



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

JUNE & JULY 2012

B :-)

Over the past several months, I along with friends and the help of my family have been building some bee hives. Along the way I have been asked by several observers, "Have you ever done this before?" and "Why are you doing this?"



The answer to the first question is easy. "No." The second is a bit more involved. The sister in the family with whom I lived my first years in Argentina is an *apicultora* - beekeeper in Spanish. We shared an affinity for honey and enjoyed visiting *La Casa de La Miel* in Buenos Aires, where we tried and bought a variety of honeys (*miel*) from different provinces across that country.

Some of our best friends in Birmingham are "beeks" (a nickname for beekeepers), and I enjoyed watching them enjoy their hives and their bees. So now we are keeping bees here in Placitas, and I am excited to embark on this adventure together as a family.

Yes I like honey, and at some point I hope to have some from our *colmenas* (hives in Spanish) to enjoy and share. However I have been just as fascinated by the whole organization of a colony of bees. At some point I anticipate you saying, "Okay Drew, enough of the bee stories."

But for now let me share one interesting parallel I've discovered with the life of a congregation. In his book *Honeybee Democracy*, Thomas Seely writes, "Indeed, there is no all-knowing central planner supervising the thousands and thousands of worker bees in a colony. (Admittedly we are fewer in number here at Las Placitas.) The work of a hive is instead governed collectively by the workers themselves, each one an alert individual making

tours of inspection looking for things to do and acting on her own to serve the community."

I've seen that same spirit alive here in this church, and I believe it is a sign of a healthy community. I look forward to future things I (and we) might learn from the bees. Enjoy your summer!

Peace,
Drew

June/July Text & Topics

June 3 - Worship in the Mountains, "3 is the magic number" Isaiah 6:1-8; John 2:1-17

June 10 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, "We want a king!" II Corinthians 4:13-5:1; I Samuel 8:4-11

June 17 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost, "Anointing of David" II Corinthians 5:6-10; I Samuel 15:34-16:13

June 24 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost, "David & Goliath" II Corinthians 6:1-13; I Samuel 17:32-49

July 1 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost, "David' Lament" II Corinthians 8:7-15; II Samuel 1:1, 17-27

July 8 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost, "King David" II Corinthians 12:2-10; II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

July 15 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost, "Dancing David" Ephesians 1:3-14; II Samuel 6:1-5; 12b-19

July 22 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost, "God's Covenant with David" Ephesians 2: 11-22; II Samuel 7: 1-14a

July 29 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost, "David & Bathsheba" Ephesians 3:14-21; II Samuel 11:1-15

SESSION Highlights



What a Meeting!

During our “Second Sunday” Session meeting, held in the Upper Room after the 10:30 a.m. service on May 13th, we welcomed three new members into our fold. You probably have already had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know Russell and Christine (“Chris”) M whom have been attending services at LPPC for several months. Transplants from the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Mount Dora, Florida, the family is already are busy in church service work! Our third new member is Ivona M. Ivona and her husband Roy recently relocated to Placitas from Albuquerque where they were active members of First Presbyterian Church. Look for Ivona in church, front and center, as she is also our newest member of the choir!

In addition to the three congregants that joined, we were also honored by the attendance of Joan C and Nan S. Joan, along with her husband Steve, apparently found in LPPC, “a church they can both agree on.” Joan has signed up as a volunteer for our Vacation Bible School. Nan, always available to lend a hand, has faithfully been attending LPPC for many months and is an outstanding, long time volunteer at our food bank, Casa Rosa.

Columbarium Expansion

During our Stated Session Meeting on Tuesday, May 8th, Rev. Henry noted that the Columbarium needed to be enlarged. Situated under tall shade trees on the eastern end of our Memorial Garden, only one of the twelve Columbarium niches remains available. Session is seeking a volunteer to manage the expansion project. Experience in construction, project management or civil engineering, is not required; only a conscientious nature and a desire to be of service, is necessary. If you are interested, contact Elder Leah A for additional details.

Play Time!

Session received an unusual but delightful request this month. Boy Scout Garrett G wants to build (from high quality finished wood), a playground play set. This Eagle Scout hopeful, using a detailed set of plans and with direct supervision by his grandpa, Tom S (our MDO Coordinator’s brother-in-law), and designated elders, will adapt the play set to allowable space in our playground area. Prior to receiving Session approval, Garrett, in a very grown-up and impressive fashion, successfully

answered every ‘must ask/management dictated’ question, necessary to get the ‘green light.’ Go Garrett!

Volunteer Candidates Continue to be Sought

After **many** years of outstanding service, Bill S stepped down as chair of the Building Committee. Service brings its own rewards, but nonetheless, we owe Bill a huge debt of gratitude. Thanks a billion, Bill!

