



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

NOVEMBER 2012

Glory to God

The coming year is bringing some new and exciting changes in the life of the church. One of the changes that will likely be with us the longest is the new Presbyterian Hymnal which has been given the title *Glory to God*. I think these are perfect words to describe the essence of our life and our worship, and I personally am excited about this new book of hymns.

You might be asking, "Well, why a new hymnal? Didn't we just get the blue book?" Actually our blue Presbyterian Hymnal was published in 1990. The red book before that, which some of you may remember as I do, was published in 1955. The Presbyterian Hymnal before that one in 1933. So you see "new" hymnals are not such a new thing.

Nor are new hymns. I love a story Mary Louise Bringle, the chair of our new hymnal committee, shared. "Please," the plea begins, "no more new hymns. What's wrong with the inspiring hymns that we grew up with? When I go to church, it's to worship God, not to be distracted with learning a new hymn."

How many of us have heard similar reactions to a given Sunday's musical selections? The author of this protest continues: "Last week's new hymn was particularly unnerving. While the text was good, the tune was quite unsingable and the harmonies were quite discordant."

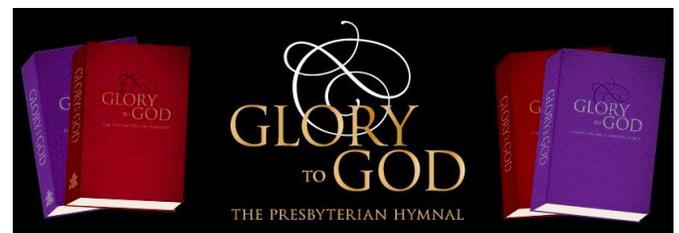
This specific letter of lament appeared in The Lutheran Witness, but it could equally well have graced the pages of a Presbyterian publication.... But here's the punch line. The letter quoted above was written in 1890, and the hymn to which it referred is "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." In other words, every hymn we sing today was a "new hymn" once upon a time.

Our own Worship and Music Committee has discussed the new hymnal. Our Session has approved its use in our congregation. What we

want to ask you to do is to make a thanksgiving offering and dedicate a hymnal in memory or honor of a person or persons who have played an important role in your own life of faith. Each hymnal you dedicate will cost \$15. We will collect these offerings on the Sundays around Thanksgiving - November 11, 18, & 25. (Look for the pink envelopes.) If you'd like to dedicate one hymnal, that's \$15, two hymnals - \$30, three hymnals - \$45. You get the idea.

Presbyterian church musician Eric Wall wrote, "In very basic terms the idea of a new hymnal means that once every twenty years, we spend fifteen or twenty bucks on a new book. (What's your personal purchase rate of books in just one year?) That new book will be used again and again, week in and week out, for several decades. (How many of the books we buy sit around and are read once? or never?)"

So I invite you to help us to give *Glory to God* to and through this congregation. If you have any questions about the new hymnal, please feel free to talk with me or any of our elders. If you would like to see more information online about it, you can visit www.presbyterianhymnal.org.



I grew up sitting beside my grandmother, Evelyn Sherrer Henry, in church most Sundays. She was a constant encourager in my faith and a continual support later in my life as I pursued my call to ministry. I will be dedicating one of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church's new hymnals to the grandmother we all knew as "GaGa." Won't you join me?

Peace, Drew

November Text & Topics

November 4th - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
“Praise the Lord” Psalm 146; Mark 12:28-34

November 11th - 24th Sunday after Pentecost
“The Gift” Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 18th - 25th Sunday after Pentecost
“Grateful” 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-25

November 25th - Christ the King Sunday “The Alpha & The Omega” 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Revelation 1:4b-8 (Rev. Jaime Quiñones preaches)

Sunday Adult Forum

Beginning Sunday, November 4 through Sunday, December 9, join us for five Sundays as we take an in depth look at one of the most comforting scriptures in the Bible: **The 23rd Psalm**. (Note that the group will not meet on Sunday, November 18.) The Adult Forum meets at 9:15am on Sundays and this discussion group will not require purchase of support materials. The group will be facilitated by Tom T. All are welcome!



SESSION Highlights

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, November 18th following 9:30am combined single worship service.

