



B. Bowen

# The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

## December 2012

December is always a flurry. Activities abound as Christmas draws near. Gifts are bought and wrapped. Parties prepared. Seasonal scents fill the air. Another New Year awaits its ringing in.



In the church, we pull out *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. The Advent wreath is dusted off and stands proud for another season. The greens need to be hung. The tree trimmed. Tamales made. Carols sung. Christ is coming...again.

This December 2012 also brings to completion our designated time of ministry together. It was two years ago that this season of Advent was filled with waiting for us all. Waiting to get to get to know one another. Waiting for a new start. Waiting to see what God had prepared.

On the weekend of December 7-9, the Rev. Warren Nash will be with us to mark this time of transition. We will look at what brought us together, what we have accomplished in these first two years, and where we are headed as we answer a new call. Join us at the church on Friday, December 7th, as we kick-off the weekend with a Tamale Dinner at 6pm.

As we prepare for this new call, a pathway to retire our church's mortgage debt has emerged. The opportunity to free ourselves from this financial burden is within reach. Retiring the debt represents an amazing gift and an opportunity for this congregation to begin a new season of ministry together. I have already talked with many of you personally about making a special gift to help us reach this goal. I'd love for us all to do this together. Call me first if I haven't called upon you yet.

December is always a flurry. A New Year is here. Prepare the way!

Merry Christmas, Drew

## December Advent and Christmas Services

**December 2nd** - First Sunday in Advent  
O Antiphons with Communion - 10:30 a.m.

**December 9th** - Second Sunday in Advent  
Rev. Warren Nash preaching - 10:30 a.m.

**December 16th** - Third Sunday in Advent  
Children's Christmas Pageant - 10:30 a.m.

**December 23rd** - Fourth Sunday in Advent  
A Service of Lessons & Carols with *Navidad Nuestra* - 10:30 a.m.

**December 24th** - Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service with Communion - 7 p.m.

**December 30th** - First Sunday after Christmas  
Combined, Single Service - 9:30 a.m.

**Poinsettias** will decorate the sanctuary on December 23<sup>rd</sup> through Epiphany. **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 2 and 9.



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 before Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.**



## Congregational Development Event

Join us for a Weekend of Congregational and Leadership Development here at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Warren Nash will be our special guest presenter.

**Friday, December 7 – 6pm**

Tamale Fellowship Potluck

*Please bring a salad or dessert.*

**Saturday, December 8 – 9am to Noon**

Leadership Event

*Rev. Nash will guide our leaders through a review of our two years of designated ministry together. Light snacks and coffee will be served.*

**Sunday, December 9**

Adult Forum – 9:15am

*Join Warren Nash and Drew Henry for Q & A*

Worship Service – 10:30am

*Rev. Nash will preach.*

Warren Nash is the Executive Minister of Canterbury United Methodist Church in Birmingham, AL. He is a “second-career” minister, entering the ministry after a 25-year career in banking which included running his own banking consulting firm.

## SESSION Highlights

### New Contract Time for Rev. Drew Henry

In my mind, this is the most important Congregational Meeting of the year. On Sunday, December 16, immediately after the 10:30 am worship service, we will make a decision on Rev. Henry's terms of call.

Our pastor answered his initial calling two years ago, in January, 2011. Hard to believe it's been two years! That call and contract will expire at year's end. We need your input in deciding on our pastor's compensation package, as we move forward as a congregation, continuing to grow and prosper in future years together.

The terms of call options to be presented are based on months of research by our Personnel and Finance Committees, our Session, and guidance from the Synod of the Southwest and Presbytery of Santa Fe. Additionally one of the key components

in offering a financially responsible contract to Rev. Henry is the retirement of our mortgage debt.

### Mortgage Debt Retirement

Why is retirement of our mortgage debt related to our terms of call offering? The answer is financial solvency. In personal terms, it's like paying off a debt to then more comfortably afford something else. But in the case of our church, two additional benefits are realized:

1. We are relieved of an annual mortgage expense of \$22,720.56.
2. We are relieved of a potential future interest expense of \$25,552.

The financial freedom thus realized allows us the ability to offer Rev. Henry a fair and just contract.

### Congregational Meeting Set

On Sunday, **December 16th**, the Session has called a Congregational Meeting following the 10:30am worship service for the purpose of voting on Rev. Drew Henry's terms of call (contract).