Session now has the challenge to fill this service position. If you enjoy handy work and interaction with contractors, consider volunteering. Feel free to contact me, Bill L, for further details.

~Bill L, Clerk of Session

CASA ROSA NEWS



Spring at Casa Rosa

Spring has been clearly evident at Casa Rosa the last couple of months. Have you noticed all the beautiful flowers blooming around the outside of the pink house? This year there has been a profusion of colors and plants that has not been seen before. All this early blooming has gotten our Board members and other volunteers into the mood for planting.

During May, several of us went to **Seed2Need** in Corrales to help plant seeds and young plants in the gardens that provided so much produce for Casa Rosa’s clients last year. It is predicted that the plants will mature much earlier this year and that we will be called upon to join in the picking sooner than last year. If you want the opportunity to return to your farming roots, or if you just want to see how produce actually grows before it ends up in the grocery store, let us know if you would like to be notified when we plan to pick. We’d love to have you join us at our ‘picking parties.’

Kohl’s Associates in Action have also been a welcome addition to Casa Rosa as of this spring. Starting at the beginning of April, Kohl’s Associates have been volunteering at Casa Rosa on the first Saturday of each month—cheerfully helping with anything and everything that needs to be done, such as splitting bulk items into family size portions and helping clients carry their groceries. Not only do we benefit from their work and help, after each of their visits we are able to apply for and receive a

grant from Kohl's corporate headquarters. This is part of Kohl's nation-wide mission to enhance the lives of youth in local communities, and the money we receive from Kohl's helps Casa Rosa purchase foods of nutritional value for the children of our clients. We have been blessed to have so many wonderful people from Kohl's volunteer their time on Saturday mornings to help at our food bank.

As you do your spring cleaning and find you have items you no longer need, we have a suggestion for you. La Puerta has again offered to hold a flea market to benefit Casa Rosa, and this year the sale will take place on Saturday, July 28 from 9am. to 3pm. Announcements about the flea market will be published in the **Signpost** in both June and July. La Puerta will begin to accept donations at their office location on July 3. Please save up your no-longer-wanted items and take them to La Puerta in July. Our Board members and volunteers will be sorting through and pricing all the donations throughout the month of July to get everything ready for the sale on July 28. All your donations will be greatly appreciated and the income will enable us to purchase additional food locally, given that there continue to be shortages in food available through Roadrunner Food Bank.

Enjoy all the beautifully blooming flowers during these warm months and take some time to smell the roses.

~Sherrill C, Co-Chair
Casa Rosa Board of Directors

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL NAVAJO TACO DINNER ON SATURDAY, JUNE 9th FROM 5:00 TO 7:30 PM.

Tickets are available from any member of Fellowship and from the Church Office during the week. Tickets are \$8.00 before and \$10.00 at the door. There is no charge for pre-school children.

We will have lots of good food, fellowship and entertainment. Please come and have a good time and support the church.

~Joan D
The Fellowship Committee



Schedule Changes

During the summer the church office will be open **Tuesday through Friday, 9am – 1:00pm**. After Labor Day the office will reopen on Mondays beginning September 10th.



On Sunday, June 3 we begin a single combined service at 9:30am. This summer worship schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend. The full schedule resumes on Sunday, September 9th.

Beginning Sunday, June 3, our choir will take a break for the summer. Please give thought to sharing your musical talents during worship. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, contact Peggy S or call Cory in the church office (867-5718).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MENTOR/SPONSORS FOR OUR NEW MEMBERS. The Membership committee would like to match up our new members with a current member to help them feel at home quickly at LPPC. Your responsibilities would include getting to know them, helping them find their way around LPPC, perhaps taking them to lunch, introducing the new member to the chair of the committee they signed up for on their Time and Talent, generally spending time with them so they feel like they have a friend they can turn to. If you are interested, please let Wendy Ingram know. Thank you!

PLEASE SIGN UP TO BRING REFRESHMENTS. If you enjoy the food provided after church on Sundays and haven't already taken a turn, please consider signing up for a Sunday. Having refreshments after church gives everyone a chance to talk to friends as well as to get to know new members and visitors. The sign-up sheet is next to the coffee. Thanks!

POTLUCKS THIS SUMMER. Membership is planning three pot lucks this summer to give everyone a chance to get to know our new members as well as to get to know each other better. Dates are: Saturday, June 23rd at Herman and Shelly H's home, Friday, July 27th at Bob and Susan H's home and Friday, August 17th at Monya K's home. Sign- up sheets are up in Fellowship Hall. We encourage the new members to attend more than one potluck.

