's Recalibrate 2015 Conference which will be held on September 15-17, 2015.

We really appreciated all the feedback last year's conference attendees provided about the 2014 conference and we have made modifications to the schedule and speakers that we will have in 2015. For a preview look at this year's conference check out the website at www.recalibratechurch.com and for your personal invitation to attend, just click here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PduamDWW9IY>. We will have all the speakers and workshops finalized in the next couple of months.

We hope you can attend this year, or that you will forward the invitation onto another small church pastor who could benefit from the conference.



The 2015 Summer Pastor's School

School Dates: June 7-13

Omaha Presbyterian Seminary
foundation invites you to the 2015
annual Summer Pastors' School

We're excited about the preaching and
teaching themes for this year's School!

When: Sunday June 7, 2015 at 2:00pm CDT to Saturday June 13, 2015 at 1:00 pm CDT

Where: Hastings College, Hazelrigg Student Center, 710 Turner Ave,
Hastings, NE 68901

For more information Please contact Beth in the Presbytery office at 970-497-6742 or via email at beth@wcopresbytery.org

Or contact Dr. Gary S. Eller
Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation
opsf@opsf-omaha.org
888-244-6714

Presbytery of Western Colorado
101 N. Uncompahgre Ave. #9
Montrose, CO 81401-3763

970-240-8455
fax 240-1318

Return Service Requested



I S A I A H 1 : 1 8 , N I V

*“Though your sins
are like scarlet, they shall
be as white as snow”*