

## “LA LUMINARIA” SEPT-DEC, ‘24

### GRACE NOTES by Pastor Linda Roberts-Baca

In September, people gathered from all over the world to attend “*The Festival of Homiletics*” held at Cambridge University. My husband, Michael, and I, had attended one of these conferences several years ago in Minneapolis; and, to my surprise, Michael loved this event—that brings together some of the most gifted preachers on the planet—and so did I.

One of those preachers who heralded this year’s festival is, also, a poet by the name of Malcolm Guite. Malcolm, who served for many years as Chaplain of Cambridge University, was also a keynote speaker, June ‘23, at Duke Divinity School’s *Theology and Arts Residency* program.

In an excerpt from one of his poems *Only Your Heart Will Do*, Christ, speaking in the poem, says: **“Let me begin to break the ground/And plant a seed/That grows up.../Till your unsightly roots bring forth/My rose/For I have learned to make the broken true/Since my heart too was broken/once for you.”** God bless our year-round continuing education!



### SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS

Sept. 1: Rev. Hannah Scanlon, *Guest Pastor*

Sept. 8: Ms. Ari Herring, *Guest Speaker*, Rio Grande Food Project

Sept. 15: “*Your Life Matters!*” Pastor Linda

Sept. 22 : “*True Greatness*” “

Sept. 29 : “*Tender Hearts*” “

Oct. 5: **Session Meeting, 10:00 am** (rescheduled)

Oct. 6: **World Communion Sunday/Adult Bible Study, 9:15 am**

Oct. 12: **Men’s Fellowship Group, 8:30 am.**, Library

Oct. 13: “*What Jesus Notices*” Pastor Linda

Oct. 20: “*What Do You Want?*” “

Oct. 27: “*Your Heart’s Deepest Prayer*” “

Nov. 3: **Communion Sunday** (Daylight Saving’s Time Ends)

Nov. 24: **Reign of Christ Sunday** and “*Hanging of the Greens*”

Dec. 24 (Tuesday): **Christmas Eve Worship, 5:30 pm**, Sanctuary



#### PASTOR:

Linda Roberts-Baca

#### Clerk of Session:

Marsha Bedell

#### ELDERS:

Gayle McIntyre

John Landman

Phil Nickel

Michael J. Baca

Marsha Bedell

#### DEACONS:

Amber Preston

Leanne Bennett

Melissa J. Espalin

Jose Jafet Espalin

Patty Preston

Jack Preston



**Marsha's Note \***

"My father loved music, but I never once heard him sing.

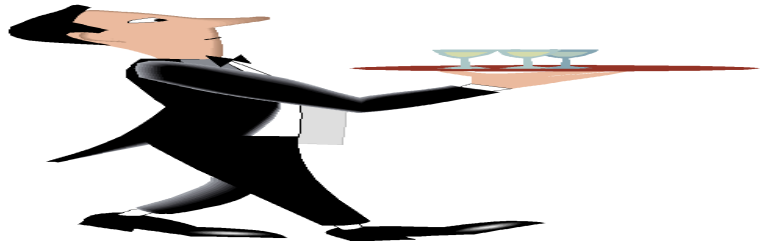
When he was very young, he lined up with his classmates as they sang. One day he felt his teacher tap him on the head and say to him, "Don't sing!" Dad sang in a monotone, and was taught not to spoil the music by joining in. He never sang again—thinking his voice wasn't good enough to share.

What does God want from those of us who voice only monotones? I remember a woman in our church choir who sang in the choir for decades but whose health was failing and sang off-key. To the credit of all her friends in the choir, they insisted she keep singing as long as she was able.

We are unworthy of God's love, and unable to earn it no matter how we try. Our lives, like our voices, will never measure up to the standard of perfection. But God wants us to sing anyway—knowing that God's grace is what makes the difference!"

—from *The Upper Room*

\*Marsha Bedell is Rio Grande's Music Director



**LOOKING TO SERVE?**

*There are many ways to get involved at Rio Grande Presbyterian Church. What follows are a list of just a few of them:*

**Property Team:** Oversees the church grounds, buildings, custodian, and repair and maintenance for the church. Meets, periodically, as needed. New members welcome! **John Landman**, *Chairperson*

**Christian Education Team:** Plans adult, children and teen study groups, including Sunday/mid-week offerings; Confirmation Classes; One-Room Sunday School for kids; (and, in the past, Summer Music Camps and Vacation Bible School events). If you have an interest in serving on this team, please let **Michael Baca**, *Chairperson*, know!

