



January 2018

Dear Wheat Ridge Family,

Happy New Year! The turning of the calendar year isn't really a "church" event—except when it comes to **annual reports and the budget**—but it is a mile-marker for most of us. January at WPC means our annual stated **congregational meeting**. I write "stated" because the session may call a congregational meeting any time it is needed. This year, the annual congregational meeting will follow worship on **Sunday, January 21, 2018**. We abbreviate the worship service so that the congregational meeting is over by 11:15am or so.

At this meeting, the congregation hears information about the church's life during the previous year. The only items that the **congregation votes** on are: **1) electing officers** (deacons, elders, nominating committee for following year); **2) approving the terms of call** for the pastor; and, if needed, **3) changes to the church's by-laws**. The congregation "receives" the information included in the annual report, but the **Session** is the body that **governs all matters related to finance, worship, staff, maintenance, and all other aspects of the church's mission**. Because our governance is **representative**, we avoid having a "committee of the whole" when possible. Can you imagine if the entire population of the city of Wheat Ridge not only elected its officials but also voted on the budget or on every other aspect of the city's work?

No system is perfect, but I appreciate the ways our polity (see below) reflects our theology, especially the "**priesthood of all believers**" (I Peter 2:9)



Peace, *Laura*

Information from a former Stated Clerk of the denomination:

Polity is the way a church governs itself. The **Presbyterian Church (USA)**'s polity is both **representational and connectional**

We are **ordained** to connect:

*"Ruling **elders and deacons** are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members."* – Book of Order G-2.0401

We are connected by **councils**: **Session** (congregation); **Presbytery** (local region); **Synod** (several states); **General Assembly** (national)

All councils seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit and follow Parliamentary Procedure.

- ✚ Always allow for discussion.
- ✚ Always protecting the rights of the minority.
- ✚ Always respecting the vote of the majority.
- ✚ Always praying and listening

All councils beyond the session are comprised of **equal numbers of ministers and elders**.

SESSION: Next meets Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 pm

Thanks to all the members and friends of WPC for making the meaningful message of Christmas one of joy. From the Deacon's baskets and visits to the homebound, to the gifts for those less fortunate through Senior Support and The Action Center, and shared through programs in the community from Highland West to Whiz Kids. Thanks for the hanging of the greens, for the children and their programs and to all that make this a place where people care. May the beauty of this Christmas season remind us of Jesus Christ and the hope and peace only he can bring into our lives.



The Session



The WPC staff THANK all of you who sent cards and gave treats to warm the season.

- Laura Sugg
- Linda Valo
- Julie Pulliam
- Katie Sakanai
- Eileen Gardner
- Betsy Smith
- Jenny Garner

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED DEC 25-29, for the Christmas Holiday.

CHURCH STAFF GIFT

Instead of swapping gifts and cards with each other, the staff gave money to the Action Center and other charities in honor of their fellow staff members.

DEACONS

A CARING REMINDER FROM THE DEACONS:

Thanks so much to all of you that **sent cards to our homebound members** for the Christmas season.

If your family suffers a loss or illness, or you would like to request prayer, please contact:

Laura 303-422-2355 (church)
or 720-471-0751 (cell)

Church Office, 303-422-2354

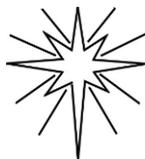
Prayer Chain, Charlene Pierce

Deacon Co-Chairs: Linda Johnston and Dick Remington.

PRAYER CHAIN – Prayer Chain is quick way to have your prayer concerns passed on to part of the church family and enables the church to support you more rapidly in your time of need.

NEXT DEACON MEETING

January 14th @ 11:40 a.m.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars. We will have a Congregational Meeting, **Sunday, January 21st** following an abbreviated service. This meeting will be to receive the church's 2017 annual report, approve Laura's terms of call, and elect our new slate of officers.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

ARE DUE in the office by **Monday, January 8th.**

These are the reports each committee chair writes to re-cap the year of 2017. If you would like your 2016 copy, please email the church office.

STEWARDSHIP

- The Stewardship campaign has been completed for the 2018 pledge commitments. If you have not had a chance to turn in a pledge card, you can still do so. Thank you to all who have pledged, and special thanks to those who found it possible to increase their pledges.
- **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** Thanks so much to all who contributed to the Christmas Joy Offering, December 17th and 24th. This offering provides financial support for church workers in their time of need and scholarship assistance enabling students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

COMMUNITY SPEAKER: Sun. Jan. 7th 8:45 am

WPC's Community Speaker on Sunday, January 7th at 8:45 am will be Dan Mondragon from the non-profit organization, **Hands of the Carpenter**, here in Fellowship Hall.

