



# The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

## DECEMBER 2011

### Getting Ready

Advent is a season of getting ready. Hay que prepararse. A few years back I joined a group of pastors for a fall retreat where we gathered to get ready for Advent. We invited Claudio Carvalhaes, worship and preaching professor from Louisville Seminary in Kentucky, to lead our retreat.



Claudio is a theologian and an artist from Sao Paulo, Brazil. He opened up our Advent retreat asking us how would things be different if we really expected Jesus to show up, to be *here with us* on Christmas. If Christ indeed were coming, what would you and I do differently to get ready?

We all have our Christmas traditions for which we prepare. I'm looking forward to sharing in this season with all of you here at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. I know there will be much "readying" going on throughout the month of December.

We will be preparing and decorating the church from now clear through Christmas. The choir will be working on seasonal music, and the children will be rehearsing their Christmas pageant for worship on the 18th. We'll all be decorating our homes in special ways, and preparing to either receive or go visit family. There are special foods to be made and gifts to be selected and given.

In the midst of all of these activities, I encourage us all to take to heart Claudio's question and challenge. What would we do differently if we really were expecting Jesus to be *here with us* this Christmas - in our church, in our community, in our homes, and in our hearts? We all get ready when we are preparing to receive a special guest. Let us make room for Christ at this time. Emmanuel - God with us - is coming. Let us get ready and share the Good News.

Peace, Drew

### December Text & Topics

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** Second Sunday of Advent  
"Patience" 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** Third Sunday of Advent  
"Who's coming?" Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1:6-8, 19-28

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Children's Christmas Pageant  
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve Communion  
"A Child" Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Day  
Ken Cuthbertson is preaching.  
Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14

**January 1<sup>st</sup>** First Sunday after Christmas,  
"Redemption" Psalm 148:1-14; Galatians 4:4-7

**Poinsettias** will decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. **Luminarias** will decorate the church grounds on Christmas Eve. If you would like to celebrate, honor or memorialize someone or some occasion, please fill out the form found in the bulletin on December 4 and 11<sup>th</sup>. Poinsettias are \$10 each. Luminarias are \$10 per dozen. If you are writing a check to LPPC, note "Poinsettias/Luminarias" on the memo line. Place the form in the offering plate, or drop by or mail to the church office (867-5718). Please place your order by Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.



**A copy of the 2011 Advent calendar** is included with this issue of the newsletter. It is also posted on the **Announcement page** of the LPPC website at [www.lasplacitaschurch.org](http://www.lasplacitaschurch.org).

**Again this year, our Advent and Christmas bulletin covers are a creation of our Sunday School children.** Look for their work gracing our bulletins through Christmas Day.

### **Annual Tamale Brunch**

On December 18 after worship, please join in our annual church family celebration of the Christmas season featuring the traditional holiday food of our founders—delicious tamales. The event will follow the annual children's Christmas Pageant which will be presented during the 10:30am worship service. Look for more information for both events in upcoming Sunday bulletins as well as on our website.

### **Poetry by Candlelight at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church.**

Winter begins to settle on the mountain and the longest night comes upon us. Solstice. Come celebrate the passage and welcome back the slowly stretching days at the **Winter Solstice Candlelight Poetry Reading** at LPPC.

**"Snow on Ashes"** is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21 at 7pm in the sanctuary. Poets from around the Southwest will each read a poem to the light of a single burning candle. Each poem is followed by a short interlude of silence to provide the listeners a moment of contemplation at the close of another year.

The Winter Solstice readings are a regular offering of the Earth Care Fellowship at LPPC and The Partnership for Earth Spirituality, as part of the Earth Vespers series. All are invited.



**Rev. Ken Cuthbertson will be teaching at Ghost Ranch during the week of January 16-22, 2012.** The class is "What is Happening to Christianity" and focuses on the "Emerging Christianity" movement. Current plans are to house it at Casa del Sol, giving an opportunity for participants to enjoy the wonderful stillness of the desert winter at Ghost Ranch.

For more information please go online to Ghost Ranch: <http://www.ghostranch.org/>. On the menu

bar, click on 'Courses & Retreats' and when you see the drop-down menu, click on 'Online Course Catalogue.' Go to the "instructor" box on the left of the page and scroll down to Ken Cuthbertson's name. That will take you to the course description and registration information. If you need assistance you can call 505-685-4333, ext 4152.

### **SESSION Highlights**

It is my habit to review previous month Session minutes, refreshing my memory (or lack thereof) in preparation for writing these notes. There being nothing particularly fascinating to report, I decided to present a brief review of selected monthly highlights in 2011.