Please make plans to remain after our single combined worship service at 9:30am and attend this church-wide meeting (approximately 10:30am). Your opinion and vote will help decide these two important issues:

1. The Terms of Call for Rev. Drew Henry

Our pastor answered his initial terms of call in January, 2011. That call and contract will expire at year's end. Our personnel committee, chaired by Ruling Elder Nancy Ullery, has been focused on forming new terms of call for your consideration and vote. The options that will be presented are based on months of research, guidance from the Synod of the Southwest and Presbytery of Santa Fe, and LPPC Elder discussion and prayer.



2. Ruling Elder and Deacon Candidates

This year we have to vote for three ruling elders for the full three year term of service plus an additional ruling elder for a one year term. We will also have the opportunity to vote for three deacons for the three year term of service. Our Church Nominating Committee (CNC) has the responsibility to discern and recruit willing church members to serve in leadership roles. The CNC consists of an actively serving ruling elder, an actively serving deacon, and two church members. This year our CNC began meeting this summer and will provide both ruling elder and deacon candidates for the “Class of 2015” for your consideration and vote.

Playtime!

The play set Eagle Scout candidate Garrett G has been working on throughout the summer is now complete. Do yourself a favor and stroll over to the children's play area on the west side of the church and check it out. Garrett did a terrific job from start (raising the money for materials) to finish (onsite component assembly). Garrett's aunt, our MDO Coordinator, Debbie Steuber, is beaming, while our kids are out in the play area screaming! (See full story elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Building Committee

As you are no doubt aware, LPPC leadership has been soliciting for volunteers for our building committee. The following congregants stepped forward to help keep our church facilities in good working order: Leland B, Stew F, Bill L, Matt G, Bruce M, Dan S, Bill S, Wayne U, and David W. While all of these volunteers will not be available all of the time, everyone will be available some of the time to answer the phone call from our volunteer coordinator, Martha R. Hat's off to all!

~ Bill L
Clerk of Session

CASA ROSA NEWS

Each Friday morning a band of some twenty or so loyal volunteers gathers at the Casa Rosa building ready to unload a truck from the Roadrunner Food Bank in Albuquerque. These staples are unloaded and stored in the freezers and on back room storage pallets, and arranged on the shelves and in the refrigerators ready for the Saturday morning clients from the Placitas area to come to do their shopping.



Some of the more notable members of the volunteer team are:

Diane – Each Friday morning she is in charge of sorting out the boxes of canned goods, baking supplies, cereal, rice, flour, water, milk, peanut butter, jelly, bread, etc. She reigns as the floor leader in the Casa Rosa shopping area and works to shape up a crew of volunteers to put needed things on the floor to be arranged carefully into the shelves; she directs the correct turnover of inventory—new boxes against the walls, older boxes to the center of the storeroom; and calls for the needed packages to be brought out from the back room to be put into active selling inventory. Everything must be ready first thing on Saturday morning for the clients to shop. She frequently spends some of her spare time creating a macaroni salad supreme or soup du jour for the shoppers to enjoy while awaiting their turn.

Dee – oversees the fresh and not-so-fresh produce. She sorts out the new arrivals from the older items from last week; the best items are arranged tastefully and offered to the clients, and she culls out the older items more suited for the wild horses and local pig population. If that is not enough, she also stocks the shelves with all kinds of snack items from slim-jims to popcorn, from crackers to juice boxes and all manner of interesting things in between. So, on one hand she is helping to build people up with veggies and fruits full of high nutritional goodness; and on the other, she is breaking them down with chocolate, snack bars and candy!

Weda – is the third person, along with Diane and Dee in charge of the main shopping floor. She busies herself stacking the bread, emptying cartons, overseeing the repackaging of large sacks of rice, flour, oil, pancake mix, coffee and sugar. Which items go into plastic bottles properly labeled, which commodities fit best in quart or gallon baggies, what type of scoop, funnel, or knife is best for each operation also keeps her busy, all the time nursing a recently operated shoulder and bouncing around on legs that just don't want to cooperate properly. Oh, and monthly Weda is part of the Board of Directors with a side order of being one of the menu checking, order placing members of the team.

Robert – arrives each Friday morning with his faithful companion dog who works with him at the local senior center helping to bring cheer to the lives of those who take advantage of the services

offered by the center. He is one of the many people carrying boxes in from the truck, splitting and repackaging such things as frozen roasted green chilies, breaded chicken tenders, sweet potato fries, roasted chopped onions, huge blocks of frozen spinach, and even huger (is that a word) blocks of what we refer to as “mystery beef” and whatever else comes along in large packages that must be repackaged into reasonably sized family meal portions. When he arrives it is always announced with a hearty “Hello!” or “Good morning!” or whatever which always brings with it some warmth and joy to the gathering.

