



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

APRIL 2013

Thank you God for Gordon Cosby

Gordon Cosby, the founder of The Church of the Saviour in Washington, D.C., died on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at the age of 95. In a tribute, following his death, Jim Wallis of Sojourners wrote¹:

Gordon Cosby taught us how to live by the Gospel and, in these last years and months, he also showed us how to die. In one of my many visits near the end of his life, Gordon said to me in his deep graveling voice, "I am enjoying dying." What a Gospel thing to say. From the first time I heard Gordon preach, to the last sermon he did a few years ago, I have never heard the Gospel and its meaning more clearly articulated than from Gordon Cosby.

Well into his nineties, and living in Christ House with the homeless men he always served, Gordon was less able to continue to do the all things he had done all day, every day, for so many people and over so many years. "All I can really do is pray now," Gordon said to me, "but I have so much time now to pray!"

In 2008, I travelled with a group of pastors to Washington in our study of the connection between faith and finances in our lives as Christians. We were hosted by Mike Little of the Faith and Money Network², a ministry that grew out of The Church of the Saviour. Mike graciously arranged a time for us to sit down and have a conversation with Gordon Cosby.

When I learned of Cosby's death, I pulled out my notes from our time together that morning. Here are a few nuggets of Cosby's wisdom that stood out to me: "It is amazing how many people go to church and Jesus is not important to them... Our trouble is blindness, and Jesus is about recovery of sight to

¹ <http://sojo.net/blogs/2013/03/21/gordon-cosby-teaching-us-how-live-and-how-die>

² <http://faithandmoneynetwork.drupalgardens.com/>

the blind... Do we trust Christ, or do we not? ... I haven't found anybody else to trust."

It was an honor to be able to spend even a few hours with Gordon Cosby. In another tribute, Methodist Pastor Dean Snyder wrote³:

Gordon Cosby was totally focused on figuring out how to make the world more like the kind of world Jesus talked about. Gordon was absolutely Christian. He was focused on Jesus and sought to live deeply in Christ. I once asked him if his intense focus on Christ did not get in the way of interfaith conversation and respect. He told me that it was his experience that those who went most deeply into their own religion's truths seemed to understand each other and communicate with each other best. He was profoundly and distinctively Christian without an ounce of parochialism.

Gordon Cosby lived the gift of life God gave to him with an integrity and commitment matched by few. Our world is a better place for his having followed Christ in it. Thank you God for Gordon Cosby.

Peace, Drew

April Texts and Topics

April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter "Sufficient Evidence" Psalm 118: 14-29; John 20:19-31

April 14 - Third Sunday of Easter "Peter & Paul" Acts 9: 1-6; John 21: 1-19

April 21 - Fourth Sunday of Easter "Get up" Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-17

April 28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter "The Gifts of God for the People of God" Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6

³ http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-03-21/national/37889360_1_savior-ministries-pastor

SESSION Highlights

My usual starting point, when researching for material to submit for this monthly newsletter is to review our most recent Session meeting minutes; specifically, our “old” and “new” business issues.

From these I can most often choose two or three and expand on them, thus creating some fascinating reading. This month, either my creative juices weren't flowing or our Session business at hand was not that riveting. In any case, what I have to offer is a listing of some of the items your Session discussed during the March gathering.

Mortgage debt retirement update: Rev. Henry; most recent update indicated a remaining mortgage balance of \$34,991. Rev. Henry distributed and presented a written report detailing LPPC's financial position regarding the mortgage debt payoff. A plan is in place to apply an amount of 2012 surplus funds to any remaining debt after all of the pledged monies have been received. The target date for the mortgage debt retirement party is on Pentecost, Sunday, May 19. Our single combined summer worship schedule (9:30am) will begin on this noteworthy Pentecost Sunday with a celebratory enchilada brunch to follow the worship service.

Reflection on LPPC's hosting of the Presbytery meeting, February 22 & 23: Session; around the meeting table it was agreed our church shined through the entirety this weekend with engaging hospitality. The high degree of church member volunteer support, the delicious Friday evening supper, the moving worship service coupled with the sparkling appearance of our facility led to a most successful event.

