

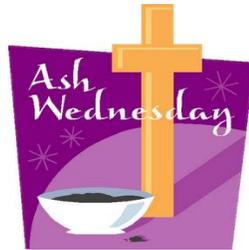


The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 2012

Marked with a Cross

On Wednesday, February 22nd, we will gather as a congregation in the sanctuary at 7:00pm to observe Ash Wednesday. This solemn service in the Christian year marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation and contemplation as we journey together towards Easter.



In the service of Ash Wednesday we receive the imposition of ashes. The once-green fronds waved with shouts of "Alleluia!" during last year's Palm Sunday procession are now brown and brittle. These very same dry palms will be burned to make the ashes that we will use to mark our foreheads this Ash Wednesday, connecting the culmination of a Lenten journey past with the beginning of yet another.

A new connection was made for me here last year. As we begin the season of Lent we are marked with ashes in the sign of a cross on our foreheads. We are encouraged to "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). At the end of that journey in 2011, a sizeable number of us gathered in the Memorial Garden early on Easter morning for a sunrise service. We gathered round the baptismal font and were once again marked with the sign of the cross. This time as water dripped off our foreheads, we were asked to "Remember your baptism and be thankful."

Both markings of the cross began inviting us to "Remember..." The season of Lent invites us to remember both death and life. On the journey from ashes to water, we discover that what at first glance appears to be a tomb is actually a womb. New life emerges not just for some distant future, but for the here and now. Join us for the Lenten journey, and remember... in life and in death we belong to God.

Peace,
Drew

February Text & Topics

February 5th 5th Sunday after Epiphany
"Proclamar" 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

February 12th 6th Sunday after Epiphany
"Naaman" Mark 1:40-45, 2 Kings 5:1-14

February 19th Transfiguration of the Lord "Elijah and Elisha" Mark 9:2-9, 2 Kings 2:1-12

February 22nd Ash Wednesday "Fasting" Isaiah 58:1-12, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 26th First Sunday in Lent "Covenant"
Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10

SESSION Highlights

Blast Off!

I've come to realize that 'things don't just happen' in the Presbyterian Church ...much of what occurs is approved I beforehand. Prior to 2011, as a weekly worshipper, I just showed up at church and followed the leader, with some guidance from that Sunday's bulletin. I'd rarely ponder the bigger picture of how all this 'stuff' came together. Now, I realize it was a result of Session ruling, aka voting. Case in point, Session decided on the following issues in January:

1. Placitas Artist Series performance dates
2. Communion dates for 2012
3. January's Congregational Meeting format
4. Church Nominating Committee election date
5. Election of the 2012 Commissioners to the Presbytery
6. Election of the church Treasurer
7. Election of Corporate Officers for 2012
8. Appointment of church committee chairs for 2012
9. Designation of special offering dates for the year



10. Determination of the constitution of a quorum
11. Conversation on a well water steward volunteer for LPPC
12. Assignment of Session devotions and church lock-up schedule
13. Conversation regarding the Phyllis Tickle event in February

Detailed information on each of these items and church committee reports are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. You are encouraged to read them at your convenience.

~Bill L, Clerk of Session

Monday Night Adult Study

The group is scheduled to begin the Lenten season study of Sara Miles' book, **Take This Bread**, on Monday, February 22nd at 7:00pm. Books are in and will cost approximately \$10.

One reviewer's comment of this book:

*The story of an unexpected and terribly inconvenient Christian conversion, told by a very unlikely convert, **Take This Bread** is not only a spiritual memoir but a call to action.*

Raised as an atheist, Sara Miles lived an enthusiastically secular life as a restaurant cook and writer. Then early one morning, for no earthly reason, she wandered into a church. "I was certainly not interested in becoming a Christian" she writes. "Or, as I thought of it rather less politely, a religious nut." But she ate a piece of bread, took a sip of wine, and found herself radically transformed....

All are welcome to join the discussion Monday nights.

CASA ROSA NEWS

The Snowball Effect

We, the regular volunteers at Casa Rosa, are continually amazed by the people who show up and ask can we take?, or show up to volunteer or to offer some sort of help. People hear about Casa Rosa through word of mouth and articles in the *Signpost*, but mostly just by one person telling a neighbor, an acquaintance, a friend. Sometimes people in other states even hear about Casa Rosa and make contributions; the word keeps spreading!



The unexpected happens often at Casa Rosa. Recently we have been recipients of donations from a soup kitchen in Albuquerque that has shared their leftovers with us. This has helped with our winter produce shortage.

People share their talents. I want to talk about Charlotte's crock-pot cooking. Every Saturday morning Charlotte arrives with several crock pots filled with unique soups, stews and salads. These dishes are one-of-a-kind creations, often made with ingredients that have been donated to us, which might be unfamiliar to many clients. Do you know what 'quinoa' is? It has shown up in recent dishes weekly. Every Saturday morning, clients gather early in the waiting room eagerly awaiting the arrival of Charlotte's hot meals. We have other food contributors, bakers, and hot dish creators as well. Sometimes we are even the recipients of Mary's famously hot chili, the heat of the dish is always discussed and compared.

People constantly share food and household items with us. When people move, they think of Casa Rosa. We have been the recipients of entire households of stored food and household goods. People, including clients and friends of Casa Rosa, show up on Saturday with items to share. As items are taken out of the vehicles, they often go no further, immediately, someone will claim the new treasure.