### Snow Team

It's been a while, but you may still remember the snow and in particular ice that lingered around our walkways and in the parking lots after a winter storm. This year we'd like to avoid that problem, so we are forming a “snow team” to take on Mother Nature. In the event of a heavy weekend snow, this team of volunteers will clear the walkways and parking areas. If you are interested in becoming a charter member of this elite squad of individuals, just send me an email. Requirements include owning a snow shovel, possessing a strong back, and a willingness to be of service.

~Bill L, Clerk of Session

## MISSION NEWS

"The Mission Committee sold gift and wine bags at the Placitas Holiday Sale. We will be selling gift bags in Fellowship Hall the first and second Sundays in December along with coffee, chocolate and teas. All the money will be distributed in December to the various charities and causes that we have decided to support. We will have a list of the groups we supported on the Mission bulletin board. Thank you all for your help this past year."

~Nancy U, Coordinator  
Mission Committee



## Stewardship News

Many, many thanks to those of you who have responded to the 2013 Stewardship Campaign. (And many thanks to those of you who will be responding soon.)

As of November 26, we have the following pledge totals:

General Operating Fund:	\$145,952
*Special Pledges:	<u>\$ 7,208</u>
<b>Total Pledges:</b>	<b>\$153,160</b>

\*Special pledges include the following:

Debt Retirement:	\$4,688
Casa Rosa:	\$1,770
Memorial Garden:	\$ 700
Cuba:	\$ 50 (with up to \$1,200 matched at the special Cuba Offering)

**Total special pledges: \$7,208**

The Stewardship committee appreciates your commitment to the life and work of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church.

~Janice L  
Stewardship Chair

## CASA ROSA NEWS

In the gospel of Matthew Jesus says *for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked you clothed me.* At



Casa Rosa Food Bank we have the opportunity to apply these words literally in our community. Thanks to our supporters and volunteers in the community we are able to offer food, drink and clothing each week to approximately 55 needy households in Placitas. Casa Rosa serves its clients each Saturday morning from 9–11am.

In addition, on the second Wednesday of each month, Casa Rosa, through Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico, sponsors a *Mobile Food Pantry* from 10am to noon. On the day of the Mobile Food Pantry a Roadrunner truck delivers perishable and non-perishable foodstuffs to LPPC for immediate distribution to needy individuals. The items are

brought in on pallets to the LPPC fellowship hall where they are distributed to clients that morning.

The Mobile Food Pantry is held in the fellowship hall because the Casa Rosa facility does not have sufficient space to handle the large quantities delivered. Typically we receive 2500 lbs. of food and 1200 lbs. of water to distribute at a cost of approximately \$130. We usually serve 30 to 35 families from Placitas each month. As you might imagine, putting on a Mobile Food Pantry is a labor-intensive process. Fortunately we have faithful volunteers each month to help with the tasks of: setting up tables, unloading food, helping clients out to their cars, cleaning up afterward, and moving excess products from the fellowship hall over to Casa Rosa. New volunteers are always needed at these Mobile Food Pantries to help take some of the strain off our aging backs. So please come and help out.

Thanks to your generous donations Casa Rosa also distributes clothing to needy individuals in our community. Nats and other volunteers sort through piles of donated clothing each week and display these items in the Casa Rosa waiting area where on Saturday mornings clients choose the clothes they need. Please keep in mind that there is a special need for warm clothing as winter approaches.

Most of the food Casa Rosa distributes comes from Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico. We can leverage every dollar donated to purchase about \$8 worth of fresh produce, bread, meat, and non-perishables. This is possible because Roadrunner is funded through government programs, corporate donations, and private contributions. They distribute over twenty million pounds of food each year throughout the state of New Mexico through over 600 partner agencies including Casa Rosa Food Bank. Through this network, Roadrunner helps nearly 40,000 hungry people weekly in New Mexico. This is roughly equivalent to a city the size of Farmington.

~Jack C  
Casa Rosa Board of Directors

**What better way to spend a Thursday night than to be singing Christmas music!**

There is still more room for singers. Please, if you'd like to join the choir, come and talk to Andrew Alegria after church service or come fifteen minutes before choir rehearsal.