Hands of the Carpenter is a faith-based nonprofit founded in 2003 to help single mothers and widows move toward self-sufficiency through providing reliable transportation. Their mission is to provide reliable transportation through affordable repairs, regular maintenance, and even providing sound vehicles. Dan will speak and share a video.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Happy New Year! December was a wonderful celebration of Advent and the birth of Jesus. The annual multigenerational Advent Festival was attended by over 30 people, along with them and the help of volunteers, the Fellowship Hall was filled with the sights and sounds of Advent when it was transformed into a joyful Christmas experience. The children's Christmas tree and bulletin boards were adorned with festive decorations. Everyone enjoyed making different holiday crafts, and we were treated to a taco bar and some really yummy cookies!
- On December 17th WPC's Christmas play **Believe**, was performed in front of a large audience. Cast included, over one hundred twenty people attended the play. All were genuinely entertained as they journeyed with a young boy named Alex in his quest to regain the true meaning of Christmas. After the play, everyone was delighted with delectable goodies and a meet-and-greet with the talented cast.
- As the new year begins we are preparing for another **youth group event on January 7th**, starting with lunch at 11:30 am. Stay tuned for more exciting youth group events coming up...
- The C.E. Committee wishes to **thank** everyone who has volunteered for Church School, Kids Kingdom, youth group, and special events throughout the year. Your help makes all these wonderful events special for the children and youth of WPC.

Grace and Peace,
Linda

WORSHIP

- Things looked so beautiful here at WPC for Advent and Christmas. **Thanks** so much to all who participated in the Advent Festival and Hanging of the Greens
- The pink, red and white poinsettias brightened our beautiful Sanctuary and many thanks to our many gifted musicians and guest musicians at WPC for special music in December.
- For supporting our homebound members, thanks to the deacons who delivered baskets and to all who sent cards to these dear folks.
- **The Worship Committee next meets Tuesday, January 16th at 3:00 pm.**



THURSDAY BOOK GROUP meets Thursday, January 25th at 7pm at Joan Pepper's
Reading: *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger

FELLOWSHIP

Thank you everyone for responding to our request re: small groups. It looks like most of you enjoy them and would like to continue.



Two of the previous groups were struggling, and two were going well. The committee decided to combine and increase the size of the groups, going from four groups to three. With so many of the congregation traveling etc. we thought that a few more people in each group would help to keep the numbers up and the groups going, even when people were out of town. So, starting in January the new groups are as follows:

- Daytime Group: Bob Brown; Dorothy and Frank Burhorn; Caroline Clovesko; Alice Datema; Maxine Foster; Eileen Gardner; Sonia and Allan Hills; Ron and Linda Johnston; Dick and Charlene Pierce; Barbara and Jeff Stimson
- Evening Group 1: Anne Baker; Jane Engle and Neil McKearnan; Marny Eulberg; Ralph and Marcia Hecox; Ann Ludwigsen; Chuck and Jeanne Miller; Chet and Ann Myers; Bob and Nancy Rosi
- Evening Group 2: Gay Cuthill; Jo Ann Flores; Lori Golightly; Ariane Meyer and Dick Remington; Jim and Betty Niquette; Jim and Betty Piperato; Janette Powers; Betsy Smith

--Jeanne Miller

MISSION

- **Mission meets Thursday, January 4th at 3:00 pm.**
- Thanks need to be extended to all who have contributed to the **Senior Support Tree** (as of Dec. 9, we already have lots of warm clothing items, so I'm sure by 12/25 we'll have a great supply).
- **COOKING FOR HOMELESS SHELTER** Has been cancelled this month.
- **The First Sunday of the Month** is Mission Sunday. Please **bring canned and nonperishable food donations for The Action Center** and place them in the basket in the Narthex, Toiletries for Senior Support Services, and don't forget to **feed the Wilbur Piggy Banks** which feed hungry children in both Wheat Ridge & Zimbabwe.



MUSIC

Notes from Katie Sakanai

- On Sunday, December 10, members and friends of the choir and congregation visited members of



WPC who are hospitalized, home-bound, or are suffering from mobility difficulties. About 18 carolers came to Betty Niquette's and we split



into two joyful groups to visit Gordon Swanson at Lutheran Medical Center and the homes or care facilities of Bunny Brown, Leslie Coffman, Bob Euser, and Mary Wilcox. We also visited Matt and Kelsey Briggs and baby Ronan. For our last visit, we all gathered at Walt and Carol Pettit's home and were treated to hot cider and cookies. Afterwards, we were joined by more family and enjoyed a nice potluck at Betty's house that was beautifully and lovingly decorated for Christmas.

- On December 13, the choir and bell choir attended the Highland West holiday party,



spreading some holiday cheer with singing and ringing for about an hour while the residents enjoyed cake and punch. Thanks to Maxine Foster who helped organize our attendance at the party. Afterwards, some carolers brought a basket and singing to Burt & Ann Kelchner at Meridian Westland.