**Outreach Team:** Plans events and outreach to the community to invite new friends to learn about Rio Grande Church and join! In the past, this team has planned Prayer and Study groups with Holy Rosary; overseen a Garden Steering Team; and organized and planned events such as the 'Arts & Crafts Festival' and our 70th Anniversary celebration (held several years ago). *New team members welcome!* If interested, talk with **Phil Nickel**, *Chairperson*.

**Worship Team:** Meets periodically to plan special and regular worship, including Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter Services, as well as regular Sunday Worship music and liturgies. If you'd like to join this team, talk with **Marsha Bedell**, *Chairperson*.

**Mission Team:** Recommends new mission ventures and funding support of them to Session; supports existing mission opportunities for congregation; promotes National PCUSA church offerings yearly; and runs the *Gently Used Clothing Ministry* Weds. & Fri. from 9-11 am. If you'd like to join this team, talk with **Marilyn Landman**, *Chairperson*.

**Finance Team:** Meets to plan the Annual Church Budget; and, in the last few years, implemented new church financial procedures. Meets around two times a year usually. ***New members needed and welcomed!*** **Michael Baca**, *Chairperson*

*Also:*

Consider attending Sunday Adult Study; assist with worship as a Liturgist or Acolyte; volunteer in the food project; create a new class (like a quilting or book class!); or sing in the choir!

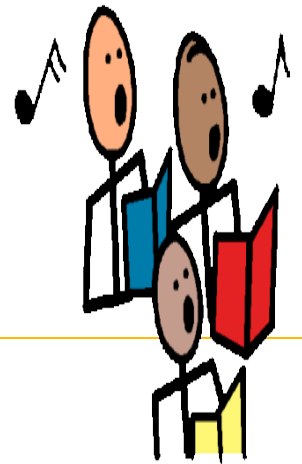
*Interested? Talk with Pastor Linda and/or Team Chairperson(s). Thank you!*



**Session Notes from August Meeting:**

Motions were made, 2nd and approved to do the following:

- \*Hear from Ari Herring, RGFP Co-Dir. during Worship; and give \$100 during *their* ongoing Matching Grant program
- \*Give 'Faith Comes by Hearing' \$100 in support of their translations of various unwritten tribal languages into Scripture
- \*Invite Tiffany Lo Finch to speak to us about 'Project Regeneration', a program to assist in "Discerning Our Present/ Envisioning Our Future" (Stay tuned!)



**LIKE TO SING?**

**Rio Grande Choir practice resumes Thursday evenings starting in Sept., with a new time: 6:00 pm!**

If you like to sing and 'make a joyful noise to the Lord', plan to attend. **All are welcome!**

Need more information? Please contact Marsha B., *Rio Grande Music Director*



## **UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

**October 1: 1st Tuesday Luncheon, 11:30 am, DH Lescombes, formerly St. Claire's Winery  
(901 Rio Grande Blvd. off I-40)**

**Friday, October 4: 'Memorandum' Meeting w/ Food Project, 11:30 am, library**

**Saturday, October 5: Session Meeting, 10:00 am, Church Library**

**October 6: World Communion Sunday  
Adult Bible Study Resumes, 9:15 am, in the church library**

**Saturday, October 12: Men's Fellowship Resumes over Coffee in Church Library  
2nd Sundays, 8:30 am. All men welcome. John Landman, leader**

**Saturday, October 19: Financial Audit, 9:30 am  
Presbytery of Santa Fe meets in Farmington**

**Saturday, October 26: Rio Grande Food Project's "Hike Against Hunger" meets at  
Pat Hurley Park, 9:00 am for registration; 10 am for hike**

**Tuesday, Nov. 5: 1st Tues. Luncheon, 11:30 am, Olive Garden (10050 Coors Bypass)**

**Sunday, Nov. 17: "Giving Sunday" (to receive our pledges during Worship for 2025)**

**Sunday, Nov. 24: Reign of Christ Sunday/"Hanging of the Greens" (following Worship)**

**Sundays, Dec. 1: - Dec. 22: Sundays in Advent**

**Tuesday Dec. 3: 1st Tues. Luncheon, 11:30 am, Place: TBA**

**Tuesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship, 5:30 pm, in Sanctuary**



**CELEBRATING WITH YOU**



**AUTUMN BIRTHDAYS**

September 7: Jose J.—E.

September 22: Cathy M.

September 30: Patty P.

October 1: Bill W.

October 6: Stevie Ray Y.

October 9: Amanda D.

October 13: John L.

October 28: Ben Y.

**WINTER BIRTHDAYS**

Nov. 11: Richard C.

