

January 2019

Dear Wheat Ridge Family,

As you read this, a new year is beginning. It is a good time to “take stock” and think about the future. Depending on your involvement in this or other congregations, **it can be hard to understand what a pastor does beyond what you see on Sunday morning**. No doubt you realize that pastors work more than one day a week. :-)

In 2018, the session told me that it would be helpful for me to write an **overview of my work**. The idea was for this to happen four times a year, and I will end up having done this three times. It gets a bit easier each time. It seemed like the congregation might benefit from seeing one of these reports (with a bit of detail removed for privacy reasons.) So, below you can read what the first quarter of 2018 looked like for me. It is a blessing to serve as pastor here at Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church!

Peace, *Laura*

Ministry Overview First Quarter (January through March) 2018

Worship Leadership

Weekly

- **Provide** bulletin info (liturgy): prayers/content, hymns, sung responses and **proofread** —2-3 hours/week
- Sermon preparation and writing—7-9 hours per week; preached 11 times Jan. 1-Mar. 31—including Ash Wed.; snow canceled worship 1/21/18;
- Lenten Sermon Series—Dust and Rainbows: A Lenten Journey Through Song
- Reading and reflection that informs sermons and liturgy—roughly 2 hours/week
- Communicate with Julie and Katie re: music, etc. <30 minutes per week

Seasonal

- Preparations for Lent and Holy Week take extra time and effort. I was very pleased w/ the hymn series.

Sacraments

- Communion in worship Jan. 7 (Epiphany), Feb. 4, and Mar. 4, plus Maundy Thurs. (3/29/18)
- Sunday, Feb. 4, along with Deacon Janette Powers, took communion to homes of 3 home-bound members. Took about 3.5 hours.

Pastoral Visits, Meals, New Members

- 2 Memorial services—8-12 hours each
 - Meet with the family at least once, often lots of emails and calls to discuss the service—2-5 hours
 - Prepare and print the worship bulletin—2 hours
 - Prepare for my part of the service—1-3 hours
 - If interring ashes in WPC Columbarium, coordinate with Betsy Smith and Property Management regarding paperwork and preparation of site--1.5 hour
 - Coordinate with Julie, Jenny, Betty N/Deacons re: music, logistics, reception ~1 hour
 - Conduct the service, attend reception, perform burial if needed (here or off-site) 2 hours.
- New members
 - Visitor letters—along with Jenny, send letter and brochure to new visitors who live in the area—once or twice per month, < 30 minutes
- Hospital and home visits, lunch visit: 9 visits, including the 3 home communion visits



- Pastoral care via phone calls, texts, and emails—didn't track, at least several times a week.
- Premarital counseling sessions—January 17, February 28; 1.5-2 hours each
- Participation in 4-F breakfasts January 9, February 6, March 6
- 1-2-hour Fellowship special events/meals: Small Group lunch, Thursday, March 8; WPC St. Patrick's Day Lunch, March 18 (Easter was April 1 so that will be in next quarter's report)

Teaching, children's mission, Intergenerational

- Whiz Kids—Led Club Time 9 times, plus a training
 - Prepare "Club Time" (Bible lesson based on Whiz Kids Curriculum)-1-2 hours
 - Lead Club Time—35 minutes, 20 of which is the actual Club Time
 - Attended Club Leaders training 2.5 hours evening, Thursday, January 4.
- Led Time with Children and Youth in worship Jan. 28, Feb. 18, Mar. 4; ~1-2-hr. prep time each.

Head of Staff, Administrative, Visioning

- Write monthly newsletter article—January, February, March, April; proofread newsletter
- Review weekly emailed "E-Post"—11 during first quarter
- Staff meetings—(remind staff, print agenda) Jan. 9, Feb. 15, Mar. 15; 2-2.5 hours each
- Prepared parts of the Annual Report
- Moderated Annual Meeting January 28, 2018 (postponed from 1/21/18 due to snow)
- Personnel Committee
 - attended meetings as Head of Staff: January 10, February 5 and 12, March 6
- New Beginnings Process
 - Attended follow-up "moving forward" meeting
 - Assisting as invited with task forces on 1) building use and 2) technology (wired and digital/web site) to facilitate building use.
- Finance and Administration Committee
 - Attended meetings January 16, February 27, March 5 (including Lyn Hull, see below)
 - Met January 24 for 2.5 hours with Treasurer Eileen Gardner and resource person Lyn Hull regarding fund accounting and possible software options.

Session, Church Committees

- Moderated Session meetings: January 11, February 8, March 8
 - 5-9 hours each meeting: develop agenda, email call for reports, gather minutes, reports, etc. and email to Session a day ahead. Print copies for elders w/o email.
 - 2 hours: moderate meeting
- Led Elder Training—2-2.5 hours each time: March 5, 12, 19 and April 2. About an hour preparation time. It was a pleasure!
- Attend Church committee meetings as needed—see above.

