



B. Bowen

# The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

## FEBRUARY 2013



February marks the birthday of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. It was on February 24th, 1894, that our congregation was organized. Some twelve years earlier, Reverendo José Ynés Perea made his first visit to the village of Las Placitas at the invitation of Don José Gurulé. Perea, a native of Bernalillo, was the nation's first ordained Presbyterian minister of Hispanic origin.

That first meeting in 1882 was reportedly opened with the singing of the hymn "Rock of Ages." We will sing that same hymn in Spanish, "Roca de la Eternidad," as we open our service of worship this February 3rd. In her book "Century of Faith: One Hundred Years in the Life of the Las Placitas Presbyterian Church," Suzanne Sims Forrest writes that "Rock of Ages" was the first Protestant hymn to be sung at Las Placitas. Plans are underway to soon republish "Century of Faith" with a new afterword.

Many of our church's earliest pastors served not only Las Placitas Presbyterian, but also the Spanish Presbyterian Churches of Albuquerque and Santa Fe. On this past Saturday, January 26th, the pastors of Second Presbyterian of Albuquerque, Westminster Presbyterian of Santa Fe, and Las Placitas Presbyterian organized a joint officer training for the ruling elders and deacons of these three congregations. These were the Spanish Presbyterian churches up and down the Camino Real that were connected in the past. United in our common history, our leaders gathered to look forward to the future into which God is calling us.

2013 marks the 119th anniversary of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. Soon we will celebrate our 120th and 125th birthdays. It is a gift to be a part of this congregation and of this moment in the life of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. Let us carry our heritage and faith forward trusting in God.

Peace be with you, Drew

### February Texts and Topics

February 3 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
"Roca de la Eternidad" Psalm 71:1-6; Luke 4:21-30

February 10 - Transfiguration Sunday "Stewards of a Land in Mourning" Hosea 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 3:18 - 4:2

February 13 - Ash Wednesday "Now is the Time" Joel 2:12-14; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

February 17 - First Sunday in Lent "Temptation" Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

February 24 - Second Sunday in Lent "Blessed is the one" Genesis 15:1-6; Luke 13:31-35

### SESSION Highlights

Typically, any January Session agenda is ambitious with many business issues to discuss, resolve or at least get into a solution mode. January 2013, was no exception. Most of our January docket issues are listed as follows:



- 1.) Discussion for approval of the 2013 LPPC budget
- 2.) Mortgage debt retirement update
- 3.) Annual LPPC financial audit update
- 4.) Status update for the purchase of a new software program with photo directory capability
- 5.) Snow Team (winter weather safety concerns) update
- 6.) Planning discussion for LPPC hosting of the Presbytery meeting, February 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

- 7.) Elder devotion & lock-up schedule assignments for 2013
- 8.) Congregational meeting, Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>
- 9.) Update on the joint church officer training event, January 26<sup>th</sup>
- 10.) Determination of an elder and deacon candidate for the church nominating committee
- 11.) Placitas Artist Series schedule change request
- 12.) Election of the LPPC commissioners to the presbytery for 2013
- 13.) LPPC elder committee assignments for 2013
- 14.) Determination of what constitutes a quorum for Session and congregational meetings, 2013

This gives you a pretty good idea of what goes on in a Session meeting, just in case you ever wondered. What was the outcome of these business items? Every month I post disposition of every Session meeting on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. These are the Session meeting minutes.

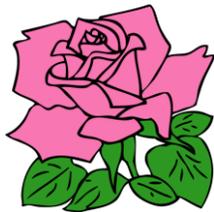
I thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Clerk of Session.

~Bill L, Clerk of Session

## CASA ROSA NEWS

### This Old House.....

Each month one of our volunteers writes an article for the LPPC Newsletter. We talk about various projects and activities related to Casa Rosa, the work and experiences of the volunteers, and the needs and stories of our clients. One thing we've not described very well is the place—the old house—in which the mission of the Casa Rosa Food Bank takes place.



In 2001, LPPC purchased the DeLara property located immediately next to the church on the east side. The adobe house (pink in color) had been built in 1962. Initial thoughts of church personnel were that the house could perhaps be used for

meeting rooms and storage, since the church at that time needed additional space. However, it was eventually determined that what was acceptable in a residence was not necessarily adequate or appropriate in a building used for a broader purpose. As a result, for several years the house was used solely for storage. When the church membership began to talk about the possibility of providing food to those in need in the community as an outreach mission, some began to see the possibility of using the pink house for this purpose. Work was then undertaken by many church members to clean, paint, and make accessibility modifications needed to provide a suitable location for storing and distributing food. Afterwards, Casa Rosa opened its doors as a food bank on August 30, 2008.

