



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

JUNE/JULY 2013

Slowing Down

Life cycles bring us to moments when we slow down. Summer is naturally such a time. As temperatures rise, tempos wane. The days lengthen. Time seems to do the same. These months afford us an opportunity to enjoy life at a different pace. As a father of school-aged children, I am definitely aware of the many changes summer brings.

Around Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, we make some shifts during *el verano*. We have already begun our combined weekly worship each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. That will continue through Labor Day. Our children and adult Sunday School classes, as well as our Monday night group, take a break for the summer. Our choir hangs up their robes, making room for special music offerings each week. Our church office goes to a Tuesday through Friday work week. Many things change.

Throughout our worship services this summer we'll take an in depth look at Paul's letter to the Galatians. Ken and I will be preaching from this letter that offers insights to us about the life of freedom that we have been given in Jesus Christ. In his introduction to this letter in *The Message*, Eugene Peterson writes, "(Paul's) letter to the Galatian churches helps them, and us, recover the original freedom. It also gives direction in the nature of God's gift of freedom - most necessary guidance, for freedom is a delicate and subtle gift, easily perverted and often squandered." We look forward to slowing down and rediscovering Galatians with you over the summer.

Finally, as your pastor I want to thank you for the care and concern you have shown to me and my family in this season of life in which my father is slowing down. I and we appreciate your support and prayers more than you know.

Peace, Drew



JUNE & JULY Texts and Topics

June 2 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Worship in the Garden Rev. Karl Gustafson

June 9 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost "Galatians" Galatians 1:1-10

June 16 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost "Called through Grace" Galatians 1:11-24

June 23 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost "The Gospel" Galatians 2:1-14

June 30 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost "Justified in Christ" Galatians 2:15-21

July 7 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost "Supplied with the Spirit" Galatians 3:1-9

July 14 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost "Redeemed" Galatians 3:10-18

July 21 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost "Why then the law?" Galatians 3:19-22

July 28 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost "All Children of God" Galatians 3:23-29

SESSION Highlights

The Blessings Continue

This year, Pentecost Sunday, May 19th was particularly meaningful as, in addition to 'burning the mortgage,' we also introduced and welcomed five new church members! They are: 1) Katherine G, wife of Rev.



Karl Gustafson, also an LPPC attendee and member of our Santa Fe Presbytery; 2) Sue M, a faithful congregant over the past months; 3 & 4) Daniel and Lisa S, both recent transplants from Arizona; 5) Theresa S V, wife of church member, Harvey V. Please do yourself a favor and get to know all five of these outstanding new members.

Baptism Scheduled

During the May Session meeting, approval was granted to Harvey V and Theresa S V for the baptism of their two young daughters, Angel and Evangeline. These two beautiful young ladies, ages 2-½ years and 11 months, respectively, are often upfront during the gathering of the young church portion of Sunday services. Their baptism is scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd.

Memorial Garden Pond vs. the Wild Horses

The debate continues as Session explores ideas to enhance the safety within the church grounds. Recently, a group of grounds committee volunteers spent several days cleaning the pond, adding water plants, and installing a new filtration and electrical system. Over the course of those work days it was discovered that the wild horses in the village area frequent the pond as a water source!

As delightful as it is to enjoy these beautiful creatures, they pose a safety concern. One idea was to provide a trough as an alternative water source. Unfortunately, this does not assuage the safety issue nor discourage the horses from frequenting the pond. A current action item is to research the viability of erecting additional split-rail fencing and gates thus preventing the horses' access to the memorial garden area. If you have thoughts or suggestions on this somewhat controversial issue, send along an email to me at: billlumm@peoplepc.com.

Congregational Meeting Recap

Hats off to the Church Nominating Committee for their superb efforts in recruiting an outstanding slate of nominees for officer and committee service positions! I know I join you in thanking the following individuals for their willingness to serve our church: Drexel D, Elder; Bunny B and Terry S, Endowment Fund Trustees; and for the Church Nominating Committee, Dana H and Russell.