Progress report on the church tower bell refurbishment project: Martha Ritchie; members of the committee formed for this special project met on Thursday, March 7th. Project member Bruce M introduced a written history of the church bell which was manufactured in 1892 by the C.S. Bell & Company of Hillsboro, Ohio. The target date for project completion is May 18th.

Request to approve fundraising events for Christian Education: Beth S; the four events are to raise funds required to send our junior high school children to Ghost Ranch this summer for a week are as follows:



March 24th - Palm Sunday - Designer Egg Auction

March 31st - Easter - Easter Egg Hunt

April 12th - Spaghetti Dinner

May 5th - Cinco de Mayo - Frito Pie Sale during fellowship hour

A motion was made and approved for these four fundraising events.

Annual LPPC Insurance Review completed: Mike Potter; Saturday February 2, Finance Committee members Ron D and Mike P reviewed our existing policy with Church Mutual insurance representative, Marilyn Lewis. Mike P stated “We are in good hands.”

~Bill L Clerk of Session

Children's Christian Education



We are so excited how our children and youth programs have grown this year. We have an incredibly dedicated group who are eager to make sure our kids are engaged in our church community.

Youth Ghost Ranch Retreat update:

- Thank you to everyone who supported the See's Candy Sales this Easter to support our youth going to Ghost Ranch this summer! We sold 100 boxes of candy and made \$739.23 profit on sales to pay for their trip. Great job to all our budding salespeople and a big *GRACIAS* to our wonderful church community.
- “Eggs-traordinary Egg Hunt” on Palm Sunday was a tremendous success! A huge thank you to Susan H who generously donated her beautiful collection of hand carved and decorated eggs that were on sale during our Palm Sunday silent auction. We raised \$900, all of which will go to the Youth Fund trip to Ghost Ranch.
- Additional activities in the works to raise funds for our retreat this summer include a

- Spaghetti Dinner to be held on Friday, April 12 at 5:00. Our youth will be organizing, helping to cook and serve a wonderful spaghetti dinner complete with Italian music and atmosphere. All proceeds are going to the Youth Fund. Tickets will be \$5 each and we graciously accept all donations.

Our two Sunday School classrooms (kindergarten through 3rd grade, and 4th grade and older) continue to enjoy weekly lessons from **We Believe**. Sunday School will be scheduled through the end of May. We are always looking for extra adult volunteers to assist with Sunday School. Our teachers need an extra adult in each room to make sure our lessons run smoothly. Please contact Sally G if you are interested in volunteering one Sunday.

~Elizabeth D
Children's Christian Education Co-Chair

CASA ROSA NEWS

Change in Leadership

Once again Casa Rosa Food Bank will be experiencing a change in its leadership. In 2008 Casa Rosa was established under the direction of Ellen B along with the support of many church members who helped make the pink house operational for distributing food and who then served as the early volunteers at the food bank. In 2009 Charlotte L took over as the leader of Casa Rosa, established a Board of Directors, serving as its first chair, and instituted needed policies and procedures. In 2011, Charlotte turned over leadership to Karen F and me. And now, after two years, leadership will be turned over on April 1st to Jim H.



By electing Jim, we are proud to note that a man has finally broken the glass ceiling at Casa Rosa. Jim's substantial administrative background will be quite helpful to him in leading Casa Rosa the next two years, but, in addition to that, his long-time involvement as a volunteer in all of Casa Rosa's activities will enable him to take over seamlessly as Chair of the Board of Directors as well as director of the food bank operation. Jim has worked closely with me the last few months as we have begun to share and transfer leadership responsibilities.

As I depart from the position of Chair of Casa Rosa, I especially want to thank those individuals, most of whom are LPPC members, who have served with me as officers of the Board of Directors for the last two years.

