



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

OCTOBER 2013

How we give

During the month of October you will be asked to make a financial commitment to support the mission and ministry of the church in the coming year. I want to share with you a bit about how we make decisions to give in our own household.



Tamara and I grew up in different families with different economic means. Our parents' patterns of participation in church were different. When we married in 1997, we were both in graduate school. Our income was scarce, and our giving to the church was largely through the time we dedicated to the congregation where we worshipped. Yes, we regularly put something in the offering plate when it passed. However to be honest, our financial commitment was small.

When we moved to Birmingham, we found ourselves in a small but growing congregation deeply rooted in gratitude and generosity. For the first time in our adult lives we were challenged to tithe. Giving away 10% of our income seemed like a stretch. We had just had our first child. We only had one job at the time. However we decided to take the leap of faith, and over ten years ago we began to regularly give at least 10% of our income away.

That was a scary decision for me. I am grateful for Tamara's faithfulness. She encouraged us to take the step. Over the years when our income has changed, I've always asked, "What do we do now?" Tamara's response has always been, "We give. We tithe. That's what we do."

How we give is hard to juggle sometimes with our mortgage, our housing expenses, school for the kids, groceries, gas, taxes, clothes, insurance, and

other demands that seem to always tug at our monthly budget. However I've learned to value that by giving a significant amount away each month, we find ourselves faced with making decisions about how we spend in other areas of our life. We currently give more than ever before. Each week we give \$250.00 to the church. On top of that we give to special offerings and community needs. We financially support Tamara's mother each month. We also give to our colleges and to our children's schools.

I find I'm still learning how to give. Each year we ask ourselves, "What do we do now?" I already know what Tamara's answer is going to be. For her and her faithfulness, I am grateful. My hope is that generosity and gratitude continue to grow in our lives to the point that joy and peace abound. Then we will truly know the meaning of giving and of gift.

Thanks for listening.

Peace,
Drew

OCTOBER Texts and Topics

October 6 World Communion Sunday, "Increase our Faith," 2 Timothy 1:1-7; Luke 17:5-10

October 13 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, "He thanked Him," Jeremiah 29:4-7; Luke 17:11-19

October 20 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost, "Sing!" Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 18:1-8

October 27 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, "Eating Humble Pie," Joel 2:23-32; Luke 18:9-14



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Revamp of Memorial Garden Pond Completed

Our waterfall now drops into a colorful stony brook embellished with plant life.

One can still enjoy the sights and sounds of water falling on rock, but without the safety hazard of deep, open water, often a magnet for children. Additional benefits to the new water feature include less water use and less maintenance. Be good to yourself and have a look next Sunday.... I think you'll like it.

Hearing Loop Slated for LPPC Sanctuary

Say what? Yes, you heard me, a hearing loop. Hearing loop technology works through installation of a wire ("loop") hidden around the perimeter of a room, office, or in our case, the sanctuary. How does it work? Simply explained, as follows:

1. A person speaks into a microphone, e.g. Rev. Henry, the liturgist, our choir.
2. Current is amplified and sent to the magnetic cable loop surrounding the listeners, creating a zone.
3. A magnetic field delivers the amplified, high-quality signal to congregants with either cochlear implants or hearing aids equipped with telecoils. (The vast majority of hearing aids nowadays are equipped with telecoils.)

An informative and thorough presentation of this technology is planned once we approach the installation date.

No Drips!

Anytime maintenance work can be accomplished "in house" (code for capable and experienced church volunteers) it is a blessing. And indeed, over the years we have been blessed with many congregants willing to step-up and perform these important services. Currently, David W is one of our busiest Mr. Fix-its. At the top of his to-do list is the church roof. To that end, Session recently approved funding for roof repair material. This is going to be a big job, and David will need help. Please see either David or Martha R, our Building Committee chair, if you can lend a hand.

~Bill L
Clerk of Session



SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

Oct. 6 & 13: Christian Marriage – Please join us for the two concluding sessions of the PCUSA study.

Oct. 20: To be announced....

Oct 27: Enough: God's Blessings in Abundance

This 6-week study, beginning on October 27, will explore dimensions of what it means to have *enough* through the parables of Jesus and other Biblical references. The insightful study helps participants to look at what is really most important to have in life—God's blessings, which are in abundance, for us.