The pink house has now become a very visible sign of LPPC's mission to serve those in need in the community. But to those of us who work in the old house each week, it represents symbols not readily apparent to others. The house is very cold inside in the winter (with space heaters providing minimal relief), which results in volunteers never removing their heavy winter coats. This reminds us that many of our clients live in places which have little or no heat, thus requiring them also to keep their coats on indoors. The house has no viable septic system (the two bathrooms, including the shower and tub, are used exclusively for storage) and thus no running water. We keep on hand several gallons of potable water and bring pails of hot water from home when it is necessary to wash the floors thoroughly. This reminds us that some of our clients also live in places where there is no drinkable water and sometimes no useable bathing facilities.

Those of us who volunteer at Casa Rosa have warm and respectful feelings for the building, which have taught us how to adapt to and accept what the old house has to offer. After all, we only work in the building about 2½ hours on Friday mornings (unloading the food-delivery truck and stocking the shelves) and about 3½ hours on Saturday mornings (distributing food to the clients). Indeed, **this old house keeps us grounded** and serves as the perfect reminder of why and for whom we're volunteering to serve at the Casa Rosa Food Bank.

Sherrill C, Chair  
Casa Rosa Board of Directors

## Friends of Nehemiah Club

The Bible tells us that in about 430 BC Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to oversee reconstruction of the city's wall. In doing so, he also looked to bring about a renewed commitment of the people to the Lord. God could have instantly restored the wall but he chose to use his people instead. Imagine the satisfaction each family must have felt as they finished their section of the wall.



We too have the honor of being given a part in building God's kingdom. God could have done it by himself but has chosen to give each of us a job to do and he will give us the ability to carry it out in cooperation with others.

Some tasks might seem small but none are insignificant, (Nehemiah's wall was only knee high). So think about your unique talents and abilities, whether big or small that you could share with others in our congregation. Then sign up on the board in Fellowship Hall to offer your talents to help others.

~Susan H, Membership Committee

## Earthcare Resources from the LPPC *Earthcare Fellowship*

The Earthcare Fellowship is endeavoring to pass along recommendations on both print and web resources for study and reflection. A timely place to begin is with the opportunity to participate in the **Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast**. Participants will receive daily postings, either through direct e-mail or via Facebook, offering reflections and suggestions on how we can live more mindfully and reduce our carbon footprint both individually and as a church community. Check it out at: <http://macucc.org/pages/detail/2410>.

## Fellowship NEWS

Fellowship will celebrate February as the "Sweetest Month of the Year." We will be baking cinnamon rolls to sell three Sundays in February—the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>—and also on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is one of our big fund raising projects of the year in

support of the church. Please come and enjoy and purchase lots of rolls!

February 22 and 23 is the Presbytery of Santa Fe meeting at LPPC with Fellowship preparing an Enchilada Dinner on Friday evening and serving a continental breakfast on Saturday morning.

### Looking ahead:

~Plan for a big party on March 16 to celebrate St. Patrick's Day! Come join us from 5:30-8:00pm. We'll be serving baked potatoes with all the toppings and provide games for the children. Local music group, Cheap & Easy, will provide music for listening and dancing. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

~The Chile Pepper Café will be open for the Placitas Studio Tour on Saturday and Sunday of Mother's Day weekend.

~Joan D  
Fellowship Chair

## Children's Christian Education



We're planning an exciting 2013 for the children of LPPC!

Chocolate lovers—our youth group will be selling **See's Easter Candies** in March. Don't buy your Easter candy any place else.

We are raising funds for a Ghost Ranch Youth Week, June 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, "**Jesus-Who Do You Say That I Am?**" We are all very excited about this great opportunity for our children 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Claudio Caravallhaes, theologian and artist from Sao Paulo, Brasil will be there. Activities will include: group sessions, water challenges, fire circles, art, music, swimming, and hiking, just to mention a few. To raise the \$350 needed per child, besides the Easter candy, our youth will host a spaghetti dinner. We will also set up a scholarship fund for anyone wishing to help sponsor the group. Six nights at Ghost Ranch for our youth! What a great adventure they will have!