~Bill L, Clerk of Session

Children's Christian Education



As the Sunday School year comes to a close, we want to thank all our dedicated teachers and assistant teachers who happily lead our children each week to the love of Jesus. There is no gift or words that really would be enough. So we simply say "thank you" knowing all they really want is to work with children and guide them to a strong faith.

Our wonderful teachers have been Meredith L, Karen F, Tamara H, Jeff and Elizabeth D and Sally G. Our wonderful assistant teachers have been Anna and Dana H, Tom T, Beth S, Steve C, Mia A, Tamara H, Stew F, Carmen D, Martha R, Mike and Jeannine P, Bill L, Vicki D, Chris M, Geri E, BethAnne B, and Jody W giving love and care to all the little ones. **Thank you! Thank you**

It's going to be a fun summer! The older children are going to **Youth Week at Ghost Ranch** (June 17-23) and the younger children are taking flight **Around the World** discovering the **World of Mission** in a Vacation Bible School (VBS) Adventure (July 14-18). We are still looking for a few more enthusiastic volunteers to help run VBS and we could also use old *National Geographic* magazines, a large world map, cylinder oatmeal boxes, and large pieces of cardboard to help out with VBS. Please call Sally G if you'd like to help or have donations.

Our **Summertime Nursery** is staffed by Jody W and Annabella M. It will be available to all children entering first grade to infant. For the older children we will have **worship bags** filled weekly with fun activities, mazes, word finds, pictures to color and books to read. Children will find these on the table by the sanctuary entrance. If you are interested in assisting in the nursery please look for the sign-up chart in the fellowship hall.

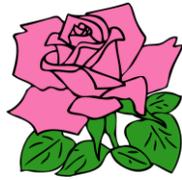
If you're thinking about teaching Sunday School next Fall, just say "yes" now! The rewards so outweigh any time or effort spent. Just call Sally G or Elizabeth D anytime. We will find the perfect class for you.

~Sally G

Children's Christian Education Committee

CASA ROSA NEWS

The Casa Rosa mission of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church continues to thrive with the tremendous support of church members and residents of Placitas. Your contributions of food, clothing and household items make a big difference in the lives of our clients, and so a big THANK YOU goes out for your continued attention to the needs of our brothers and sisters.



The physical facilities of Casa Rosa and records covering the last three years were recently inspected by a representative from Road Runner Food Bank, as required in our agreement with them. Casa Rosa passed the review with flying colors and a substantial amount of praise for the way the building is maintained and operating records organized.

We are about ninety percent complete with the task of creating a new website which will aid our efforts to secure grants from businesses and other institutions while reassuring our primary donors, members of the Placitas community, that they are the core of our ongoing financial stability. When the website is up and running we will let everyone know.

Placitas Elementary School held a very successful food drive for Casa Rosa and donated more than 550 pounds of canned and other food. Students and School Counselor, Pam Colton, toured our facilities after the school's food donation presentation. We are very grateful for the participation of so many children and families in this project.

Casa Rosa has an ongoing need for plastic grocery bags and empty egg cartons. Please place your donations in the blue bins inside the East entrance of LPPC, adjacent to the church office door.

Once again, THANK YOU for your continuing support of Casa Rosa! You are an important part of this mission of our church. If you would like to be more involved, please see Tom Luley or any board member.

~Tom L
Casa Rosa Board Member

MEMBER PROFILE MARTHA R



Martha was born and grew up in Newport News, VA. Her parents were among the founders of the Hilton Baptist church. She started college at Randolph Macon and completed her final 2.5 years At the University of Virginia in the first class of women there. Her degree was in secondary education. She and husband, Burke, met at the University in a class taught by William Faulkner.

Martha taught as Burke's career took the couple to several different regions of the country. She taught in Charlottesville, VA, Wayland, MA and Columbia, MD. There she earned her Master's degree in Elementary Education at Towson State Teachers' College. They then moved to Tuscaloosa, AL where Martha taught elementary education and earned another Masters in Special Education to help their son with his challenges. The family then moved to Livermore, CA where they lived for twenty-five years. Martha taught grades 1-5 in Pleasanton. Martha has taught school for fifty consecutive years!