Lest you think we don't need help any more with all of these good things happening, please believe it is not true. We appreciate and need your help always! Don't forget our famous \$9 to \$1 principle. For every \$1 that you donate, we can purchase \$9 of food through Roadrunner. Let's keep those snowballs rolling.... Keep sharing and spreading the word about Casa Rosa!

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

Mission News

LPPC Mission Committee is gearing up for the 2012 year of Mission Giving, Fund Raising and Fun!

We plan on selling **Just Coffee** every 2nd Sunday of the month, but we will be adding teas and chocolates from **Equal Exchange**, a Presbyterian Fair Trade Organization. We will also have wine and gift bags for sale.



We are looking into **Bread For Life beads** to help African Women earn money to support themselves and their families. Jeannine P is planning a party to introduce these products.

We are and continue to support the partnership we have with Cuba with our money, prayers and friendship.

Stay tuned for more from the Mission Committee.

~Nancy U, Elder Liaison

MEMBER PROFILE

DARLENE B

Darlene was born in Corpus Christi, TX, but her exciting and interesting life began after she graduated from high school in L.A. While in high school she took classes that were both college prep and vocational and as a result she was hired as an executive secretary during her college years working for a radio station with 20 employees under her care. Darlene earned her English and Classics degree from U.C. Santa Barbara. She always had an interest in reading books and a head for business. She received the *Bank of America Business Award* in L.A. in 1969.



Because of her analytical insight about business, she began working for Eli Broad in 1973 (which later became known as Kaufman & Broad Home Builders). She was with this organization for the remainder of her first career, which lasted 20 years. Darlene became a corporate executive and was in charge of the Human Resources Department as the company began to revamp and reorganize by diversifying its business into several entities. She interviewed and hired personnel that would fit the personality of the businesses that was being developed. She helped stream line older business with new technology, (working 80 hour weeks) and was able to retire from this position at the age of 42. She was then able to move on to her second career which has become very personal and fulfilling.

She married Steve B in 1987. They met through a blind date. Steve is a three time Emmy award winner. After both worked five more years of 80 hour weeks, they moved to Placitas in 1995. Darlene retired, managed their property renovations as well as being on call for her Mom in Houston in her later years. She and Steve's retirement location needs were: to stay in the Southwest, to be near an international Airport (which Albuquerque was at that time), live in a town with a university and live in the high desert. Albuquerque/Placitas fit that bill.

Darlene always felt she needed to have a passion for doing something worthwhile with her life. Little did she know it would come in the guise of Ghost Ranch! After moving to Placitas, she was acclimating to the area and, of course, heard that one must go to Ghost Ranch! She had come to LPPC and met Judith R who told her about the "Circle of Women" Workshop at Ghost Ranch. She signed up and attended for a week. One of the persons that was presenting was Mary Johnson, a nun who had worked with Mother Teresa at one time. Mary told of really wanting to write her story. Darlene was overwhelmed with ideas for doing something with what she had just heard. When the workshop was over, Darlene spoke with Mary Johnson and collaborated to begin *A Room of Her Own Foundation* (AROHO).

This foundation was founded to give women the freedom to create by granting \$50,000 *Gift of Freedom Awards* to deserving recipients. There have been five \$50,000 grants given and at least \$800,000 to creative women. AROHO's first member of the Advisory Council was Marilynne Robinson Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Gilead*. AROHO is a non-profit organization that Darlene continues to oversee as President and CEO. They present retreats at Ghost Ranch every two years and have hosted hundreds of women writers from all over the world.

Darlene's favorite job is what she is doing now with AROHO.

Darlene's favorite hobbies and passions are raising Airedale Terriers, reading, organizations, and France.

Darlene became hooked on traveling early in her life after her first solo trip to Greece for four weeks. Her first exotic adventure solo trip was to Kenya. After that she traveled to China, Tibet, Nepal, and India. Another trip was to the Andes and Amazon.

Her last solo trip was to New Guinea, Australia & New Zealand when she realized it wasn't as much fun by herself. After marrying Steve, they traveled to Kenya, took a safari in East Africa, traveled to Egypt and the Seychelles Islands.

They started traveling to visit friends of Steve's outside Paris, and Darlene was really taken by the area. After visiting a few more times and making even more friends, they found a place in Bouges Le Chateau (a 500 year old house), which was on the National Historical Records and needed lots of TLC. They bought La Cure "the curate's house" in 1998 and finished renovation in 2003. They spend three months there each year.

As for other travels, Darlene would like to return to India and spend more time there.

If Darlene had to leave the house quickly, the thing that she would take with her would be her dog.

Things she could not live without are books, her French home, coming home to New Mexico, and champagne.

What Darlene likes about LPPC is how gracefully it has changed the community.

~Wendy I & Betty C

**MARCH newsletter deadline:
Friday, February 24th at noon**

FEBRUARY Calendar Highlights

- Wed Feb 1 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun Feb 5 **5th Sunday after Epiphany**
Communion is served
Alternative service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Family Worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided; Sunday School
Fellowship follows this service
- Wed Feb 8 Placitas Mobile Food Pantry
10am-12noon
- Sun Feb 12 **6th Sunday after Epiphany**
Alternative service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Family Worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided; Sunday School
Fellowship follows this service
- PAS Reception & Concert, 2-5pm
- Sun Feb 19 **Transfiguration of the Lord**
Alternative service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Family Worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided; Sunday School
Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Feb 20 **Presidents' Day**—Church office
is closed
- Wed Feb 22 Ash Wednesday service, 7:00pm
- Sun Feb 26 **1st Sunday in Lent**
Alternative service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Family Worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided; Sunday School

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