Kathy – as “Director of Donations Control Center,” tip toes quietly (most of the time) into the far corner “office” of the Casa Rosa building, where she along with Jan, opens the donated bags, boxes and stacks of clothing. These items must then be sorted into “usable here”, or “forward to Good Will” or “to the trash pile immediately” status; and then into all the retail categories of men, women, and children; summer, fall, winter and spring; small, medium, large and oh-my-gosh! - then into some semblance of order as to color, fabric, style – then onto hangers, folding tables, smooth-out piles. And finally neatly hung or placed on shopping shelves in the clothing/warm up room where chilly clients gather in the colder weather to wait their turn in the food shopping area, and meanwhile can select some needed apparel items from the shelves and hanging rods. She is also a Board Member serving as corresponding secretary, and all this with hardly a mention of personal health challenges and occasional trips to California to take comfort to an ailing father.

Matt – performs a key role on Friday mornings, unloading the truck and packing the food away into the storeroom, freezers, shelves and refrigerators. Why is he key? As the youngest (I think) and strongest (I'm pretty sure) member of the volunteer corps, he is always selected for moving the heaviest and most awkward packages around. He gets involved with patching the roof, repairing and painting the waiting room floor and walls, and screening the underside of the porch roof to prevent birds from getting too cozy there, (and other various extra fix-ups of the building). He also provides the muscle for cutting large blocks of cheese down to usable size, and chopping up frozen chunks of meat, chiles, spinach, etc.

Cindy – isn't comfortable with dealing with the heavy containers which we receive, since her very bad automobile accident a few years ago, so she

handles preparing the plastic and paper bags and arranging them in the front of the shopping floor ready for Saturday mornings. These bags are pre-filled with one or two special items each week (special because of an unusually large supply on hand or a less than workable demand for such items). Cindy also helps stocking the shelves, cabinets and drawers with such staples as coffee, salt, sugar, oil, and light bulbs. She will also check to see what bathroom supplies we have available such as tooth brushes, mouth wash, shampoo, soap, toilet paper, and places them in their proper areas for distribution.

Mary – has recently joined her son Matt in helping to unload the truck,—“Mary, put that down you shouldn’t be lifting that, it’s too heavy!”—and repackaging items. She also serves as a top photographic model for our staff photographer, Jim, and is the creator of some of the best spicy red chile and posole for our waiting room buffet. “Can you make some ‘___’ for Saturday morning?” “Sure!”

And exactly what do these Casa Rosa volunteers all have in common? They are all living examples of the popular saying, “Heaven helps those who help themselves.” They are all clients who offer their time and effort to support the program that assists not only themselves but many other Placitas residents whose lives are a little more challenging than others in the community!

God bless such generous volunteers!

~Doug C
Casa Rosa Volunteer and Board Member

What a wonderful start to the 2012 Music Ministry! What a blessing it is to have so many new members join the LPPC choir!



There is still more room for extra singers. Please, if you would like to join the choir, come and talk to Andrew Alegria after worship on Sundays, or come 15 minutes before choir rehearsals. We will meet for the first three weeks in November on Wednesdays from 7pm - 8pm in the church sanctuary. We will be back to our regular Thursday schedule starting on November 29th.

On December 1st at 7pm, the Music Ministry will be producing a fundraiser called **Night at the Opera**. This will be a night full of memorable opera arias/duets from composers such as 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 \$15.00 per person and \$10.00 for students (with ID). Our fundraiser will assist in growing our music library and bringing guest instrumentalists into our Sunday worship service. Tickets will be sold by the LPPC Choir members.

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

~Andrew D. Alegria
Choral Director

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



The Placitas Holiday Sale is coming November 17 & 18.

The Chile Pepper Café will be open and serving all their goodies: burritos, pulled pork sandwiches, beans and tamales. Red and green chile and many delicious baked items will be available for sale.

Please visit The Chile Pepper Café in the kitchen of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. We will be open early for the exhibitors and will serve until mid afternoon each day.

At the end of the month, we will be passing out the children’s and families’ names for Blessing’s Day (12/22). We provide clothing for the children and the toys and food come from other organizations. All the gifts are to be wrapped and returned to the church by the second Sunday in December (12/9).

