



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

AUGUST 2012

Home of Peace

I recently had the opportunity to spend a week at Ghost Ranch with 30 or so young adults from across the country. We were men and women, single and married, some, including myself, with children in tow. We are students of astronomy, astrophysics and environmental sciences, hair stylists, pastors, priests, stay-at-home moms and stay-at-home dads, wilderness guides, social workers, chaplains, therapists, artists, and musicians.

We were gathered by the call *To a Home of Peace*, taken from a quote from the Quran - "God invites us to a home of peace." Our leaders were John Philip & Ali Newell and David & Winona Poole. We sang together, prayed together, ate together, worshipped together, tai chi'd together, danced together, hiked together. We spoke and were silent together. We laughed, and we cried.

While Philip Newell's focus is often Celtic Christian spirituality, he invited us to consider also Aung San Suu Kyi's threefold pathway to Peace. Suu Kyi is the leader of the non-violent revolution in Myanmar. Philip Newell lifted her up as one of the great female spiritual leaders of our time.

Suu Kyi's spiritual path involves having (1) **the courage to see** the beauty all around us and within each one of us, (2) **the courage to feel** the brokenness in our own lives and in the life of the world, and (3) **the courage to act** bringing about peace while being fully aware of both our brokenness and our beauty.

In my own journey, I was struck by the power of the body prayer we engaged in daily. I look forward to sharing it with some of you. For our congregation, I found myself pondering the question, "How is God calling us to bless and serve those around us?"

May Peace prosper as we answer that question together

~Drew

August Text & Topics

August 5th -- 10th Sunday after Pentecost "**David & Nathan**" Ephesians 4:1-16; 2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13a

August 12th -- 11th Sunday after Pentecost "**Absalom, O, Absalom**" Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2; 2 Samuel 18 – selected verses

August 19th -- 12th Sunday after Pentecost "**Leadership Transition**" Ephesians 5:15-20; 1 Kings 2:10-12. 3:3-14

August 26th -- 13th Sunday after Pentecost "**The Dwelling Place of God**" Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Kings 8 – selected verses

SESSION Highlights

New Members!

During a Special Called Session Meeting on Sunday, July 8th, Steve and Joan C became

our newest church members. We all want to welcome and come to know this wonderful couple who have been attending our Sunday worship services for several months. Joan has already become active in our youth program and fellowship activities.

Church Membership Climbs

If it seems to you like our membership is continually growing, you're absolutely correct. Our membership census grew by 15 members last year (2011) and so far in 2012, we have been blessed with 8 additional members. In consideration of 4 members relocating out of state, LPPC membership currently totals 170! I've heard it said that there is no such thing as a coincidence. That being said, since Rev. Henry came to town in January 2011, membership has risen from 151 congregants to 170!



Presbytery Meeting July 28th

Commissioners Nancy U and Bill L will accompany Rev. Drew Henry to a Joint Presbytery Meeting at Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church on this Saturday. Both Presbyteries in New Mexico, our southern friends from Sierra Blanca and our Presbytery of Santa Fe, will gather for a day of discernment. A very important issue at hand concerns our organization going forward. Will we continue as separate Presbyteries as was the consensus at the February Presbytery Meeting in Las Cruces or will we come together again as one Presbytery?

~Bill L
Clerk of Session

CASA ROSA NEWS **Busy Summer Days**

Whatever happened to the slow and lazy days of summer when we were children, and we wondered, "What is there to do?" Well, we are not having any such problems at Casa Rosa. We are more than busy!



Each summer we renew our agreements and contracts with Roadrunner. We also sign up all of our clients again, updating information and checking to see that they still qualify for our help. Every time, we find that some clients move or no longer need our help, and that new people come. Still, we average 50+ families every week.

By the time, you read this newsletter; La Puerta will have held another flea market for Casa Rosa's benefit on Saturday, July 28th. Thank you so much for all of your donations and purchases!

We are working with **Seed 2 Need** again this summer, and the picking started early. You may have noticed some large zucchinis offered after church. These are extra from what we offered our clients on Saturday, and there may be more. Watch for these opportunities! We have been picking some green beans as well, and are looking forward to picking tomatoes and chili, and much more.

In August, Casa Rosa will celebrate its 4th anniversary. We will be holding our celebration during normal distribution from 9-11 on Saturday August 25th. You are invited to share in our celebration! There will be food and laughter. We expect to have a piñata again, and there is a promise of music as well and who knows what else. It will be fun! And later that same day La Puerta will hold an ice cream social at their office to benefit

Casa Rosa. So come and help us celebrate our 4th anniversary in the morning and then drop by La Puerta in the afternoon to enjoy some refreshing ice cream.

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

FELLOWSHIP NEWS **New tables!**

The Fellowship Committee is happy to announce that the 64 chairs and 8 tables that were purchased for Fellowship Hall have arrived and are already being used. The broken chairs were disposed of and 36 chairs are in the basement, which can be loaned out for use.



