



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER 2012

Welcome Andrew Alegría

It is a pleasure to welcome Andrew Alegría as the new Choral Director of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. Following Bo Roger's resignation due to his increased responsibilities in the Bernalillo School System, our Session organized a search committee composed of members of the Session, the congregation, the choir, and the personnel committee. Mindy Sampson and I served as staff support to this group.



The search committee did their due diligence in reviewing the job description and responsibilities of the choral director position. The open position was then publicized and promoted through a variety of area venues. We began to receive and review résumés from interested candidates. Our initial top candidates were then invited for interviews which included a time of directing our choir. After having completed this process and with the consent of the choir, our search committee unanimously approved extending an offer to Andrew Alegría which he gladly accepted.

Andrew recently completed his Master of Music in Choral Conducting at the University of New Mexico (UNM) where he studied under Professor Bradley Ellingboe and graduated with distinction. He had previously received his Bachelor of Music in Church Music from Baylor University in his home state of Texas. While living in Houston, Andrew sung with the Houston Grand Opera Chorus and the Houston Symphony Chorus. Before entering UNM, he was the chorus master for the Greenville Opera of Greenville, South Carolina, for their summer 2010 season.

Andrew has directed choirs in Methodist, Episcopal and Lutheran churches. He can now add Presbyterian to that list. While this is his first directing position in a Presbyterian Church, Andrew was baptized and confirmed at the First Presbyterian Church of Corpus Christi where his father was their music director. Andrew also grew up in a bilingual home speaking both Spanish and English. I am excited, as I know you will be, to welcome Andrew Alegría to Las Placitas Presbyterian Church.

Peace, Drew

September Text & Topics

September 2 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost – Communion - Jaime Quiñones preaching James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost “Living Faith” James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

September 16 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost “La Lengua” James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

September 23 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost “What are we to do?” James 3:13-18; Mark 9:30-37

September 30 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost “Prayer Power” James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

SESSION Highlights

Maestro, if you please...

Perhaps the most exciting news here around the church is the hiring of our new Choral Director, Mr. Andrew Alegría, who is scheduled to start this month. Congratulations go out to all



LPPC members that were involved in recruiting and hiring Andrew. (See the Pastor's welcome for more details.)

Donation Planned

Have you ever heard of the Menaul Historical Library? Do you know anything about it? Neither had I until I became an elder and got involved in Session work.

The Menaul Historical Library is located on the grounds of Menaul School, in the same building that houses our Santa Fe Presbytery. The mission of the library is to "collect and preserve Presbyterian History in the Southwest and to make this history available to friends and researchers." Since the library's founding in 1974, its archives have become an important repository of the history of the Presbyterians presence in the Southwest. Library director, Ms. Nona Browne told me that researchers have visited from all over the U.S. and from foreign countries. The holdings include books, periodicals, photographs, pictures, artifacts, tapes/manuscripts, memoirs, correspondence, and other memorabilia.

The library, staffed by knowledgeable volunteers that field every manner on inquiry, is open Tuesday through Friday, 10am to 4pm. The phone number is 505-343-7480. Additionally, the volunteers publish an excellent quarterly review newsletter. The library relies on donations to support their mission. During our August meeting the LPPC Session voted to send a meaningful donation, through our own Mission Committee to the library.

"Give it to the Busiest Person"

In June I reported that Eagle Scout hopeful, Garrett Greene, had requested Session permission to build a play set for our playground. Since then Garrett has raised all of the money required to purchase materials. His working plans have been approved by both his Eagle Scout advisor and LPPC liaison, Elder Leah Army. Now that school has begun, ninth-grader Garrett, who attends the Albuquerque Charter School, Bataan Military Academy, will spend his weekends building the play set. The estimated completion date is sometime before Thanksgiving.

~Bill L
Clerk of Session

Full Schedule begins on Sunday, September 9th



Early Service at 8:30am in the Upper Room.

Sunday Adult Education Forum at 9:15am in the Upper Room. Join us as we begin a five-week series. The *Book of Confessions* will be available.

Theology Happens—Ever wonder what the church has believed in the past, and does believe now? For five weeks starting on September 9, the Adult Forum will be considering that question. Using the PCUSA's *Book of Confessions* we will look at beliefs from the early church, the Middle Ages, the Reformation, and the 20th century. We'll also be looking some at how the Presbyterian Church has understood and used its creeds and confessions at different times in history.

September 9

Introduction to the *Book of Confessions* and How Presbyterians Use It.

September 16

The Beliefs of the Early Church: From Jesus to the Apostles and Nicene Creeds.

September 23

The Middle Ages: Catholicism and a Little Heresy.

September 30

The Reformation: Presbyterian and Reformed Confessions and Catechisms.

October 7

From Barmen to Belhar (20th Century): Affirming Faith in Changing Times.

Everyone is welcome!

Second Worship Service at 10:30am in the sanctuary.

The choir returns to worship under the direction of our new choral director. The nursery is available and Sunday School is available for children ages Kindergarten through elementary school. Children leave the worship service after the children's sermon.