- A special thanks to Karen F, who served as co-chair until the end of this past year. She has shown immense dedication to Casa Rosa as a volunteer and Board member over the past four years.
- Jeff D was one of the earliest volunteers at Casa Rosa and has served as Vice Chair of the Board for the past four years. We have constantly relied on his expertise in regard to safe food handling techniques.
- Tom L has served as a Co-Vice Chair with Jeff for the past two years, and Tom will continue to serve as Vice Chair the next two years. Tom is a very busy person in that he is also Director of Facility Projects and Maintenance and, in addition, serves as a liaison between LPPC and Casa Rosa in his capacity as a Deacon.
- Kathleen L cheerfully served as Board Secretary--initially taking minutes and then taking over the responsibilities of Corresponding Secretary.
- Jack C and Doug C became Co-Recording Secretaries for the Board at the beginning of 2012, alternating in ably recording the minutes of record. They will continue to serve as Co-Recording Secretaries under the new Board leadership.
- Gordon Z has relied upon his professional background in finance while serving as our Board Treasurer and helping to oversee that Casa Rosa has a sound fiscal basis. With the start of the new fiscal year on January 1, the transfer of responsibilities of the Treasurer from Gordon to Ruth Wheeler began, and Ruth will also assume the role of Corresponding Secretary under the new Board leadership.

Our officers and other Board members comprise a "working" Board of Directors, because they are actively involved in volunteering at Casa Rosa during Friday truck deliveries and Saturday food distributions as well as in participating in all the other projects with which we become involved—from activities as diverse as holding fund-raising sales, to picking produce at *Seed2Need*, to cleaning the Casa Rosa facility. But in addition to our Board members, Casa Rosa also has a sizeable group of other volunteers who are just as active as our Board members. What a great group

of people to work with, and I am positive the camaraderie among all the volunteers will continue as the new leadership takes over in April.

Finally, with much appreciation I want to express sincere thanks to the administrative personnel and the membership of LPPC. It was you who believed in and have continued to support the Casa Rosa mission over the years. The Board of Directors, volunteers, and clients of Casa Rosa are extremely grateful for your ongoing commitment.

~Sherrill C
Chair (2011-2013)
Casa Rosa Board of Directors

A Few Words from the New Guy....

I wholeheartedly support Sherrill's words of appreciation to our hard-working Board members and other volunteers. They are a dedicated, fun-loving group who have a good time working together to achieve our mission. And they greatly enjoy getting to know and interact with our clients.

I look forward to continuing to work with Pastor Drew, who has been a faithful, insightful, hardworking contributor to the Board's activity. And, as I have learned through many years as an academic administrator, a huge round of thanks needs to be directed to Cory Franklin and Liz Allotta, because it is always the case that if a complex organization is working well, it is in no small part due to the competent, dedicated efforts of key members of the staff.

If readers of this newsletter are interested in taking a tour of our little establishment, or would like to find out more about joining our merry band, or if you have concerns you would like to address, please feel free to contact me.

~Jim H
Chair (2013-2015)
Casa Rosa Board of Directors

Rebuilding Together Sandoval County (RTSC)

Janice Saxton reported that RTSC recently received funding from United Way. There are plans to renovate two homes west of Rio Rancho; one home in Bernalillo; and possibly other homes located in Rio Rancho. When additional funding comes through, three veterans' homes will also be renovated.

Work dates in April are Friday, April 12/Saturday, April 13; Friday, April 19/Saturday, April 20. Prep work will take place the week before each work weekend (April 7-11 and April 14-18). Any semi-skilled volunteers are needed for the prep work and volunteers are needed for the work dates.

A sign-up list for volunteers will be posted on the LPPC kiosk in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for volunteering.

~Terry S, Mission Committee



Making End of Life Decisions: Knowing your Options, Clarifying your Wishes

**Sunday Mornings on April 7,14,21,28 & May 5
9:15am in the Upper Room.**

"Our challenge is to understand illness, death, and grief as inherently difficult, often turbulent, but entirely normal stages of life."

On April 7 the Sunday morning Adult Forum will begin a five week series on making end of life decisions. It will be coordinated by Rev. Joyce T., who before her retirement served as Chaplain and Ethics Committee Coordinator both at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque, and at Tucson Medical Center Hospice. There will also be guest presenters. Topics include: Legal Matters, Health Care and Medical Issues, Resources for Support, Facing Dying, and After Death / Loss Issues. Please come and join in this important series of presentations.