The curriculum comes to us from Laura Mendenhall, who in her ministry has served as a youth pastor, an educator, a missionary, a minister in four congregations, president of Columbia Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Georgia, and currently is part-time pastor to a young congregation while working full time for the Texas Presbyterian Foundation.

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Upper Room.

~Ken C
Parish Associate

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 10-11:30am in the Upper Room for Bible Study. The Book of Genesis will be the center of attention for the Fall. The group is facilitated by Karl G.

CHILDREN

Our Children's Christian Ed program is off to a great start! Our three classes: Primary, Intermediate, and Confirmation have begun.



We started with the celebration of the Jewish holiday, Sukkot, which commemorates the forty-year period during which the children of Israel were wandering in the desert, living in temporary shelters. It also honors the harvest. What fun our children had building the Sukkot and eating Stone Soup. A huge thank you to Ruth W and Jeff and Elizabeth D for all they did to make this so much fun for our children.

Our Youth Group is busy working on possibilities for refurbishing the basement and our younger Sunday School children have voted that they would like soft rugs in our classrooms to listen to the stories of the Bible. We are looking forward to brightening and freshening up our children's facilities.

We will be listening to stories of Paul and some of the prophets in our Sunday School classes this fall. Also the Middle School Retreat is coming in November. Wow!

It's always exciting in the Christian Ed Department! Anyone wishing to offer financial support or to join our team just call Sally G or Elizabeth D.

Once again I thank this great congregation for all your support.

~Sally G, Co-chair
Children's Christian Education

During the week of October 7–11, you'll receive in the mail a letter from Stewardship, which will contain our annual message, a pledge form, a Time and Talent form, and a return envelope. Please prayerfully consider what you are willing to commit in both money and time to advance the mission of our church during the coming year. We hope to have an online pledge form available on the church website at: www.lasplacitaschurch.org. We'll have information about that at the kickoff lunch.

During each Sunday in October, the Stewardship committee and the Las Placitas Stewardship singers will give a brief (well, sort of) reminder about pledging. The closer we get to our goal, the shorter the presentation. (What a hint.)

On November 3rd, we will celebrate our Stewardship campaign with dessert after the 10:30am worship service. Diabetic offerings will be available as part of the decadent deliciousness.

During this change of season, we celebrate the end of the game of summer and look forward to the activities of the coming fall and winter. For our church, we relish the accomplishments of 2013. We also look beyond the fence line to see where our gifts to our church can take us. Yes, let's do a grand slam of hitting it out of the park, with 100% of our congregation pledging for 2014.

Many thanks from your stewardship committee:
Janice L, Nancy U, Nancy W, Judie H.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

October 6 – November 3

We had such a great turnout for the Isotopes game this summer that we decided to have a baseball theme for our annual Stewardship Campaign. So in October, let's **"HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK!"**



Our goal is 100% of our congregation pledging to support our church and its ongoing efforts to be the Church in Placitas and beyond.

Please be sure to stay for our kickoff lunch after worship on October 6th. We promise a baseball type meal along with a brief statement about our hopes and plans for the coming year. (Hey, if you've ever sat through a time-share presentation, this will be nothing!)

What a great start to the fall season! I want to extend an invitation to all who would like to join the choir. We are always looking for additional singers to come and join us on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30pm. All music skill levels are welcome.



LPPC will also be starting up a children's choir in October. The children's choir will be singing "Around the World It's Christmas". Children from grades K - 5th are invited to sing and participate in the Children's Christmas Cantata. Rehearsals are held during church worship and one additional rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 14th from 12:30-3:30pm. The cantata will be performed on Sunday, December 15th during 10:30am worship.

The Music Ministry fundraiser, '**Night at the Opera**, is coming back! 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 per student (with ID). Our fundraiser will assist in growing our music library and bringing in guest instrumentalists to our Sunday worship service. Tickets will be sold by the LPPC choir members, as well as at the door. **The date and time will be announced soon.** Please check with Andrew Alegria if you have any questions.

