



Did you know...



Did you know...

As a non-profit Organization, WRCC cannot accept gifts/donations designated to the benefit of a specific individual. To do so, would jeopardize our tax exempt status.

White Rock Community Church Common Ground

May 2009

CANCELLATIONS

Due to health concerns, the following gatherings have been cancelled:

- Saturday, May 2 - White Rock Friends
- Sunday, May 3 - Pasta with the Pastors

 May Couples Luncheon

Sunday, May 10th at
Fat Daddy's

Restaurant in Casa Linda Shopping Center immediately following the morning worship service.

If questions, please contact Mark Wilson.



**Our Church's
18th Anniversary**

Sunday, June 14

Speaker: Dr. Gary Kindley

Special Music: Shelly Torres-West

Come celebrate with us!!

 WORSHIP INFORMATION



May 3

Pastor Marianne

"Who Is Your Cornerstone?"

Acts 4:5-12

May 10 - Mother's Day

Worship Committee

"The Vine & the Branches"

John 15:1-8

May 17

Rev. Kaye Lee

"I Call You Friends"

John 15:9-17

May 24 - Memorial Day
Dean Bishop/Kaye Lee

May 31
Pastor Douglas/Music
"Tres Fuegos"
Acts 2:1-12

MAY 9

MEMORIAL GARDEN CLEAN-UP &
PLANTING DAY

Facilities & Grounds Committee is sponsoring a workday on Saturday, May 9th from 9am - 3pm. Bring your garden gloves and garden spade (if you have one). We need at least 10 volunteers to accomplish our objectives. Sign-up in the parlor. See Jerry Brown or James Parker for more information.



If bad weather, makeup day is Saturday May 16.

May Birthdays



05/01 Martin
05/01 Asia
05/01 Jason
05/03 Tom
05/09 Lori
05/11 Arthur
05/14 Pattia
05/14 Kathi
05/14 Sid
05/15 Larry
05/17 Renee'
05/24 Larry
05/25 Don
05/25 Marianne
05/25 Sharon
05/25 Stacy
05/26 Michael
05/27 Bill
05/28 Melissa
05/29 Brandi
05/29 Joan
05/30 Mel



Total income received January 1 through March 31 was [REDACTED], versus budgeted \$[REDACTED]. Total tithes fell short of the budget for the first three months of the year by \$[REDACTED], or 6%. The good news is that we ended the first quarter with a church operating profit of more than [REDACTED] excluding the Friends ministry and renovation expenses. This can be attributed to increased giving and the expense control that has been exhibited by each of our committees.

I ran across an interesting article on the Internet. I found the following statements inspiring and thought provoking. "Whatever we offer to God will be returned to us, spiritualized and enriched, a hundredfold. When we offer our hearts in devotion, our love is purified. When we offer our thoughts, they become inspired. When we offer God our money, it becomes spiritual gold." (www.ananda.org)

Thus far in the month of April, we have not seen the trend of incremental increases in giving continue. I ask that you prayerfully consider your level of giving. It is through our tithes and gifts we can fulfill our mission of leading people to Jesus through reaching, teaching, celebrating, and serving.

Rick Marshall, Treasurer

Reflections on Sabbatical. Pastor Walker

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, Exodus 20:8-11

In her book, *Who Ministers to Ministers?*, Barbara Gilbert provides a lament for pastors. A pastor herself, she writes:

"I am appalled at what is required of me. I am supposed to move from sick-bed, to administrative meetings, to planning, to supervising, to counseling, to praying, to troubleshooting, to budgeting, to mediation, to worship preparation, to mission projects, to conflict management, to community leadership, to study, to funerals, to weddings, to preaching.

I am supposed to be "in charge", but not too in charge, administrative executive, sensitive pastor, skillful counselor, dynamic public speaker, Spiritual guide, politically savvy, intellectually sophisticated, and I am expected to be superior, or at least first rate, in all of them.

I am not supposed to be depressed, discouraged, cynical, angry, and or hurt.

I am supposed to be up-beat, positive, strong, willing, and always available."

I love this congregation. But, at some point, I have to acknowledge. I am exhausted. Clearly we find within scripture a work/rest cycle. In churches, clergy sabbatical springs from this biblical value. Congregations expect a lot of their ministers and ministers tend to expect much of themselves. And in healthy relationships between congregations and their ministers, there is a sense of mutual care. The minister cares for the members of the congregation and they also care for the minister.

We've been talking about this sabbatical for a year now. Sometime I pick up some confusion around what, exactly, a sabbatical is. Let's start with some things that a sabbatical is not. First, in the church world, a sabbatical is not academic leave. Formal theological education is strenuous work and not always conducive to renewal. So, my time away is not dedicated to writing a book or researching.

Also, a sabbatical is not vacation. While my sabbatical will be a time of rest, it's not vacation. I have spent a lot of time over the past year, prayerfully reflecting on what my spirit needs in order to be renewed. And I've planned very carefully how to address those needs. Planning a sabbatical has been nothing like planning a vacation.



Finally, a sabbatical is not an escape. Instead a sabbatical is a time of renewal and recharging. *"There is a repetitiveness and intensity involved in ministry that exacts its price in weariness of spirit, diminished enthusiasm, a dulling of the capacity to be creative, and a loss of vision and perspective"* (Sabbatical Planning for Clergy and Congregations, by Richard A. Bullock.)

Perhaps the best image of the sabbatical is that of a pilgrim in search of a fresh touch from God.

Jesus often withdrew from the crowds, for renewal and to seek a quiet place to pray: "And great multitudes gathered to hear and to be healed of their infirmities. But he withdrew to the wilderness and prayed." Luke 5:15-16

I am looking forward to this time away to renew my passion as an artist. For me making a work of art is prayer. I am looking forward to spending quality uninterrupted time with my husband, children and grandchildren. I am looking forward to some travel in Europe with Greg and Atlanta with children. I am also looking forward to a remote possibility of travel to Israel. I am looking forward to allowing my body and spirit to heal from the exhaustion brought about by a year fighting and winning against Stage IV Metastatic Melanoma. Most of all, I am looking forward to time to be alone with the Lord, to rest reflect, to journal, and to write as well as making art.

Thank you for this sabbatical. I don't want to become the kind of pastor who loses his dreams in the midst of performing his duties. I will miss you while I am away. Pray for me, and I will pray for you. Keep your commitment to this congregation strong while I am gone. And when I return, we will continue our life-changing ministry together.

	Contact Information	
Linda Watson 214.320.0043		