~ Ken C

MEMBER PROFILE TOM T

Tom was born in Huntington, West Virginia. while his Dad was on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific during World War II. When his Dad returned home, the family moved to his Dad's home in Texas – Amarillo. The family moved to Charleston, SC, Amarillo, Abilene and Plainview where Tom graduated from high school. He attended Texas Tech for three years



and graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in Psychology. Tom met Tina at Tech and they married in December during his junior year.

After graduation, Tom began working in sales with Procter and Gamble (P & G). Then he and Tina began their series of 26 moves. Tom worked in Austin, San Antonio and Detroit with P&G. When they were offered a move to Buffalo, Tom decided to change employers. He moved to Lubbock with Water Services of America. When that company was sold to Coke, he moved to Albuquerque working for Baxter Labs in 1973. Three years later the Thomas's moved to San Antonio when Tom began working for US Surgical where he owned a distributorship. He worked for them from 1976-1984. From 1984 – 2004 Tom worked for Biomet when he sold his distributorship.

The family moved to Placitas in 2004 still with Biomet. He retired for 90 days in 2007 but he didn't like retirement! In 2007 he began working for Stryker in Albuquerque and was transferred to San Antonio in 2009. In May of 2011 he was able to transfer back to Albuquerque with Stryker where he now works as an account executive working on contracts. Tom and Tina love Placitas and worked very hard to get back here. Tom loves his work and is wary of retiring – his two strongest characteristics are achiever and learner (according to a test) so he thinks he will find retirement difficult to satisfy those needs.

Tom and Tina have three children. Traci lives in Durango, CO and has two children. Her interest is musical theater . Ashley is an attorney with two children living in Dallas, TX. Tyler lives in Santa Fe and is finishing up his theater design degree at the College of Santa Fe.

Tom's favorite job is orthopedic sales. His hobbies include reading, golf and travel. His fifteen minutes of fame would be being chosen as distributor of the year twice.

The person he would most have wanted to have met is Victor Frankl because he is a survivor of concentration camps and had such a strong sense that life is defined by the choices you make.

His favorite two trips were the one to Italy that included Florence, Rome and Tuscany which was marvelous and their recent trip to France with Brittany being his favorite place. Russia, New Zealand and Africa are still on their to-do list.

In case of a fire, Tom would grab the family photos and his grandmother's Bible in which he continues to add notes along with her markings and notes. The two things he hopes to still do are: sky dive and re-learn how to play the piano. Tom wouldn't want to do without books, good wine, New Mexico sunsets and golf clubs.

His favorite parts about LPPC are: the fellowship of the place, the friendliness, energy, it being an anchor for such a variety of activities.

~Wendy I & Betty C

Storehouse West is holding its 11th Annual Flower Sale.



They will have beautiful geraniums and hanging baskets of ivy geraniums, verbena and daisies. They are all grown at LaPaloma Nursery in Corrales, using ARC clients to do the gardening. Their sale raises funds for the operation of the programs of food and kids clothing for residents of the community.

Plants cost from \$4.25 to \$16. Sale dates are Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14 and April 20 and 21, 9:30am-3:00pm at 1030-F Veranda Dr, SE in Rio Rancho. For more information, call 892-2077 or see the Storehouse West website at www.storehousewestnm.org.

**May Newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, April 24th—noon**

APRIL Calendar Highlights

- Mon Apr 1 Monday Adult Study, 7pm
- Wed Apr 3 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Fri Apr 5 Memorial Open House for Diane Wise, 2-5pm
- Sun Apr 7 **Second Sunday of Easter
Communion Sunday**
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, *Making End of Life Decisions*, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
Rev. Ken Cuthbertson is preaching
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Apr 8 Monday Adult Study, 7pm
- Fri Apr 12 Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner, 5-8pm
- Sun Apr 14 **Third Sunday of Easter**
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, *Making End of Life Decisions*, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
Rev. Ken Cuthbertson is preaching
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Apr 15 Monday Adult Study, 7pm
- Sun Apr 21 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, *Making End of Life Decisions*, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Session meets to welcome new members (11:45am) (note different day)
- PAS Reception & Concert, 2-5pm
- Mon Apr 22 **Earth Day**
Monday Adult Study, 7pm

- Sun Apr 28 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, *Making End of Life Decisions*, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Apr 29 Monday Adult Study, 7pm

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