Denver Presbytery

- Assemblies: 1-2 hours preparation, reading, coordinating with WPC's elder Commissioners; Attended Assemblies: January 30 (~7 hours including travel), March 27 (5 hours including travel)
- Racial Ethnic Diversity Workgroup: attended 2, 2-hour meetings: January 25, March 20
- Met with new Committee on Ministry Liaison to get to know her: March 13.

Community Connections

- Wheat Ridge Partnered in Faith—new group coordinated with WR Police Department—Jan. 8, encouraged Mission Committee members to attend with me Feb. 5, and in my absence on March 5.
- Interfaith justice group, Together Colorado new faith leaders' caucus JeffCo Together Colorado 2.5-hour lunch meetings (January 4, March 1).
- Lunch with Pastor of Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, Eun-sang Lee, January 23.
- Participated in "Day at the Colorado Legislature" 8am to 3pm with the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado on Monday, January 29th.

Continuing Education—nothing first quarter.

SESSION: won't meet in January—next meets Thursday, February 7 at 7:00 pm

Finance and Administration, Stewardship and Committee chairs have been hard at work on preparing the budget for 2019. The budget will be presented as information to the Congregation at the Annual Congregational meeting on February 24, following the morning worship service. Remember the Session approves the budget, and the congregation approves "the terms of call" for the minister. A re-design of the web page is in progress, along with new church software. Thanks to Property Management, a new fence has been installed around the courtyard. Thanks go to all those who made the sanctuary and grounds so festive. 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 caroling 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 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

HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The week of New Year's the Church office will be closed Mon.-Tue., Dec 31 & Jan. 1 and open 1:30-4:30 pm Wed.-Fri, Jan.2-4.

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 13th @ 11:40 a.m.

NOTE FROM WPC TREASURER:

Dear church family, As you may or may not know, we are changing accounting systems. It is a massive undertaking. Because of my mother's illness, I am behind in just about everything. I would very much appreciate it if you would:

- 1) **Turn in all of your 2018 expenses by December 31st.** We need to do double work in January (closing out 2018 and start on 2019 in the new system). So, all expenses need to be turned in promptly. Expenses turned in late may not be able to get processed - I am sorry for the inconvenience.
- 2) I will **no longer be giving you partial credit for expenses/contributions to your account.** That is, if you turn in expenses, they will be directly reimbursed and no longer credited to your donation statement. Once I understand the new system, I may be able to directly credit you, but for the time being, **please turn in ALL expenses.** **If you then wish to donate the money back to the church by check or cash, we will happily accept.** We need to know what the real expenses are, so please follow this extra step for the time being. We accept your generous donations always.
- 3) We will **no longer** work through **prepaid pledges.** It was very cumbersome in the old system and not possible in the new system. Therefore, if you pay your pledge today for next year, the pledge will be credited to you - and to us - for this calendar year. We will put a handwritten note on your donation statement itemizing this procedure.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- On **December 1st** WPC was overflowing with the sights and sounds of Christmas, as **over 75** young and young at heart joined us for the **annual intergenerational Advent Festival**. We were treated to a delicious breakfast buffet, created some beautiful homemade crafts, filled the Fellowship Hall with melodic tunes of age-old Carols and some newer ones too. We watched the sanctuary come alive with characters from the Nativity as they told us about the night Jesus was born. Then, to top off this wonderful day, we made s'mores over a fire on the patio. One of the highlights of the day was looking at little faces covered in chocolate and marshmallow!
- Our **youth event** for December was a trip to the Denver Zoo for their **annual Zoo Lights**. The 5 youth and 3 adult volunteers met at the church for a **pizza dinner** then off to the Zoo to experience the amazing lights of Christmas. We want to **thank our adult volunteers** for this event, Tim Sovold, Sean Mestdagh, and Remington Valo.
- This year has been a real joy for Christian Ed. It is such a privilege to watch our children and youth grow in God's Grace and learn about God's abundant love.
- We are also extremely **blessed to have so many hard-working volunteers** and we want to **thank everyone who gave so much of their time and talents**. We would never be able to have the **spring event, VBS, Advent Festival, youth group events, Kids Kingdom, Time with Children and Youth each Sunday** morning **without these excellent volunteers**, and we are very appreciative!

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 gifted musicians and guest musicians at WPC for special music in December.
- For supporting our homebound members, thanks to the deacons who prepared baskets, to everyone that delivered them and to all who sent cards to these dear folks.
- **The Worship Committee next meets Thursday, January 17th at 6:30 pm.**



2019 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A very special **thank you** is extended to everyone who has turned in their **2019 pledge commitments!** The Finance & Administration Committee (F&A), Stewardship Committee, and Session take very seriously being good stewards of our church's resources.