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

~Andrew A
Choral Director

MEMBER PROFILE MONYA K



Monya was born in San Antonio, TX and moved to Albuquerque when she was three months old. Her Dad was transferred here by the Air Force. Her Dad was soon sent to the Pacific to fight in WWII. He was shot down near the Marshall Islands and has not been seen again. The book, **Unbroken**, really hit home to Monya.

Monya graduated from Highland High School and earned three college degrees. She was awarded a Bachelor's degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU), a degree in Medical Technology (again from ENMU) and her Master's in Education at the University of New Mexico here in Albuquerque.

Monya worked as a Medical Technologist in the laboratory at St. Joseph's Hospital for nineteen years and then started the Associate Degree Medical Laboratory Technician Program at Central New Mexico Community College (CNM). While at CNM, she helped write the Distance Learning Plan for the college and was one of the first instructors to teach on TV. She retired after twenty years working for CNM in 2009. She misses working with the students.

Monya found Placitas while remodeling the family home in Albuquerque. She came to Placitas with

her grandson, Darren, to take a look at the Tour of Homes to get ideas and fell in love with Placitas that day. She then looked at homes in Placitas on the Internet since she was ready to retire.

Monya is divorced and has two grown children and six grandchildren. Her daughter lives in Albuquerque with Darren and his twin sisters Sheyenne and Sierra. Her son lives in Phoenix with his wife and children: Cole, Alex and Julianna.

Her passion is dancing, dancing, dancing! She started ballet at a very young age and performed at age three at the Veterans Hospital. Monya's step dad had been a chauffeur in Los Angeles and met many famous people. He actually met Shirley Temple at her home in California. He told Monya that she could be as famous as Shirley by excelling in dance. Also, when she was still very young, she won a contest to travel to Dallas, TX to take tap dancing lessons for an entire week from Louis Dapron from the Perry Como Show! Monya's mom made her wonderful costumes to help her succeed.

When other children were out playing, Monya was in the dance hall for eight hours a day in heels perfecting her skills. She credits dance with teaching her discipline, teamwork and commitment.

Throughout her life, Monya has learned tap, modern jazz, Middle Eastern, competitive ballroom and Irish step dancing that she was doing only seven years ago! She is currently taking ballroom dancing again at Enchantment Ballroom and loves it. She recently competed in a national ballroom dancing competition. She didn't win a trophy but at least didn't fall down!

Monya's fifteen minutes of fame happened in her twenties when she competed in a national ballroom competition and won fourth place. It was held in Los Angeles.

If Monya could meet anyone, she would like to meet Aldo Leopold because he had a balanced viewpoint about public lands, wildlife and environmental ethics.

Monya has always wanted to see the Aurora Borealis. In the meantime, she enjoys wonderful photos on her calendar.

Her most beloved personal possession is her dog, Cho, a very sweet Shar Pei who is such a gentleman. He actually stands up when she enters

the room. Monya still hopes to do some traveling, especially to wine country (Italy).

Her five favorite things—the biologist in her thinks food, water and shelter should be her choices, but the rest of her would value chocolate, her pets, learning opportunities, nature and the Holy Spirit who is her counselor. Her goal after retirement consisted of three things: For her body—dancing; for her mind—book club; and for her spirit—church.

Her favorite parts about attending LPPC are: our pastor, choir and the greatest people. She is overwhelmed that people include her—she doesn't feel like she is on Noah's Ark alone.

Monya used to come up to Placitas in the 50's to visit a family in the Village. She remembers walking the dirt roads—all those pleasant memories returned after she moved up here.

~Wendy I
~Betty C

Placitas Sage Cohousing

Some of you may have heard several folks around church talking about “cohousing”. Perhaps you've wondered what they're talking about. Cohousing is a relatively new, rapidly growing movement of self-development by residents of housing clusters designed to nurture and support neighborliness and friendship. There are over 200 such communities in the US now, some intergenerational and some just for seniors. There are three cohousing communities in Santa Fe, one in Taos, and now Placitas Sage, a newly developing senior community to be created here in Placitas.

Placitas Sage was “birthed” at our Easter potluck dinner, when Joyce T, Bunny B, and Marilyn W started talking about how nice it would be to be able to live out our lives here in Placitas, among friends and in a place we love. But where, how?