- In December, we were joined by two excellent musicians to help accompany the choir and bell choir. Laura Wray joined us on December 17th and 24th on violin. A friend of Barbara Stimson, Laura attended Wellesley College (Katie's alma mater!) thinking of being a music major, but she was lured away after taking her first geology class and becoming a geology major. She played chamber music throughout college and put herself through one year of graduate school in West Virginia playing fiddle in a bluegrass band. Laura shared "though I have worked for over 30 years as a geologist, I was one of the original founders of the Littleton Chamber Orchestra which then became the Littleton Symphony; I was a violinist in both organizations for a number of years." We are so pleased to have her join us!
- Also on Christmas Eve, we were joined by a dear friend and former colleague of mine. Jon Stubbs played classical guitar and piano for the service. Jon is a performer, composer, and teacher from Lafayette. He plays in the band Hamster Theatre, and performs with Zimbabwe-influenced band, Kutandara. Jon recently joined a Beatles cover band that will perform with the Denver Pops Orchestra in April of 2018 and can also be heard playing guitar or bass guitar at BDT Stage in Boulder. He worked with me teaching music at Alexander Dawson School, and we have continued to work together on musical projects including a lovely collection of lullabies for my daughter, Adelaide. I'm so glad to have the chance to work with him again!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Cal Johnson	Jan. 3
Eileen Gardner	Jan. 5
Ann Kelchner	Jan. 10
Wendell Gardner	Jan. 18
Carole Pettit	Jan. 20
Frank Traylor	Jan. 21
Kevin Crowe	Jan. 23
Tracy Langworthy	Jan. 26
Ron Johnston	Jan. 26



...and if we have missed *your* birthday please notify the church office @ 303-422-2354.

PRAYER REQUESTS & NOTES OF THANKSGIVING



With Concern. . .

- **Carolyn Steffen's** serious compound fracture on her right ankle has kept her in Texas this Christmas and possibly some into the New Year. Fortunately, her rehabilitation facility is in Tyler, Texas (just two minutes away from her daughter, Lecia).
- **Karen Watson's daughter, Jodi Manera** had surgery that went well on December 11 to remove a mass from her large intestine. She came home December 14 and begins chemotherapy in about a month at University Hospital.
- **Gordon Swanson** broke his hip on December 14th. He is also recovering from pneumonia. Gordon was transferred December 20th to Powerback Rehabilitation,

With Sympathy . . .

Don Wollenzien died Monday, December 4th. His **Memorial Service** is **Saturday, January 13th at 10 am** at WPC followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests gifts either to the church's STEP Fund (**ST**udents **E**nrichment **P**rogram—helping children and youth at WPC) or to the Ronald McDonald house in Aurora.

Breakfast is followed by a lesson. All women of the church are invited!

No WPC BRIDGE GROUP in January.

RIDGE RINGERS Hand bell Choir
Practice resumes **Wednesday, January 10th at 7:00 pm.**



SINGLE LADIES LUNCH



Keep checking upcoming E-Post and bulletin announcements for details on the Single Ladies Lunch.

WHIZ KIDS TUTORING

WHIZ KIDS will be on winter break until the 8th and then will take a break for Martin Luther King Day, January 15th. The tutors and children will be pleased to be back together. We seem to be on again, off again because of Monday holidays, but after the MLK break, we will be regular until February. **Thank you** to all of Santa's elves who did so much to make Christmas special for our students. They cannot thank you personally, but know that they did appreciate all you did and all the support you give to the program each year. The children and I are truly blessed to have you all on our team.



Betsy Smith, Coordinator

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SATURDAY AM WOMEN'S BREAKFAST /BIBLE STUDY

is **January 13th at 8:00 am** in the **Session room.** (Note earlier time due to **Don Wollenzien** memorial service that same day at **10:00 am**).



January 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5	6
	--Church office closed---		No Ridge Ringers Practice	3:00 pm Mission meeting		
7 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Community Speaker 8:45 am Church School for Children 10:00 am Worship /Communion 11:10 am Fellowship Time 11:30 am Youth Event	8 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 3:30-5 pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	9 8:30 am 4-F Mission Cooking for the Homeless cancelled 10:00 am Staff meeting 1:00pm Staff lunch@Laura's 4:00-5:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:00 -9:00 pm Uplift Internationale dinner in Fellowship Hall	10 9:00 am Personnel Committee 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers Practice	11 7:00 pm Session Meeting 7:00 pm Citizens for a Healthy Wheat Ridge (Community Group)	12 9:30 am China Painters	13 8:00 am Sat. AM Women's Breakfast/Bible Study in Session room 10:00 am Don Wollenzien Memorial service followed by reception
14 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for all ages 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship Time 11:40 am Deacons mtg	15 Martin Luther King Day Church office Closed No Whiz Kids Tutoring	16 3:00 pm Worship Committee 6:15pm Finance & Administration Committee 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	17 No WPC Bridge Group this month 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers Practice	18	19	20
21 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for all Ages 10:00 am Worship 10:45 am Annual Congregational meeting 11:15 am Fellowship Time	22 1:30 pm Membership Development Committee 3:30-5pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	23 4:00-5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	24 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers Practice	25 7:00 pm Thursday Book Group at Joan Pepper's	26	27
28 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for all Ages 10:00 am Worship 11:10 am Fellowship 11:45 Single Ladies Lunch	29 3:30-5pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	30 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	31 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers Practice			