AFTER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) A CELEBRATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS. Chas and Lauren S have invited everyone to their home in Corrales for a child focused party after church on Sunday July 29 starting at 11am. It will be a potluck with details to follow. Everyone is invited.

Las Placitas Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School Marketplace 29 AD

Children are transported back to Bible times. Taste the food, dance to the music, visit the market place shops (the potter, the baker, the weaver, the carpenter, the kite maker, and the music instrument maker) and listen to stories from visiting Biblical characters. Come with the spirit of adventure, imagination, and in costume if you wish. Watch the Bible come to life!



July 22-26
Entering Kindergarten- Fifth grade
Sunday 4:00-6:00 Intro Dinner
Monday-Thursday 5:00-7:30
(Dinner included)

To obtain a registration form, please call Sally G, Anna H or the church office 867-5718. Registration deadline is **Sunday July 15, 2012**. Space is limited.

MEMBER PROFILE IN MEMORY OF SAM S

In advance of LPPC's first annual *Sam S Memorial Service Award*, we wanted to let you know what a special man Sam was to the life of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church and why an award in his name is appropriate.

Sam was born on June 1, 1912 in Placitas. His parents were Ramon and Rumaldita S. Sam only completed the second grade because his family needed his help. He worked with his Dad where he could often collecting wood to sell. Sam had one brother, Eliseo. Sam married his wife, Siria S on July 17, 1937. They met in Placitas. Their daughter,



Esther, was born in 1938 but died of a childhood illness at age four or five. In 1940 their daughter Norma was born.

In spite of not knowing how to read or write, in 1942 Sam joined the Army and fought overseas in World War II. He returned home in two years. After time working for the WPA, he spent the next twenty years working downtown at Sandia Labs in maintenance. He was injured and retired on disability.

In 1960, Sam and Siria adopted Norma's two children: Anna H and her brother, Sam S, Jr. Anna was age four. They had always lived with the S's and had been raised by Sam and Siria all along. Siria stressed the importance of an education to both children. Siria was affectionately called "Grandma Boo" by Dana H and the other grandchildren.

In his 40's or 50's, Sam became an Elder at LPPC (again in spite of not knowing how to read or write), and was an elder continuously for years with an occasional year off. He had memorized the Bible. His wife Siria went to school through the ninth grade but her two uncles continued to home school her after that. Sam was the one and only usher at LPPC for as many years as Anna can remember. Somehow he did the job all by himself. He also opened the door to the church every Sunday. He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his godfather, Nicholas G, so he took on all the responsibilities that Nicholas did for the Church. When the Sunday service was in the Upper Room, he would go in early to start the heater beforehand. He would ring the bell for funerals and he taught James M how to ring the bell so he could take over for him after he got sick.

Bruce M and Sam worked side by side for many years maintaining the Presbyterian campground in the Sandias. They would work two-three days every week during the summer. Bruce was like a younger brother to Sam. The two of them maintained our church property as well.

After Sam and Siria's 50th wedding anniversary, Siria suffered her first heart attack. Sam took care of her for five years until she passed away.

Sam always had horses (4), cows, pigs and chickens. After Siria became ill, he sold everything except his favorite horse.

In March 2000, Sam married Anita, Reverend Jane Harmes performing the ceremony. They had met at the Placitas Community Center and were married for two years until Sam died Aug 14, 2002 of a heart attack.

Sam was a Land Grant member (his Dad was an original member) and served on the Board for twenty years alongside his friend Willie Escarcida. They were related by marriage but felt like brothers.

~Wendy I and Betty C

More on Sam S

~Catherine H

I moved to Placitas with my family in 1975. We had horses, chickens and pigs. One afternoon when we were setting up our two trailers, a handsome man with a ten-gallon hat rode over on his horse and introduced himself. It was Sam S, coming to welcome us to Placitas. Even though his house was a mile away, Sam S was our closest neighbor. He told us about the community, the church and invited us to come for a visit. I remember one fall day, Siria called me to come over and help them roast green chile. Sam officiated at the outdoor grill where the chile sent off a glorious fragrance. I went home with enough roasted green chile to last the winter.

Christmas Eve was open house at the S's and we were always invited. On one occasion my husband put a young pig in a gunny sack and we hiked over the fields and arroyos with the pig and presented it, squeal and all, to Sam. He thought that was hilarious and gave us a very warm welcome along with a bowl of chili.

Sam loved music and he was a good dancer. One evening, before his illness, there was a dance at the Community Center. Bert D's group played and Sam was the life of the party, dancing with Anita and all the ladies and children.