We will be doing some **Christmas Caroling** this year. If you and your family would like to join us, please stay after the church service on December 9th so that we can go over the music and lunch will be served. We'll carpool to our homebound families from 1 to 2:30pm.

Remember, on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm the Music Ministry will be having a music fundraiser called **Night at the Opera**. This will be an evening full of memorable opera arias/duets from several composers including Rossini, Mozart, Bizet, and other greats. We are bringing in singers from the Albuquerque area who have sung with the University of New Mexico Opera and Opera Southwest. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$10 per student (with ID).

Our fundraiser will assist in growing our music library and bringing in guest instrumentalists into our Sunday worship service. Tickets are being sold by the LPPC Choir members as well as at the door. (As of November 30<sup>th</sup> there are still tickets remaining.)

Come join the fun! Come join a group of friends! Come join the LPPC Choir!

~Andrew D. Alegria  
Choral Director

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN LPPC POTLUCK AT THE INGRAMS!**

**Friday, December 14 at 6pm.** Signup sheet will be in Fellowship Hall – same format as the summer pot lucks. The hosts will provide nonalcoholic drinks and coffee. If you would like something stronger, please bring your own.

**Address—11 Dustin Court, Sundance Mesa in Placitas.** Directions: Take Frontage Rd. north 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Camino Manzano (right after La Farge entrance). Go 1.5 miles and take the 3<sup>rd</sup>

left – Dustin Ct. We are at the bottom of the hill with the long driveway. If you don't want to get bottlenecked in the driveway, park on Dustin – the driveway lights will show you the way. Looking forward to your company!

**Winter Solstice Poetry Reading: "Creatures of the Long Night"**



On Friday evening December 21 the Earthcare Fellowship of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church is sponsoring our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Solstice Candlelight Poetry Reading. It will be held in the LPPC sanctuary at 7pm. Ten to twelve poets each will read a poem to the light of a single candle in the darkened sanctuary, with a minute or so of silence between each reading. The poems are not specifically religious in nature, but do offer the insights of the poet's observations and reflections.

Each year a theme is chosen by the Earthcare Fellowship and various local poets are invited to submit their works. The theme this year is "Creatures of the Long Night." Las Placitas Presbyterian Church is located on Highway 165 at the west edge of the historic village of Placitas. Further information is available via the LPPC website at [www.lasplacitaschurch.org](http://www.lasplacitaschurch.org).

**MEMBER PROFILE BOB D**

Bob was born in Detroit, Michigan and lived there until he graduated from high school. He attended Capital University for one year with thoughts of becoming a Lutheran minister.



Let's back up a bit and bring Bob's love of music into the story. Bob learned how to play the piano at age seven with lessons in the Classics. He continued in that vein for five to seven years. Then he started playing the popular songs that led to our current jazz. One summer when Bob was age fifteen, he played with a trio at the popular resort on Harsens Island on Lake St. Claire, 70 miles from Detroit. When Bob was twenty he was invited to play at French Lick Springs, Indiana. Some of the celebrity guests who vacationed there included:

Lana Turner, the Rich Brothers, Joey Brown and the Marx Brothers. There Bob met his wife, Shirley. She was the singer for their band. They were married one year later. Bob and Shirley celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year!

Bob thought it best to temporarily stop playing at these venues because it was wartime and he wanted to enlist in the Navy. After 3 ¼ years the GI bill allowed him to continue on with his studies. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Detroit Jesuit School with a degree in Psychology. He then went on to Wayne University earning a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology. While earning his Doctorate at the University of Michigan he worked as a consultant in seven districts in the Michigan area, setting up programs for mentally challenged children.

During his school years, Bob started "jobbing" and by reputation had some amazing musical experiences. He had a friend who had connections for really great gigs. Bob often played in a band at parties given by the Fords, Fishers and others of Detroit's very successful families. He played at extravagant debutant parties as well as at Charlotte Ford's wedding reception. He would start playing inside the house at these parties and then come outside and join in with whichever big band was playing under the tent. He played with Tommy Dorsey's band, Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, Victor Borge. Florence Henderson and Soupy Sales. He often didn't know which famous person(s) he would be playing with beforehand. What a fabulous experience!