F&A and Stewardship joined in an important meeting regarding the 2019 budget on Monday, December 10. They were then joined by Session Committee chairs for a lengthy and meaningful discussion in order to **finalize next year's budget** and make a recommendation to Session. The Session discussed their recommendation at the Session meeting on Thursday, December 13. **The Session unanimously agreed to follow the recommendation to hold our 2019 budget static at the 2018 budget numbers for now, with each Committee staying within the 2018 bottom line, leaving them room to change numbers within their budget as needed.**

Given some uncertainty in the national and even global economic climate, the Session felt it prudent to maintain 2018 levels next year—at least for the first quarter. They are committed to re-visiting this when 2018 year-end budget figures are complete. The Personnel Committee would still like to give some type of increase to our loyal staff, if it is at all possible. This is a process, and we know that, **"Hope does indeed grow here,"** and we are expecting the best.

Thank you again, and if you have not turned in your 2019 pledge commitment, there is still the opportunity to do that. Contact the church office, Eileen Gardner, or Betsy Smith if you need information on how to do that. Each and every pledge is most helpful.

WPC BRIDGE GROUP

meets **Wednesday, January 16 at 1:00 pm** at the **home of Allan & Sonia Hills**, Please **RSVP** so that they know how many tables to setup.



THURSDAY BOOK GROUP

Keep checking upcoming E-Post and bulletin announcements for details the next meeting.

SINGLE LADIES LUNCH

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



MISSION

- **Mission Committee won't meet in January.**
- A Huge **Thanks** to all who contributed in any way to the **Mission Fair** (for the crafters, the bakers, the workers, and the buyers!). Net profits so far are \$1630.00 which is down from \$2300 in 2017 but we did not have the Mission Fair items for sale on Sunday Nov. 11th since church was cancelled. Some of that difference may be made up from the "Mini-Mission Fair" on 12/16.
- A very hearty "**Ho-Ho-HO**" to all who **donated items for Senior Support** on and under the Giving Tree in Fellowship Hall and to the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** for victims of the Hurricanes and Fires!
- At WRPC we honor tradition so, in keeping with tradition, Mission will once again have a "**Red, White, and Chocolate**" luncheon on **Sunday Feb. 10** to benefit **Uplift Internationale** and their work repairing cleft lips and palates for children in the Philippines. The Red is Bob Rosi's famous red spaghetti sauce; the White is the pasta; and Chocolate is a chocolate dessert buffet. Plans are also being made for a Corned Beef and fixings **luncheon on St. Patrick's Day (Sunday, March 17).**



January 22, 2019, WE ARE HOSTING DENVER PRESBYTERY

ASSEMBLY: Session unanimously agreed that **WPC** would offer to host a Denver Presbytery Assembly. We are excited to be **hosting folks from all over the Presbytery on Tuesday, January 22nd here at the church!** As part of that meeting, we will be **providing dinner** for the approximately 120 attendees. Here is an **opportunity to help** with one or more of the following jobs: set up for the dinner; centerpieces; preparing food for the dinner; organizing food on a buffet line; kitchen clean up; Fellowship Hall take down and clean-up of tables and chairs; greeting and welcoming the attendees to the church. Thank you! If you're **interested in helping** to provide hospitality for that event (part of the meal may be catered), **please sign up on the yellow sheets in Fellowship Hall** and/or **talk to Anne Baker or Marcia Hecox.**



MEALS FOR KRISTY MESTDAGH & FAMILY:

If you'd like to **help please go to mealtrain link.** From Sean Mestdagh "This is a meal train program that we have started for my mom. It allows people to give by providing meals for my parents. Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!" Kristy was diagnosed with stage 4, grade 3 uterine cancer March 2017. After removing her uterus and some intense chemo, we were told she was in the free and clear September of that year! She had a little time to feel "normal" until being diagnosed again in that December. She has done chemo, biologics, and is back on chemo again after risking out of clinical trials. Even though there have been complications along the way (several blood clots, an ulcer requiring a few surgeries, etc.), she continues to have her good-natured spirit. Right now, her biggest problems are stomach pain and exhaustion. Everyone keeps asking what they can do to help, and the greatest help we have had are friends and family making food. If you are someone who has been wanting to help, we organized this for you. Thank you!!!!"

PRAYER REQUESTS & NOTES OF THANKSGIVING

With Sympathy . . .