January: Reverend Drew Henry was welcomed to LPPC and the pulpit, with his first sermon on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

February: After many months of volunteer assistance, LPPC's financial secretary, Liz Allotta, was hired.

March: New deacon and elder installation; bell tower refurbishment work began.

April: New member Peggy S was welcomed; our professional website management program, Clover, was initiated.

May: New members Ed & Sally G and Don & Ann H were welcomed.

June: New members Bob & Susan H, Tamara H, and Burke & Martha R, were welcomed.

July: MDO open house; our new contract custodian, Guy V, was hired.

August: Parish Associate Ken Cuthbertson was installed.

September: A new, easier to understand method of financial reporting was adopted; LPPC worship service attendance averages, year-to-date, increased from an average weekly attendance of 87 in 2010 to a weekly attendance of 104 in 2011.

October: New member Weda B was welcomed; an updated congregation directory was published.

November: Our deacons gave out 66 Thanksgiving turkey food baskets to Placitas families; stewardship pledge campaign reveals an overwhelming vote of confidence in our future with, at present, 79 households pledging \$157,897!

December: Merry Christmas!

~Bill L  
Clerk of Session

## CASA ROSA NEWS

### Sharing Our Gifts

As we bring the year to a close, we think of the many gifts that have been shared at Casa Rosa. We feel so very fortunate! The



abundance of Thanksgiving Baskets, successful sales at Placitas Holiday Sale, all of your donations of money for food, gifts of produce, gifts of warm clothing, baked goods, shoes, used appliances and other household gifts, and on and on. And then there are all the gifts of time and energy and the great variety of talents that people bring and share with us. It is really a dream team that works so well together, and there are always new participants who show up to help, maybe for one time, maybe for a while, and some who are always there working tirelessly.

This is risky, because I will probably forget someone, but here are a few names of people who are there all of the time, sharing their gifts:

**Sherrill and Gordon**, who manage, administer, organize, clean, do everything!

**Charlotte** who continues to do anything needed, cares for everyone, cooks.

**Weda, Diane, and Dee** who manage dry goods, produce, inventory and most everything!

**Elsie and Vivian** who manage the refrigerators and freezers every Saturday.

**Betsy**, our fundraiser extraordinaire, who always has another idea for us!

**Kathy**, who is our secretary, and clothing organizer, and **Jan** who works along side of Kathy.

**Tom and Matt** who take care of the building and help everywhere.

**Doug and Jack** who manage the monthly food pantry and help wherever needed.

**Jim** who takes pictures documenting the life of Casa Rosa, and helps everywhere.

**Ginny** who is our receptionist, who always provides good cheer.

**Jeff** who is our food safety person, who helps wherever he can.

**Stew** who is always there to help anywhere needed every day of the week!

**Drew**, our spiritual adviser, who is always there for us.

**Cory** who assists in so many different ways; I don't even know where to start!

And all of **YOU**, members and friends of LPPC who give food, money, time, and your prayers—*thank you, thank you, thank you!*

Many organizations have helped as well, including the Placitas Artists, who are sharing their t-shirt sales with us; La Puerta Realty, who has held garage sales, ice cream socials, and a coat drive for us; Jardineros; Seed 2 Need; and others.

As we look forward to Christmas and the birth of our Baby Jesus, please continue to remember Casa Rosa with your prayers and gifts.

Here are a few remaining opportunities to buy our Peruvian ornamental gourds and Mata Ortiz seed pots:

12/4 at the PAS concert—2:00pm

12/11 after LPPC worship—11:30am

12/18 after LPPC worship—11:30am

~Karen F, Co-Chair  
Casa Rosa Board of Directors

## MEMBER PROFILES

### MATT AND ROBERT G

Matt was born at UNM Hospital, attended Placitas Elementary School and graduated from Bernalillo High School in 1984. He has worked since he was age 13. He learned how to plaster from Max D and was his helper for years. When Matt graduated, he became a plasterer. He worked for two companies in Albuquerque for 18 years. His life has focused in Placitas since then. He remodeled houses, maintained his Mom's adobe house and does whatever work comes his way.



Matt has two children. Timothy is 21 and works in Bernalillo in construction. His daughter, Brianna, is 17 and lives in Albuquerque.

Matt rides his bike six miles every day down to the Merc for exercise and to relieve his back pain. He also lifts weights, used to draw and keeps busy with his all year long garage sale by his house. People donate things all the time to his sale.

Matt's most beloved personal possessions are the photos of his kids and family as well as his animals. The one thing he wishes he had done was to join the military. The things he wouldn't want to live without are his mountain bike and his weights.

Matt's memories of growing up in Placitas include seeing lots of people live in trailers, then watching those people frame around their trailers to create a house. People used to grow fruit and sell it on the side of the road.