If you are interested in borrowing tables and chairs for a church related or member event, please reserve ahead of time through Cory in the office (867-5718).

The old chair racks had to be modified for the new chairs and one new rack was made. We want to thank Leland B and Ron D for reworking the two old racks and putting together one new rack. Thank you!



Join us for our annual **Waffle & Pancake Brunch** after the 9:30am service on August 26. A donation of \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family would be appreciated to help with expenses.

~Joan D
The Fellowship Committee

Vacation Bible School **Marketplace 29 AD**

Thank you to all the volunteers and children who gave their love, time, talents and finances to make Marketplace 29 AD so much fun!



Eighteen children, dressed in shepherd's costumes, stepped back in time to experience what life might have been like for Jesus. They tasted the baked goods and candy, danced and sang to the Hava

Nagila, visited the shops of the potter, the carpenter, the weaver, the kite maker, the baker and the music maker, and played games Jesus might have played. They listened to the stories of John the Baptist, Mary & Martha, Andrew, Zacchaeus, and the Woman at the Well.

A huge thank you to all the talented people who made this possible:

Shopkeepers: Joyce T, Ellen B, Shelly H, Nancy & Wayne U, Monya K and grandson Darren , Ed G, Pat T and David, and Jody W.

Biblical Characters: Pastor Drew, Liese M, Jeff D, Bill L, and Nan S.

Kitchen Crew: Nancy W with Joan C, Jody W, and Dana H.

Canopies provided by: Beth S, Anna H and Ed G.

Photographers: Russell M and Wendy I.

Shekel Pouch Makers: Meredith L and Shelly H.

Dance Instructors: Elizabeth D and Nancy W.

Invaluable Supporters & Planners: Anna H, Tamara H, Beth Anne B, Meredith L, Carolyn M, Annabella M, Dana H, Hannah S, Tina T.

And especially to all the wonderful children of Nazareth who made everything so worthwhile. What a blessing it was to experience 29 AD.

~Sally G
Vacation Bible School Coordinator

MEMBER PROFILE SAM S PART 2

Memories of Sam S by Bruce M



I first became acquainted with Sam S in 1968 at the old Placitas Post Office when I needed help locating the families who were on our eight party telephone line that was out of service. I asked Sam if he knew any of the people in the village. He replied with a grin that he might know a few. He proceeded to give me directions, but since I was new in the area his directions were hard to follow. Sam saw my confusion, offered to go and did show

me their locations. This extra effort to help a complete stranger left a lasting impression with me.

In 1969 we went to our first church service at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. It was Sam S who greeted us at the door with such sincere warmth and friendliness that it made us feel at ease. After the service Sam made sure that we were introduced to everyone at the church.

Sam enjoyed working with his animals and his relationship with them was fun to watch. He had a soft spot for stray animals. Once, when a stray cat was left at our house just before we had to leave on a trip, Sam offered to keep the cat at his house while we were gone. When we went to retrieve the cat, Sam asked if he could keep him since they had become good buddies and hated to part with him. So he stayed.

Sam had a great sense of humor and enjoyed a good laugh. On one occasion Norma and Jerry M, and ourselves took Sam to see the wild elk herds located in the Valle Grande Basin. When we arrived, the elk were located far back in the valley and required binoculars to see them. Try as he might Sam was unable to see them. After a while he said it was past lunch time and that might be the problem. After we ate lunch at Jemez Falls we returned to the Valle Grande. The elk herd had moved closer to the road, and Sam was able to see the elk. With a great big laugh, Sam said, "You see I told you if I ate lunch I would be able to see the elk!"

One time while opening the gate to the conference grounds, a game warden, Robert Livingston, stopped and advised us of a rogue bear that was in the area. In our discussion with the warden, he said the best thing to do with a bear was to stand our ground, and make ourselves appear as big as we could. He then asked Sam if this was what he would do. Sam laughed and replied, "I think I will stand in back of my buddy Bruce and see if he can scare the bear away." (It was comforting to know that I had such a loyal friend watching my back!).

A trip up Las Huertas Canyon with Sam was a history lesson of the Placitas area. He showed me where the original outlet for Las Huertas Acequia was located. We looked at the twenty-two acre field in the area above the Sandia Cave trail head where Sam had worked as a boy hoeing weeds for around fifty cents a day. On the bottom slope of the southeast side of Palomas Peak we examined the

remains of the old pipeline ditch that had been built to carry water for hydraulic mining in the Golden, New Mexico area that is over eighteen miles away.

At the Presbyterian Conference grounds in the 1920's the ministers hired Sam, a teenager at the time, to act as a watchman to safeguard the building material for the new buildings. Sam worked with me at the Conference Grounds for several years, and with his skill, knowledge and enthusiasm we were able to accomplish a great deal. On one occasion we repaired a plastic water line that a curious bear had clawed in twenty-two places. It took five days of hard work to accomplish, while standing on a forty-five degree slope. Sam helped all this time, despite having bad knees. Not bad for a man in his late seventies.