I still treasure our friendship with the Sam and his family. If anyone ever needed help or support, they were there. Sam had the gift of honesty, generosity, and friendship of his generation and his roots here in Placitas. He engendered that spirit in his children, his friends and the community.

Sam's story will be continued in the August newsletter. Please join LPPC in presenting the first annual Sam S Memorial Service Award on Sunday, July 8th following the 9:30am worship service.

WORSHIP IN THE MOUNTAINS

On Sunday, June 3, we will hold our Worship in the Mountains. Gather at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church (LPPC) by 9:30am and we'll carpool to Sandia Mountain Retreat (SMR) for this annual special outdoor service. (You can also drive on your own.) If you need directions, you can find a map on SMR's website: www.sandiacamp.org. Click on 'directions.' The last page of this newsletter also includes a map and service details which you may print. The campground is approximately seven miles east and south from LPPC on Highway 165.

Be sure to bring a blanket to sit on and wear comfortable clothing. If you can bring folding camp chairs to share with those who'd prefer more comfortable seating, please do. After worship we'll enjoy a potluck picnic together in the beauty of the Sandia Mountains. Bring picnic food to share. Beverages, plates, cups and utensils will be provided.

Everyone is welcome for this special day, weather and fire restrictions permitting. We will notify everyone by email, website announcement, and message on church voicemail (867-5718) if this service is cancelled and will be held at the church instead.

COMMUNITY NEWS

You are invited to attend a talk by Dr. Arturo Madrid, author of the new book, ***In the Country of Empty Crosses: The Story of An Hispano Protestant Family in Catholic New Mexico***, at Second Presbyterian Church, 812 Edith Blvd. NE, on Sunday, June 17, at 12:00 PM.

The book is about what it was like to grow up as an Hispanic Protestant in an Hispanic Catholic community. There will be a reception, book signing and special music by concert pianist, Concha Madrid, Dr. Madrid's sister.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND/OR DONATIONS ARE BEING SOUGHT BY

New Church Development (NCD) congregation, **Camino de Vida**, which is offering its second six-week music instruction to children



and adults from (1) Camino de Vida, (2) supporting churches, and (3) the Martineztown House of Neighborly Service neighborhood, where the classes are being held.

During its first session, twenty-five students were registered for lessons in guitar, trumpet, drums, congas, violin, and piano. Students are now being sought for the second session, which will run from June 2-July 14, with one hour sessions scheduled from 10am to 1pm each Saturday.

Classes are taught by professional musicians who use music as a way to worship and teach the word of God. Instruments needed are: (a) congas, (b) acoustic guitars, (c) keyboards (at least 60 keys) with stand and cables, (d) violins (both full and $\frac{3}{4}$ size), (e) B flat trumpets, and (f) drum sets.

For donations, contributions, or questions you may reach Reverend Yela at 5101 Watercress Dr. N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87113 or at 505-514-9515, revgyela@gmail.com.

JUNE Calendar Highlights

- Sat June 2 MDO Celebration & Open House, 2-5pm
- Sun June 3 **Trinity Sunday—Communion is served**
Worship in the Mountains—meet at 9:30am to carpool; service follows at Sandia Mountain Retreat
- Tues June 5 Primary Election held at LPPC
- Wed June 6 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sat June 9 Navajo Taco Dinner, 5-7:30pm
- Sun June 10 **Second Sunday after Pentecost**
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Wed June 13 Placitas Mobile Food Pantry 10am-12noon
- Sun June 17 **Third Sunday after Pentecost**
Father's Day
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service

- Wed June 20 Summer Serenade, 9:30-11:30am
- Sun June 24 **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Sun July 1 **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service

JULY Calendar Highlights

- Wed July 4 Independence Day
- Sun July 8 **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Wed July 11 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun July 15 **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Sun July 22 **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- July 22-26 Vacation Bible School—evenings
Sun, 4-6pm-Intro dinner
Mon-Thurs, 5-7:30pm
- Wed July 27 August Newsletter deadline—noon
- Sun July 29 **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**
Combined Worship service, 9:30am (Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- VBS Potluck at the Skinners, 11am

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

The entrance to the Sandia Conference Grounds is located east and south of Placitas, NM, near mile marker 14 on NM Highway 165.

(It can be also be reached from Highway 536 to the Sandia Crest, by turning north at Balsam Glade onto Highway 165.)



Worship in the Mountains, Sunday, June 3, 2012

Meet at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church by 9:30am to carpool or drive on your own.

Wear comfortable clothes and bring a blanket or folding camp chair to sit on.

Bring a picnic potluck to share following the service.

A cancellation will be announced on the website (www.lasplacitaschurch.org), distributed via email and announced on the church voicemail (867-5718).