Our teachers are using the *We Believe* curriculum again this year and if you would like to share your

talents in providing Christian education to our young people, please contact Anna H.

Fellowship follows the 10:30am service each week. Volunteers sign up each Sunday to prepare coffee and snacks. Remember our refreshments should be simple and easy: chips and salsa, nuts or cookies, fresh fruit. The choice is yours. A sign-up sheet is posted on the coffee service table and directions making coffee are posted on the cabinet in the kitchen. Contact Joan D if you have questions.

Building Committee - Help Needed

A business item that remains on the Session agenda pertains to filling the position of Building Committee Chair, vacated when Bill S retired in March, after five years of service.

During our August Session meeting, we discussed convening church members who have particular skills and interests needed to help care for our church building. In the interim I personally have been helping to coordinate some of the ongoing needs. An email I recently received helps to partially explain types of duties regularly addressed by our Building Committee:

*Hi Bill,
Just a short list of the fixes we discussed the other day...the light in the closet, which appears to be a special bulb; the toilet is running in the little bathroom...I have tried to adjust the float but no luck; and also the east door going from MDO into the hallway cannot be opened from the hallway—opens fine from the MDO side. Sorry to burden you with these little nuisances. Have a great day, and thank you.*

This “go-do” list will require a visit to our Mother’s Day Out preschool room to obtain specifics on the toilet float and light bulb, a trip to Home Depot (parts in hand) to purchase replacement parts (using our church’s credit card), and then returning to MDO to replace the float mechanism and screw in the bulb!

On Monday, September 10th, at 12 noon Rev. Henry and Elder Leah A would like to invite all church members who have time and interest in being a part of the Building Committee to meet here at the church. We need individuals who have diverse “homeowner skills” who would be willing to field occasional requests to take care of things here at the church. We are also looking for someone

who has time and availability that would be willing to chair this group. The chair position is primarily a coordination role which would involve communicating with our cadre of volunteers and when needed, calling upon licensed professionals to address matters that require the work of a particular contractor.

Beforehand, let me say thank you to all who are willing to serve to help take care of and preserve this special place we call our church home.

In service, Bill L

Planned Giving Workshop



Planning ahead is part of effective stewardship, but three quarters of the people in our country don’t plan ahead and die without valid wills. If you don’t write your will, the state does and their all-purpose will won’t necessarily fit your needs or desires. You can learn about wills, bequests, trusts, endowments and other aspects of estate planning by joining us for two hours at the church for a Planned Giving Workshop beginning at 9am on Saturday, September 29th. The presenter will be John Turner, our Presbyterian Foundation Development Officer, who promises we will learn creative strategies for lifetime stewardship and have fun too.

All members and friends of our congregation are invited to attend. Please mark your calendars and 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.

CASA ROSA NEWS Casa Rosa Celebrates 4 Years of Community Service!



For our 4th anniversary, I decided to ask some of our Saturday morning clients and volunteers what four years of Casa Rosa has meant to them. First I have to set the scene.

Every Saturday morning people arrive early and are sitting chatting under the trees waiting to greet us

as we arrive, offering to help carry food or whatever items we are carrying. They wait for the coffee to be made and the snacks to come out, always offering to help. Then the sign-up sheet comes out and clients sign in. We open at 9am, but people may come and start waiting early, even as early as 6am. Some people stay for the entire time, until we close at 11am.

Here are some of the comments I received on Saturday, August 18, 2012:

Angela, "Casa Rosa is a community social event; it has brought the community together. The group gathers. It's something to look forward to every Saturday...all the different services, massage, clothes."

Brenda, "It puts food on the table for my family. It helps my kids...I like the massages; they help me." (Note: Susan Booth donates massages at Casa Rosa.)

Donna, "It has made a lot of difference. You have fun, get to try different foods, you get to socialize. People are really nice! There are nice people here! We have fun!"

Michael, "It's the food and conviviality. I see people hooking up—how I can help you. People hook up, get a ride to Bernalillo."

Brian, "Casa Rosa helps people, helps everyone in the village. People are friendly. Sometimes people put you to work."

Ruben, "It's been a lot of good use for the food. My pills cost too much and the food helps me out. I call this my 'little store'; I get a lot of food and some clothing. It's been a lot of help!"

Joe, "It makes a big difference. Stuff that is very useable, consumable, you don't have to drive to Bernalillo to get food. It's a great service!"

Cindy, "Are you kidding me? You can eat! I can eat and I've made lots of friends. It has made a huge difference, before I hardly knew anyone in the community. I've volunteered too, and giving feeds the soul."

Susana, "It's my social event of the week. It's a safe place to be. And of course, the food is good! And one of *the most* important things Casa Rosa means to me, apart from physical sustenance—the genuinely caring volunteers and **THE HUGS!**"

Robert, "I think it's a God send. Not only is it fun to volunteer here, it is fun to come here! And we get to eat great baked goods."

Veronica, "Casa Rosa is a help for the people. It provides food. It's a pleasure to come on Saturday morning. We can see friends we don't usually see."