Our calendar for 2013 will include the traditional "**Easter Egg Hunt**" with some extra fun activities for all the little ones and art for everyone. If the children are up for it we are looking into **VBS "Marketplace 29AD—The Sequel"** with all new

booths including: a drama stage to act out the Parables of Jesus, Rope Making, Brick Making, Basket Weaving, Scroll Making and Scribing, Jewelry Making, and the Bakery.

Sunday School Kickoff is in September with “**Rally Day**” and the addition of a **Confirmation Class**. We want to celebrate “**El Dia de los Muertos**” the first of November and end the year with a **Children’s “Christmas Around the World” Cantata** in December.

None of this could be possible without all the wonderful teachers and assistants in the classrooms and on the committee. From the bottom of my heart I want to thank them all. The teachers: Elizabeth and Jeff D, Karen and Stew F, Meredith L, Anna and Dana H, Tamara H, and the assistants: Martha R, Vicki D, Mike and Jeannine P, Stew F, Carmen D, Beth S, Bill L, Steve C, Geri E, Tamara H, Christine M and Russell—the photographer, **and all those thinking about volunteering!**

~Sally G  
Children’s Christian Education Co Chair

## MEMBER PROFILE JERRI F



Jerri was born in Huntington Park, California. She lived there for six months with her mother, while her father served in the Army during WWII. Upon his return, they moved to Indianapolis, Indiana after Dad said it was “the Garden Spot of the world!” Jerri grew up there and at the ripe old age of fourteen (one year of high school under her belt), she and her boyfriend eloped and ran away to Chicago, where they began their “fantasy” marriage. Jerri loved reading complicated mysteries and was intrigued with the idea of plotting such an escapade—never believing that they would get away with such a plan.

They soon moved back to Indianapolis where Jerri’s daughter was born (Jerri was only sixteen). After a divorce, Jerri began working in accounting at a small oil company where she was encouraged by the owner to take the GED test, which gave her the equivalent of a high school diploma. When she was twenty-three and two years after her divorce, she married again. She continued working in the accounting position while attending Purdue

University at night and (after five years) earned her Bachelor’s in Psychology and History with minors in Statistics and Philosophy. The family continued living in Indianapolis until her husband accepted a transfer to Chicago, where Jerri worked in market research for Quaker Oats at the R&D Facility. Jerri earned her Master’s degree in Organizational Counseling at George Williams College in Downers Grove, IL while continuing to raise her daughter (after divorce number two).

Jerri now realized she needed to continue even more of her education and decided to pursue her Doctorate in Organizational Psychology. She earned her Doctorate at the University of Georgia at Athens. Somewhere in here, she married and divorced—again.

She taught at several universities—in Schools of Management and Psychology—and later became the Dean of the Graduate School at the College of New Rochelle. After the experiences of several colleges, Jerri expanded her expertise into the self-employed world, working as a consultant focused on individual, team and organizational change.

In 2005, Jerri moved to Placitas. She had been visiting New Mexico for over twenty years and felt her soul was here. She always thought she would settle in Santa Fe until she came to Placitas and loved it!

Jerri has one daughter who is successful in her own right with a career in Consultant Leadership and is also an author. They are very close and often “Skype” because of the extent of their travels.

Her best career opportunity was Conoco Oil, where she led teams of people from Conoco and DuPont to test physical and mental abilities of workers on offshore rigs to understand what capabilities were important in order to keep themselves from harm. She traveled to many sites where the offshore rigs were located. On the platforms, she conducted a validation study that she had designed and developed. The tests related to people who had done well living and working on an offshore rig and, most importantly, why? The study results were assimilated and are still being used today.

Jerri’s hobbies are designing and making pottery using a wheel and firing it in her own kiln. She likes to do functional pieces. She also likes to paint gourds and, of course, her passion is the people in Cuba.

Her fifteen minutes of fame would be: (1) being selected as the best professor at two different universities; (2) the Conoco Physical Abilities Test which was donated to the American Petroleum Institute; and (3) her dissertation, "The Impact of Gender Composition in Leaderless Group Discussions," being selected as the best dissertation at the University of Georgia. This is a fascinating study and the results might surprise and interest you. Ask Jerri about it sometime!

Jerri would like to meet Boudicca—Queen of Ancient Britain (First Century A.D.), wife, and mother. She led a revolt against the Roman military and won.