Robert was also born at UNM Hospital, attended Placitas Elementary School and graduated from Bernalillo High School in 1988. He joined the army at Ft. Leavenworth in Missouri. He worked in the kitchen and decided cooking wasn't his favorite thing to do. After leaving the Army he decided to try the medical field and enrolled in TVI (now CNM) on the GI bill. Robert has been a surgical technician for 20 years at Lovelace Women's Hospital.

Robert lives with his Mom and takes good care of her. He works very long hours so his free time is focused on his four dogs – three Peekapoo's and one Chihuahua.

He well remembers Pastor Adams at LPPC.

Robert's most prized possessions are his family and his dogs. He has always wanted to travel to Italy, see Lady Liberty and so many more beautiful cities.

The things that Robert wouldn't want to live without are: his dogs—number one, his health, his sound mind, the air he breathes and the people he has helped around the community.

Robert remembers the old timers at Christmas time: the fun everyone had during those great holidays, the food people cooked, and the music they listened to. People really got together to share in the joy of giving. Robert misses those days. He will always remember the Spanish folks.

~Wendy I & Betty C



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SET

On Sunday, **December 11th**, the Session has called a Congregational Meeting following the 10:30am service of worship for the purpose of electing ruling elders, deacons, and endowment trustees

If you have questions or would like to recommend/nominate someone, please contact a member of this year's Nominating Committee as soon as possible: Ron D, chair; Vivian D, Deacon; Vicki D, Drexel D and Jody W, members at large.

## Missing Crèche

Two Christmases ago our committee was unable to locate the lovely nativity figures donated by an LPPC Family. The figures are a glossy ivory color with gold detailing and were displayed under the sanctuary tree. The box has a picture of the contents on its cover, If you find it, please return to the choir robbing room. Thank you. **MJP** for the Worship and Music Committee.

**LPPC Librarian Needed:** If you know how to code library books would you be willing to spend a little time coding books that are being donated to the LPPC Library? This is not a big job but it is a very important one. If you can help, please see Wendy Ingram.



## The Madrigal Singers & The Wind Quintet present "Flights of Fancy" *Fun, Frolic and Faith*

Sunday, December 4th at 4pm at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 5301 Ponderosa Ave, NE in Albuquerque. The group is directed by Bob B and admission is a donation at the door. All welcome!

## Second Presbyterian Church Women's Association Mexican Dinner & Bazaar

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30-6:30pm. Adult tickets are \$8 and children \$4 and may be purchased at the door. Second Pres is located at the corner of Lomas Boulevard and Edith NE in Albuquerque. For more information call the church office at 242-8005.

## Violin Holiday Concert

The violin studio of Linda Boivin will hold its annual Holiday Concert in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:30pm. This concert is free to the LPPC community. For more information contact Sue P through the church office.



## DECEMBER Calendar Highlights

- Sun Dec 4 2nd Sunday of Advent—Communion  
*Alternative service, 8:30am*  
*Adult Forum, 9:15am*  
*Worship service, 10:30am*  
Nursery provided; Sunday School  
*Fellowship follows this service*  
*PAS Reception & Concert, 2-5pm*
- Wed Dec 7 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sat Dec 10 *Hanging of the Greens, 10am-1pm*
- Sun Dec 11 3rd Sunday of Advent  
*Alternative service, 8:30am*  
*Adult Forum, 9:15am*  
*Worship service, 10:30am*  
Nursery provided; Sunday School  
*Fellowship follows this service*  
*Holiday Violin Concert, 5-6:30pm*
- Wed Dec 14 Placitas Mobile Food Pantry  
10am-12noon
- Sat Dec 17 *Blessing Day Distribution, 1-3pm*
- Sun Dec 18 4th Sunday of Advent  
*Alternative service, 8:30am*  
*Adult Forum, 9:15am*  
*Worship service, 10:30am*  
~*Children's Christmas Pageant*  
Nursery provided; Sunday School  
*Fellowship follows this service*
- Wed Dec 21 *Winter Solstice Poetry Reading:*  
*"Snow on Ashes" 7:00pm*
- Sat Dec 24 *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*  
*of Lessons and Carols with*  
*Communion, 7:30pm*  
Fellowship follows this service
- Sun Dec 25 *Christmas Day One Service only,*  
Sanctuary, 9:30am  
(Nursery provided)  
*Fellowship follows this service*
- Mon Dec 26 Church Office is closed
- Sun Jan 1 New Year's Day *One Service only,*  
Sanctuary, 9:30am  
(Nursery provided)  
*Fellowship follows this service*
- Mon Jan 2 Church Office closed



***JANUARY newsletter deadline:***  
***Tuesday, December 27th at noon***

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