The Bowen's son Bryan is a leading architect in the national cohousing network, so Bunny knew about this new style of community living. As she and Joyce talked more, and mentioned the idea to other friends in and out of the church, a group of nine coalesced into a core group, researching how we could create such a community in Placitas. Placitas Sage was born—right here at LPPC! Check out our website: www.PlacitasSage.org for more information.

We will begin, ***Aging Successfully/Aging in Place***, a series of eight classes/group discussions, in October. They will be held on Saturday afternoons, 3-5pm, in the Upper Room at LPPC. (Except for Nov 9—a new location TBD.) All are welcome. If you have an interest in this subject and/or in cohousing, please join us—and bring a friend! Betty M will be facilitating this group conversation about a subject which faces us all.

Topics include:

- Oct 5—Aging in place and in community.
- 12—Group process: how to work together
- 19—Realities of getting older
- 26—Co care, outside care, co-healing
- Nov 2—Economics of getting older
- 9—Philosophy, spirituality, and mortality
- 16—Saging, what we have to offer the world
- 23—Embracing risk

For more information talk to Betty, Joyce, Bunny, or Janice (867-5718).

~Joyce T

Rebuilding Together Sandoval County (RTSC)

Please volunteer to help work on six houses identified with United Way Funds that need repair in Placitas, Bernalillo and Rio Rancho. Work dates are October 18, 19, and 20th and November 15, 16, and 17th.

Painters may be needed for these work dates. Plumbing and roofing needs are being addressed now on the six houses, then specific repairs for each of the houses will be decided upon for the work dates. Time: 8am-2:30pm with lunch provided.

PLEASE JOIN US ON THESE TWO WEEKENDS!

Please contact Janice at 867-1139 or 301-3126 (jnjsaxton@msncom) or Terry S, mission committee member, at seagullbar@comcast.net or 301-5444.

~Terry S
Mission Committee

MOTHERS DAY OUT (MDO)

Our Mothers' Day Out munchkins are ready for an exciting October. They have been talking about their Halloween



costumes since last November!

There will be lots of “boo-tiful” fall crafts: pumpkins to color, skeletons to put together, bats to assemble, and ghosts to make.

We will be taking a field trip to the Galloping Grace Pumpkin Patch on Friday, October 18th. This will be our fourth year attending this event and the children love it more each year. There are tractor rides, duck races, a petting zoo, a dried corn bin, and even pumpkin carving contests.

We will also be wearing our costumes at the end of the month and maybe even trick or treat with Miss Cory and Pastor Drew!

Our program runs Monday-Friday, 9am-2:30pm. We'd love to have you stop by for a visit. Call us at 505-867-3371 to set up a time to see what we're doing.

Happy Fall to one and all! ~Debbie S
Director, MDO

**November Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, October 25th at noon**

OCTOBER Calendar Highlights

- Wed Oct 2 Jardineros de Placitas
9am-12noon
- Fri Oct 4 Photography Group, 1pm
- Sat Oct 5 HW 165 cleanup, 9am

Cohousing, 3-5pm, Upper Room
- Sun Oct 6 **20th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
(Peacemaking Offering)**
Early worship service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Confirmation, 9:15am
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided
Fellowship follows this service

PAS Reception & Concert, 2-5pm
- Mon Oct 7 Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm

- Wed, Oct 9 Bible Study, 10-11:30am
- Sat Oct 12 Cohousing, 3-5pm, Upper Room
- Sun Oct 13 **21st Sunday after Pentecost**
Early worship 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, Upper Room
- Mon Oct 14 Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm
- Fri Oct 18 Photography Group, 1pm
- Sat Oct 19 Cohousing, 3-5pm, Upper Room
- Sun Oct 20 **22nd Sunday after Pentecost**
Early worship service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided—Sunday School
Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Oct 21 Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm
- Wed Oct 23 Bible Study, 10-11:30am
- Fri Oct 25 November newsletter deadline: noon
- Sat Oct 26 Cohousing, 3-5pm, Upper Room

Navajo Taco Dinner & Fall Festival, 5-7pm
- Sun Oct 27 **23rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Early worship service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided—Sunday School
Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Oct 28 Monday Night 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 ~ lpcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org