One of Jerri's best travels was when she was a professor and took twelve students to Israel to do research, work, and experience life on a kibbutz. The group lived there for three months with the agreement that each would work at least eight hours a day for the kibbutz—hoeing weeds in the cotton fields; working in the communal laundry, kitchen or nursery; or caring for livestock. Their living research study was based on decision making in a communal facility, where they used cognitive maps, and interviews to ascertain how the members of the kibbutz made decisions regarding changes and improvements.

A couple of things that Jerri would still like to do are to visit anywhere in Africa. Another wish is to volunteer to teach leadership to women and girls in Afghanistan, although many people are not encouraging her to consider this seriously.

Five things Jerri could not live without are: her pets and her neighbor's pets, books, electronics that allow her to keep in touch with her daughter wherever their travels may take them, plus chocolate, coffee and wine.

Jerri feels the best thing about LPPC is summed up in one word – Diversity!

Jerri seems to have followed "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost:

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

~Betty C & Wendy I

## LPPC now has Wi Fi!

As technology continues to change, so does LPPC! Many thanks to John Bullock for installing a router that now allows anyone with a laptop or cell phone to access the Internet from the building with their personal device.



Fellowship Hall has the best connection, and the Upper Room and the church offices pretty good too. The adobe walls limit reception outside or in the chancel.

Next time you are attending a meeting, bring your electronic device and access records from your email or the Internet. Check in with Cory in the church office or Pastor Drew for the password.

## **The Celtic Soul: A Celtic Spirituality Weekend at Ghost Ranch** **March 8, 2013 - March 10, 2013** **Cost: \$125**

Come and experience a celebration of the Celtic soul! Whether or not you hail from the mists and bogs of Ireland, Scotland or Western Europe, at this time of the year everyone is a little bit Irish. We will welcome spring through music, dance and ceremony; we will open our hearts through poetry, story and song; and through the lens of Celtic spirituality we will connect with our own unique indigenous soul.

### **Three ways to register:**

1. Download printable registration form and mail to: Ghost Ranch, Registrar, HC77 Box 11, Abiquiu, NM 87510.
2. Scan and email your completed form to: registrar@GhostRanch.org.
3. Register by telephone at 877-804-4678, extension 4152 or 4155 —available Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. MST.

More information available at the website:

<http://ghostranch.org/workshop-registration/?wpid=570>

## FEBRUARY Calendar Highlights

- Sun Feb 3 **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Communion Sunday**  
Early service, 8:30am  
Adult Forum, 9:15am  
Second Worship service, 10:30am  
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)  
Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Feb 4 Monday Adult Study, 7pm
- Wed Feb 6 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sat Feb 9 Comfort & Joy Prayer Shawl Circle,  
10:30am
- Sun Feb 10 **Transfiguration of the Lord**  
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 Feb 11 Monday Adult Study, 7pm
- Wed Feb 13 **Ash Wednesday**  
Mobile Food Pantry, 10am-12noon  
Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm
- Thurs Feb 14 Valentine's Day 
- Sun Feb 17 **First Sunday in Lent**  
Early service, 8:30am  
Adult Forum, 9:15am  
Second Worship service, 10:30am  
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)  
Fellowship follows this service  
  
PAS Reception & Concert, 2-5pm
- Mon Feb 18 **Presidents' Day**  
Church Office is closed
- Feb 22 & 23 Presbytery of Santa Fe Stated  
Meeting—noon Friday through noon  
Saturday—hosted by LPPC
- Sun Feb 24 **Second Sunday in Lent  
Heritage Sunday—LPPC's 119<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**  
Early service, 8:30am  
Adult Forum, 9:15am  
Second Worship service, 10:30am  
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)  
Fellowship follows this service

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



On February 17 a reception will be held following the worship service to greet newlyweds David S and Sheila G

Many will remember Dave as the chair of the "Milagro" building committee for our 2005 addition. Our newer members may not know that he also built the wooden cross on the outside of the new addition, designed and created the beautiful baptismal font at the front of the church, and crafted the new woodwork in the Upper Room. In short, if you are connected in any way with Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, you will have enjoyed the fruits of Dave's labors.

Well known, loved, and respected throughout the Presbytery, Sheila served as senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Santa Fe for many years. We rejoice with Dave and Sheila as they begin their lives together, and look forward to this opportunity to visit with them before they return to their home in Minnesota.

~Bunny B

**March Newsletter deadline:  
Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>—noon**

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