Nov. 21: Jacob

Dec. 1: Pastor Linda

Dec. 10: Shelley R.

Dec. 12: Virginia G.

Dec. 20: Michael B.

Dec. 24: Leanne B.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to:**

Melissa & Jose

September 18, 2022

Ron & Leanne

October 21, 1977

*Happy  
Birthday*



*Let us know if we, inadvertently, left out  
your birthday or anniversary!*



to:

**Tiffany in the  
Presbytery Office** for  
sharing information on  
*Project Regeneration*  
at the Aug. Session  
Mtg; and posting this  
newsletter online

**Marilyn, Amber and  
Leanne** who met to  
organize the Coffee  
Fellowship pantry, and  
who help host/plan  
monthly Coffee  
Fellowships, etc.

**Bill** who deposits  
weekly offerings and  
pledges and, with  
**Eileen**, sends out  
yearly summaries of  
giving

**Marsha and Michael**  
who, together, led this  
year's Financial Audit

*Thank you!*

*Please pray to God for the following*

**Sam Landman resuming college this Fall at CNM and for healing of his hand (and complete recovery of his brain tumor)**

**Patty Preston for healing from heart pain**

**Gayle McIntyre for healing from hip pain**

**Deseree Marmon and Harriett, Kat and Marie Marmon for peace in the midst of loss and unity as caregivers**

**The family of Ann Katherine Reid Poling, who passed to the Church Triumphant on Sept. 21, 2024, in Rio Rancho**

**God's grace and peace in life's transitions**

**Free and fair upcoming USA Elections in November**

**Peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia & around the world!**

*We give God thanks for the following:*

**Gayle McIntyre's first grandson, 'Remy', born to her son, Seth (currently working in Ethiopia) and fiancé Brie**

**Rio Grande Food Project making this location their home and permanent food distribution and classroom site; and for their beautiful cultivation of gardens and orchards here!**

**Pastor Linda and Michael's family reunion in ABQ with adult kids Samuel (who quit his mind-numbing Data Science job, longing for a more creative job that incorporates computers, music, and art); Jacob (home from an internship in NYC, and returning to college as a Senior); and Abigail (home from Kansas City, and applying to graduate schools)**

**College kids and young adults who need to know God's real and really loves them and for God to direct their steps**

**A safe school year, and Christ's peace, for all returning to school in ABQ and around the country**

**For church growth in grace and numbers, and greater participation in ministries and mission here**



***Would you be willing to host a month  
of Sunday Coffee Fellowships?***

Here’s the current schedule:

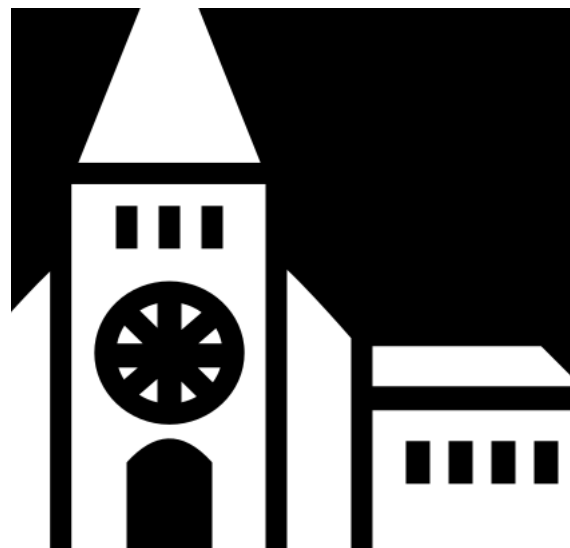
**Sept: Marilyn and John**

**Oct: Amber      Nov.: Mike/Pastor Linda**

**Dec: LeAnne      January ‘25: Amber**

**Feb.: Karol**

**Hosts are needed for March—May, ’25**



*If you’d like to help, please contact Amber, Leanne or Marilyn. Thanks!*



**Mission News** from Marilyn Landman, *Mission Chairperson*

**Sam Landman will, once again, lead the 5th Annual Toy Drive to collect Christmas gifts for infants to HS students. Please leave your new, unwrapped gift in the basket under the sanctuary Christmas tree starting the 1st Sunday in Advent, December 1. Sam will distribute these gifts, via the Food Project, to parents of children on Wednesday, Dec. 18th.**

**The Gently Used Clothing Ministry continues to operate Wed. and Fri., 9-11 am, and donations of clean clothing are always welcome! If you’d like to volunteer to help Wednesdays or Fridays, please contact Marilyn at 505-831-2063 or on her cell phone 505-288-7748. Thanks!**