~Joan D
Fellowship Chair

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3. Before retiring set your clocks back one hour!



MDO NEWS



Hard work and charitable dedication led to happy faces and tons of fun for the children of the **Las Placitas Presbyterian Church's Mother's Day Out Program** this month.

Garrett G, an aspiring Eagle Scout, completed one of his scout requirements by involving himself in a project that helped influence a positive impact on the community. He decided to create a new play space for the children of MDO.

Garrett, 16, used funds provided by family and friends to amass the resources needed for the new "fort" play equipment that can be found in the church's play yard. The equipment consists of a new slide and clubhouse area for the kids of MDO to use.

Garrett spent time with his grandfather to cut the lumber and lay out the plans to erect the new equipment. Not only did he obtain skills in carpentry, but also learned a foundation in community outreach. His hard work will have a lasting effect on children who come to LPPC for generations to come.

The children currently enrolled in the MDO program have adopted the new equipment as their own. They act as if it has always been there and is a staple in their daily playtime. They climb and crawl all over it while showing the younger children how to climb up the ladder and take turns using the slide.

Not only is the equipment fun, but it is also an update, bringing the LPPC playground into modern times. It is not just a new way for the children to play, but a new way for them to learn through physical and exploratory means.

The new equipment is fitted with a slide and a clubhouse, but also handlebar-like devices that the children can swing from and spin on. A telescope also looks out to the North, giving the children a view of their surrounding environment.

This is not only a place for the children in the MDO program to appreciate, but serves as a fun and safe place for the community of Placitas to enjoy. Since Placitas is a growing community, this new and updated equipment is inviting to people who may have driven by and not involved themselves in the church.

This new addition to the playground by Garrett is a testimonial to the desire for community in the Placitas area. While being surrounded by growing cities, Garrett's Eagle Scout project shows a desire to keep the community of Placitas inclusive, while trying to keep up with its growing counterparts.

Placitas is no longer just a village tucked amongst the hills of the Sandia Mountains, but is a thriving community where people are flocking to in search of a life which is more personal than that of its neighbors. Garrett's Eagle Scout project will stand the test of time and be well-loved by future generations and members of this great community, proving that bigger is not always better.

~Kevin S

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 15th annual Winter Solstice Candlelight Poetry Reading. It will be held in the sanctuary at 7 p.m. Ten to twelve poets each will read a poem to the light of a single candle in the darkened LPPC 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".

If you wish to submit a poem for consideration the reading / selection panel would like to have them in

hand by November 24—or sooner if possible. Poems are 20 to 50 lines long. Submissions may be made, via e-mail attachment, to John G (jogreenalb@aol.com).

DEACONS

Again this year the Deacons of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church are preparing Thanksgiving Turkey dinners for the hungry of Placitas.



We begin this holiday season by being thankful that a Placitas resident has generously offered to donate enough frozen turkeys for the Deacons to distribute to those in need.

If you would like to help in this effort, donations of boxed or canned foods are greatly appreciated. Please place your food donations in the blue Casa Rosa bins in Fellowship Hall. We are in need of the following items:

Canned Corn, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Fruit, Can or Box of Gravy, Box of Jello, Box of Instant Mashed Potatoes, Milk (powder or canned), Canned Pumpkin, Can or Box of Stuffing, Canned or Raw Sweet Potatoes.

Of course, cash donations are gratefully accepted as well. Please identify your donation as “**Deacon Thanksgiving Dinner**” and leave in the collection plate or drop off in the church office.

Distribution Day is Saturday November 17th, so please have your donations in by Wednesday Nov. 14th.

~Tom L, Deacon

MEMBER PROFILE

BILLIE W



Billie and her twin sister, Bobbie, were born in Enid, Oklahoma. As children they lived in Enid, Ponca City, Clinton, and Oklahoma City. Billie and Bobbie were on the synchronized swimming team at Oklahoma State University, and Billie is a certified scuba driver.

Billie and her husband moved to St. Louis, Missouri where he worked for Ford Motor Company, and Billie taught second grade. Ron was one of the first engineers recruited by McDonnell Douglas to help

with the Mercury and Gemini programs. It was a fascinating time to be involved with this wonderful family oriented company.

In 1969 Ron returned to Ford. With Ford they lived in Texas, Michigan (twice) and Minnesota. He retired from Ford in 1994. They moved back to Oklahoma where Billie taught special education. Ron's retirement was short lived as he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He died July 15, 1995 at the age of 55.