Bob left all this behind when he went into private practice. He lived in the suburbs of Detroit and practiced there for 31 years, specializing in group therapy and marriage counseling. He considers this work his favorite career and has maintained friendships with many of his patients over the years. When he slowed down a bit, he did pro bono part time work as a consultant in Traverse City while earning a degree in Gerontology from the University of Michigan.

The family moved to New Mexico because their oldest daughter, Linda, lived in Edgewood and then later, Placitas. They came to visit her often and fell in love with the Southwest. Linda was an educator in special education programs and now has a Doctorate in Oriental Medicine. She recently moved to Truth or Consequence (T or C) to further her career in acupuncture and birthing. Daughter Laurie lives in Canton, Michigan and is a programmer for

Johnson and Johnson. Laurie spends a lot of her time rescuing Salukis.

Bob and Shirley moved to Placitas in 2006. His passions now are: piano, listening to music, working out, reading and playing with the Rio Grande Jazz Club. In case of a fire, he would only grab the practical things.

When asked what he wishes he had done, his two replies are: he never learned to do somersaults in the air, and he did not keep better contact with past friends.

The things he wouldn't want to live without are: a piano, books, chocolate and healthy foods. The person he would most want to talk to would be Charles Krauthammer. Charles is a psychiatrist, a TV commentator and a syndicated columnist.

His favorite parts about attending LPPC are: the message that carries him through the week and the genuineness and warmth of the friendships he has made. Of interest is that Bob has an "Early Morning Formula for Making Every Day Count" that he wrote and reads every morning.

~ Wendy I & Betty C

## Violin Holiday Concert

The violin studio of Linda Boivin of the New Mexico Philharmonic will hold its annual Violin Recital in the sanctuary on Saturday, December 8 from 5:00-6:30pm. Students' ages range from pre-school through high school.



This concert is free to the LPPC community. For more information contact Sue P through the church office.



**A copy of the 2012 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)**.

## DECEMBER Calendar Highlights

Sat Dec 1 Night at the Opera, 7pm

Sun Dec 2 **First Sunday of Advent**  
**O Antiphons**  
**Communion Sunday**  
Early service, 8:30am  
Adult Forum, 9:15am  
Second Worship service, 10:30am  
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)  
Fellowship follows this service

Wed Dec 5 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon

Fri Dec 7 Congregational Tamale Dinner, 6pm

Sat Dec 8 Leadership Development Workshop  
with Rev. Warren Nash, 9am-noon

Holiday Violin Concert, 5-6:30pm

Sun Dec 9 **Second Sunday of Advent**  
Early service, 8:30am  
Adult Forum, 9:15am  
Second Worship service, 10:30am  
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)  
Fellowship follows this service

Session meets to welcome new  
members (11:45am)

Choir Caroling in Community,  
1-2:30pm

Wed Dec 12 Mobile Food Pantry, 10am-12noon

Fri Dec 14 Membership Potluck at Ingrams,  
6pm

Sun Dec 16 **Third Sunday of Advent**  
Early service, 8:30am  
Adult Forum, 9:15am  
Second Worship service, 10:30am  
includes **Children's Pageant**  
(Nursery provided)  
Fellowship follows this service

Congregational Meeting, 11:30am

PAS Reception & Concert, 2-5pm

Fri Dec 21 January newsletter deadline: noon

Sat Dec 22 Blessings Day Distribution,  
10am-2pm

Sun Dec 23 **Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
**Christmas Joy Offering is  
received**  
Early service, 8:30am  
NO Adult Forum  
Second Worship service, 10:30am  
**Service of Lessons & Carols**  
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)  
Fellowship follows this service

Mon Dec 24 **Christmas Eve—Candlelight  
Service with Communion, 7pm**

Tues Dec 25 **Christmas Day**  
Church office is closed

Sun Dec 30 **First Sunday after Christmas Day**  
Single combined service, 9:30am  
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)  
Fellowship follows this service

Mon Dec 31 **New Year's Eve**  
Church office is closed

**2013**

Tues Jan 1 **New Year's Day**  
Church office is closed

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

**Rev. Drew M. Henry, Pastor**  
E-mail: [pastor@lasplacitaschurch.org](mailto:pastor@lasplacitaschurch.org)

**Cory Franklin, Administrator**  
505-867-5718 ~ [lppcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org](mailto:lppcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org)