Ann Kelchner died **Sunday,**

December 2. A memorial service here at the church will be held some time in the spring. Prayers for Eileen Gardner and all of Ann's family and friends are appreciated. Eileen's address can be found in the church directory if you would like to send a card. *With Thanksgiving. . .*

- **Kelsey, Matt, and Ronan Briggs** as they prepare to welcome a new baby this spring.
- **From Carolyn Steffen :** Dear WPC, What a surprise to see the beautiful plant you delivered. It is gorgeous! I'm sorry I wasn't home when Jeanette delivered it so I could say "Thank You" in person. I really do appreciate your thoughtfulness. I hope the Christmas season is a true blessing for all of you. Love, Carolyn Steffen



WHIZ KIDS TUTORING: WHIZ KIDS and I personally want to thank all of the congregation for your support. Presents were all wrapped and delivered to the office so that the tutors could deliver them. Our final session on the 17th was a party that was fun for all. After doing a craft - a banner to take home - we played ring toss. I finally had to stop the game so that we could get to the next activity. Thanks to the CE committee, we were able to have s'mores with their unused ingredients. What fun - and a few of the children had never heard of nor tasted them. We then had a lesson from Laura about the birth of Jesus and passed out stockings filled by one more of Santa's elves. The one unplanned part of the day was the visit by one of the students that we had for 4 years who has aged out of the program. It warmed my heart to know that she still wants to keep in touch with us.

Again, thank you all for your support; you all made 10 children very happy this Christmas season.

Betsy Smith, Coordinator

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE—Sunday



February 3 during Fellowship Time Girl Scout Troop 61054 which meets here bi-monthly is having a cookie sale here at WPC in Fellowship Hall Sunday, February 3rd at 11:15 am.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT UPDATE:

There is a new chain link fence and new gates installed around the church courtyard.

SATURDAY AM WOMEN'S BREAKFAST and BIBLE STUDY is **January 12th at 8:30 am** Breakfast followed by the lesson here at WPC. Please RSVP to Eileen Gardner.

RIDGE RINGERS Hand bell Choir Practice resumes **Wednesday, January 16th at 7:00 pm.**



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Cal J.	Jan. 3
Eileen G.	Jan. 5
Laura L.	Jan. 12
Wendell G.	Jan. 18
Frank T.	Jan. 21
Kevin C.	Jan. 23
Tracy L.	Jan. 26
Ron J.	Jan. 26
Emily L.	Jan. 27

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

You are invited to join Laura Sugg at

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Racial Ethnic Diversity Workgroup presents



Fearless Dialogue

MLK DAY EDITION

Let us observe the Martin Luther King Jr. Day together in conversation and worship!

9:30AM—MARADE @ City Park (Actual Marade begins at 10:30AM)

12:30PM—LUNCH @ Central PC

1:30PM— FEARLESS DIALOGUE MLK Edition @ Central PC

(Conversation on Issues of Race and Diversity)

2:30PM—WORSHIP SERVICE MLK Edition @ Central PC

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1660 Sherman St. Denver, CO 80203



Please RSVP @ denpres.org/event. Click the QR Code

For more info, contact Rev. John Yu @ 720-509-9112 | pastorjohn@truelight.church



January 2019

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5
		--Church office closed--	1:30-4:30 pm Church office hours No Ridge Ringers Practice	1:30-4:30 pm Church office hours No Mission meeting in Jan.	1:30-4:30 pm Church office hours	
6 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for All Ages 10:00 am Epiphany Worship (Communion; wear Nametags) 11:15 am Fellowship Time	7	8 8:30 am 4-F 10:45 am Staff meeting 4:00-5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	9 No Ridge Ringers Practice	10 6:00 pm Christian Education meeting No Session Meeting in January. Next meeting is Thu. Feb. 7	11 9:30 am China Painters	12 8:30 am Sat. AM Women's Breakfast/Bible Study
13 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for All Ages 10:00 am Worship 11:05 am Fellowship Time 11:40 am Deacons mtg	14 3:30-5 pm Whiz Kids Tutoring 5:30 pm Personnel meeting	15 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	16 1:00 pm WPC Bridge Group at home of Allan & Sonia Hills 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers Practice	17 6:30 pm Worship Committee meeting	18	19
20 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for All Ages 10:00 am Worship 11:05 am Fellowship Time	21 Martin Luther King Day Church office closed MLK Events with Laura: 9:30 -meet for Parade 12:30 pm MLK Lunch at Central PC, 1:30 pm Fearless Dialogue , 2:30 pm Worship service No Whiz Kids Tutoring	22 WE HOST Denver Presbytery for 4:00-9:00 pm Assembly (dinner at 5pm)	23 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers Practice	24	25	26
27 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Church School for All Ages 10:00 am Worship 11:05 am Fellowship 11:45 Single Ladies Lunch	28 3:30-5pm Whiz Kids Tutoring	29 4:00-5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Pipers Practice	30 7:00 pm Ridge Ringers Practice	31		

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