Bessie, "People are a lot more friendlier! The food is fine; it's great! It's a really nice thing for the community."

At around 10:30, the crowds are mostly gone for the day, but a few people linger under the trees, just passing time, visiting. I decided to go sit and chat with a couple of the girls, Sunshine and Cathy.

Cathy, "I think it is phenomenal! Everybody is nice. It is consistently good, different food. I like to socialize! (Cathy breaks into a Jim Croce song), *If I had time in a bottle, the first thing I would do, I'd save every day in a bottle, and then I'd spend them with you...*"

Sunshine says, "Hey, give me that paper, I'm going to write my own story!" Here's what Sunshine wrote: "Casa Rosa to me means 'community'! The volunteers are awesome, always smiling, respectful and helpful. It's one of the few times I know of that a lot of people come together as community. I am so grateful for your support. And of course the food which helps us to sustain. Please keep it up. Love you all."

Then Sunshine says to me, "Now what did you say this was for?" I explained that it was for the LPPC Newsletter. Sunshine said, "Well we need to have a newsletter of our own...at least a quarterly one!"

You go girl!

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

MEMBER PROFILE SHANNON M

Shannon was born in Seville, Spain where his Dad was stationed in the Air Force during the Vietnam years. He lived there for one year followed by a year in Clovis, NM. Then the family returned to Lake Wales, FL where Shannon lived until he was eighteen. His under graduate years were spent at



Appalachian State in Boone, NC where he majored in Geography. Then he earned his Master's in Geography and Satellite Image Interpretation at the University of Idaho. After graduation he returned to Appalachian State to teach Geography and Computers while also managing the computer network for the department.

In 1987 his family took a road trip from Florida to Seattle that included driving through the Southwest. Shannon's enthusiasm for the beauty, geography and archaeology of the Southwest started then. When he was offered a job in 2001 to work for the Pueblo of Sandia in mapping their geography, natural resources, archeology, utility infrastructure and drainage, he gladly accepted and has been working there for ten years.

Shannon's hobbies and passions include his long time love of astronomy (he enjoys tracking galaxies and nebula – gas clouds) and genetic genealogy where the Y chromosome of male family members is tracked many years into the past. You can find out how you fit into the human family tree and to whom you are currently related. He also enjoys cooking, singing, hiking and geology (his minor in college)

In 1997 Shannon and his long-time childhood friend drove to Alaska from Idaho in an old pick-up truck for a one month trip. It was a fantastic trip that included a bush plane flight around some of the highest mountains in North America. He also traveled with another college friend on a two week canoe trip down the New River from North Carolina deep into West Virginia. After graduating from college he went to Europe traveling on the Euro Rail pass and staying in hostels. One of the highlights while in Europe was when his Mom and Dad joined him in Seville and they were able to track down the doctor who delivered Shannon. They had a great reunion.

On Shannon's bucket list is a trip to see a total solar eclipse and to hike the Grand Canyon. He also would like to find out more about his Mann surname as that line of the family tree is still pretty mysterious.

Shannon and Carolyn met in 2008 and married in April 2010. Shannon is happily Annabella's Dad and is looking forward to welcoming a new addition to the family in July. (In fact, a son, Owen David, was welcomed into the Mann family on August 2.) Shannon looks forward to seeing his children grow up to be happy productive members of society.

In an emergency he would grab family photos, old documents and old handwritten family recipe books.

Shannon finds that he is a little different from most of his other family members because he is the only one with an interest in geography, geology or astronomy.

The things he wouldn't want to have to live without are: good food (he will eat most anything from any country), good music (favorites include alternative, blues and good choral music) and the Internet, since he can continue to learn indefinitely.

The aspects of LPPC that he enjoys are: the diversity of the congregation, the sermons and the anthems.

~Betty C
~Wendy I

CUBA OFFERING will be taken on September 23rd.



Again this year, we have a one-for-one matching, so please be generous in your giving. It will be doubled! One half of our offering goes directly to our partner church in Cuba, Sabinella. The other half helps support the inter-denominational seminary; restoration of some of the churches that are literally falling down; rebuilding of the youth camp; and some small support for the Presbytery.

~Jerri F

SEPTEMBER Calendar Highlights

- Sun Sept 2 **14th Sunday after Pentecost**
Communion is served
Rev. Jaime Quinones is preaching
Combined Worship service, 9:30am
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Wed Sept 5 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun Sept 9 **15th 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)
- Wed Sept 12 Mobile Food Pantry, 10am-12noon
- Sun Sept 16 **16th Sunday after Pentecost**
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
- Fellowship follows this service with a reception for Andrew Alegria, our new choral director
- Sun Sept 23 **17th Sunday after Pentecost**
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- PAS Reception & Concert, 2-5:00pm
- Mon Sept 24 October newsletter deadline for submission: noon
- Sat Sept 29 Planned Giving Workshop, 9am, Fellowship Hall
- Sun Sept 30 **18th Sunday after Pentecost**
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service

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