Billie's husband's grandmother, aunt, uncle and cousins all lived in Albuquerque. They started traveling to New Mexico in the 60's. However, she didn't know about Placitas until her sister and her husband were transferred to Albuquerque from Seattle by Boeing. In June of 2006 Billie retired from Oklahoma City Public Schools as a Special Education Supervisor. In October she visited her sister for the Balloon Fiesta. During the same time Placitas was having their home tour. They toured the home that Billie lives in now. This is the first time Billie and her sister have lived in the same area, at the same time since she and Ron were married.

Billie and Ron were married August 27, 1961 three weeks after she graduated from Oklahoma State University with an Elementary Education degree. They have three children – Stephen is a computer programmer in the Los Angeles area. He is married to Barbara G, and they are the parents of Marc who is graduating from high school. Bryan is a landscape architect with Encana in Colorado. He is married to Eileen M and has adopted her two daughters, T and Essie, and they have one child of their own, Tane. Kendra is her youngest, and has degrees in education, linguistics, and English as a Second Language. She and her son, Owen, live in Rio Rancho.

In 1987 Billie received her Master's degree in Special Education. In 1998 she became an Instructional Supervisor for Oklahoma City Public Schools. Working with other special education teachers, holding workshops, creating special classrooms for autistic children was her favorite and most rewarding job. She became *Teacher of the Year* the year after her husband passed away.

Her hobbies include reading, gardening, sudoku, and traveling.

If Billie could meet anyone in history or currently, she would like to have known Helen Keller because she overcame such difficult disabilities.

Billie and Ron traveled extensively. Their most unusual trip was to the Amazon. The rainforest was amazing. Her best trip was traveling through Italy, and she wants to return!

Her bucket list includes continuing to visit the U.S. National Parks, take her youngest grandson to Disney World and returning to Italy.

If there was a fire, Billie would grab her wedding ring and necklace her husband gave to her on their wedding day.

The one thing she has always wanted to do but hasn't yet is to scuba dive in the Great Barrier Reef.

The five things she couldn't live without are: chocolate, Zonic Diet Coke, her car, computer, and probably her cell phone.

Billie's favorite part about attending LPPC is the genuine warmth and caring of the people.

~Wendy I
~Betty C

Save the Date!

On December 7, 8, & 9, the Rev. Warren Nash will join us for a Weekend of Congregational Development here at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church.



We will celebrate the coming to completion of our two years of designated ministry focused on finances. We will review again the importance of the intersection of faith and money in our lives as Christians, and we will look ahead to the new phase of shared ministry we are about to begin together.

On Friday evening, December 7th, we will share a potluck meal in Fellowship Hall. On Saturday morning, December 8th, we will have a leaders' training event at the church. On Sunday morning, December 9th, Rev. Nash will preach at our 10:30am service.

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. More details about the weekend will follow. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us as we welcome Warren to Placitas.

Get out and vote!
Tuesday, November 6



**It's our responsibility
and our privilege!**

Non-partisan Voter Guides published by the League of Women Voters are available in Fellowship Hall. Information on Absentee and early in-person voting is available on-line.

Sandoval County:

<http://boe.sandovalcountynm.gov/early.html>

Bernalillo County:

<http://www.bernco.gov/elections>

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 ~ lpcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org

NOVEMBER Calendar Highlights

- Sun Nov 4 **23rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Communion Sunday
Stewardship Celebration
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Tues Nov 6 Election Day—Be sure to vote!
- Wed Nov 7 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sat Nov 10 Highway 165 Cleanup, 9am
- Sun Nov 11 **24th Sunday after Pentecost**
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)
- Mon Nov 12 Veteran Day—Church office is open
- Wed Nov 14 Mobile Food Pantry, 10am-12noon
- Sat Nov 17 Thanksgiving dinner basket distribution, 10-11am at Casa Rosa
- Nov 17 & 18 Placitas Holiday Sale, 10am-5pm
Chile Pepper Café open daily
- Sun Nov 18 **25th Sunday after Pentecost**
One Combined Worship Service, 9:30am
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service

Congregational Meeting, 10:30am
- Thurs Nov 22 Thanksgiving Day
- Fri Nov 23 Church office is closed
- Mon Nov 26 December newsletter deadline
- Sun Nov 25 **Christ the King Sunday**
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
Rev. Jaime Quiñones preaches
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service