Sam was a person whose daily living repeated his deep faith. No matter where he was or in what circumstance, Sam would ask for the Lord's blessing before every meal.

During our years of friendship, I never once heard Sam make a disparaging remark about any person. Perhaps, it was in his service to his church that best exemplified Sam's strong personal faith and his commitment to help other people. He served as elder, caretaker, bell ringer, greeter, usher, attendance counter and advisor.

One of my fondest memories of Sam was seeing him teach the young people how to perform the candle lighting ceremony that opens and closes Sunday services. Sam S was one of the finest people I have ever known and I feel honored and privileged to have been his friend.

Memories of Sam from Pastor Jim Anderson

Sam and Siria S were fixtures at Las Placitas Presbyterian long before I arrived. Sam was always there to give a glad hand and a warm greeting to all that arrived. He kept careful track of the attendance. He would be thrilled to see the growth which has taken place. I'm sure that someplace he looks down with joy and approval at all that has happened. Las Placitas has come a long way from when Presbytery considered closing it. It is a treasure which is a blessing not only to its members but to the whole community.

Mothers' Day Out, the Placitas Artists Series, the Enchilada Dinners and the newly added Casa Rosa are blessings beyond compare. Sam was always a willing hand to help with any project. He and Siria

pitched in wherever needed. I know Sam never spoke ill of anyone. His positive attitude was infectious and has come to characterize the Church and the community.

Words can never adequately describe the contributions Sam has made. Those of us who knew him will always treasure the memories. I rejoice with all of you in the presence of Drew who is helping build an organization and structure which will long endure.



Planned Giving Workshop

Las Placitas Presbyterian Church will sponsor a *Planned Giving Workshop* at the church on Saturday, September 29th beginning at 9:00 am. Please mark your calendars.

You won't want to miss John Turner, our representative from the Presbyterian Foundation. He is known for his lively and humorous approach to a sometimes dry topic. In the process you will learn about how to reach your charitable and estate planning goals. You will receive practical information to help you get started to prepare an estate plan and to make informed decisions regarding your plan. More information about the workshop will be forthcoming over the next several weeks.

All members and friends of our congregation are invited to attend. Please join us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the LPPC Endowment Fund trustees—Jack F, Stew F, Jerri F, Mike P, or Leo W through the church office (867-5718).

COMMUNITY NEWS

The 15th Annual Chile

Festival will be held on two days this year—Saturday, August 25 from 9am to 4pm and Sunday, August 26 from 11am to 4pm.



This will benefit *Habitat for Humanity* and will be held at Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church located at 1801 Montañó Rd. NW in Albuquerque. There will be green chile roasting, live musical entertainment, arts & crafts, children's activities, silent auction, used books, plants, food & beverages, bake sale and much more. Admission is

free. Questions, please contact Lynn Chavez at (505) 344-9798 or visit their website at www.chilefestival.com.

Presbyterians Today invites photo submissions by September 1st.

If you had to show the mission of your congregation in a single photograph, what would be in the picture? What kind of photo would best capture the faith of Presbyterians in action?



In the spirit of the old adage “A picture is worth a thousand words,” the December issue of *Presbyterians Today* will include a selection of photos portraying “A Year in the Life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” **We invite you to contribute!** Please send photos taken within the past twelve months showing Presbyterians in mission at home and around the world. Everyone whose photos are selected for publication will give a complimentary copy of the magazine.

Please make sure photos are taken with a good-quality camera (not a cell phone) set for maximum resolution and file size. Please include the photographer’s name (if known) and a brief description of each photo, including identification of people pictured.

Email digital images to: today@pcusa.org. Mail print photos to Ashley Carter, *Presbyterians Today*, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202-1396. Photos will not be returned.

Photos must be received by **September 1**. Thanks in advance for spreading the word about this opportunity and for helping us tell the church’s story!

AUGUST Calendar Highlights

- Wed Aug 1 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun Aug 5 **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost— Communion is served—Ken Cuthbertson is preaching**
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Wed Aug 8 Mobile Food Pantry, 10am-12noon
- Sun Aug 12 **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Fri Aug 17 Member Potluck at Monya Kmetz’s, 6pm
- Sat Aug 18 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Annual Session Retreat at LPPC, Fellowship Hall, 9am-1pm
- Sun Aug 19 **Twelveth Sunday after Pentecost**
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Isotopes Family Baseball Outing—
Game time is 1:35pm
- Fri Aug 24 September newsletter deadline for submission: noon
- Sat Aug 25 Community Celebration of Alice Allen, founding member of Jardineros—afternoon in Fellowship Hall
- Sun Aug 26 **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Annual Pancake Brunch follows worship service in Fellowship Hall

Las Placitas Presbyterian Church
PO Box 768, Placitas, NM 87043

Rev. Drew M. Henry, Pastor
E-mail: pastor@lasplacitaschurch.org

Cory Franklin, Administrator
505-867-5718 ~ lppcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org