Martha and Burke have two children. Paula is a carpet sales representative for Masland carpets in Fairhope, AL and their son, Adam, lives in Warner Robins, GA. He tears apart and rebuilds huge pieces of machinery. They each gave the Ritchie's a grandchild.

Burke worked summers at Sandia Labs for several years. They discovered Placitas during that time and purchased their lot ten years before building.

In addition to teaching, Martha successfully ran two ballet shops while living in Alabama. Her daughter was a serious ballet student for a while and she needed to get her point shoes wholesale because they wore out very quickly.

Martha's hobbies are collecting art, traveling to others parts of the world, keeping up on the stock market as she manages two trusts, collecting unique pieces of jewelry, attending concerts and operas, cooking, enjoying good wines, and cross country skiing (Bear Valley and Taos). She would like to get back to painting based on her art classes taken as a child.

She has multiple fifteen minutes of fame: Martha won local and national writing awards in high school; she met John F. and Jacqueline Kennedy when her Dad was head of the city council in Newport News; she won the *Outstanding Teachers of America Award*; and won a debate against a national figure on "Vouchers in the Public Schools" in Walnut Creek, CA, because she spent the day before at the library studying the issue and presenting facts he couldn't refute.

If Martha could meet anyone in history, it would be Abraham Lincoln and Gandhi because they are both men of principle, honor and courage.

Martha has enjoyed a lot of travel because her Dad retired into the travel business. She has been to Alaska, Russia twice, the Baltic, China, South America, East and West Mediterranean, Venice, Istanbul, Australia and Asia. Some memorable times were seeing the bread lines in Russia juxtaposed to the Kremlin, the poverty in Asia next to the golden temples in Bangkok and the magnificent scenery of Alaska.

They just completed a trip to Mumbai that ended in Luxor and will be going on a cruise to Antarctica next winter. They still have lots of National Parks to enjoy as well as operas in New York and San Francisco.

In case of a fire, she would grab their family photos.

Martha has kept a pen pal in Japan for sixty years. One of her photos on the board in Fellowship Hall is of their meeting for the first time. Martha's mom's relative who was a missionary in Japan introduced them.

Martha always wanted to own a ranch as well as start a vineyard.

She couldn't live without her cat, Turkelberry, an intellectual companion (Burke), art, music and most importantly church – she could exist without these but not live.

Burke is a cousin to President Eisenhower. Eisenhower's mother was raised in the Ritchie household by Burke's grandmother.

The most important part of coming to LPPC is the giving and caring of the congregation, diversity and tolerance of ideas, willingness to work together for

the benefit of the church and strong pastoral leadership. Martha read a book of poetry by Father Furfaro, a Placitas resident, which was life changing and brought her back to church after many years away.

~Wendy I & Betty C

ISOTOPES BASEBALL!

All Faiths Night--baseball game at Isotopes Park on **Sunday, July 21 at 6:05 p.m.** Box seat tickets-\$11; children/youth-\$5.



Sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall.

It's a tradition!

~Janice L

You are invited to participate in the Synod Mission Experience 2014 – **The Holy Land.**

Sponsored by the Synod of the Southwest, the tour focuses on the events and people of

the Bible, and also provides opportunities to dialogue with today's people caught up in the ongoing struggles for peace and justice. For more info, go to the website: <http://www.synodsw.org/> and click on the brochure or the link to register. There is a copy of the brochure on the bulletin board in LPPC's Fellowship Hall.



JUNE Calendar Highlights

- Sun June 2 **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship in the Memorial Garden,
9:30am—**Communion is served**
(Nursery provided)
Potluck Picnic follows the service
- Wed June 5 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun June 9 **3rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Single combined worship, 9:30am
(Nursery provided)
Fellowship follows this service
- Second Sunday Session meets to
welcome new members , 10:45am
- Fri June 14 Wedding Rehearsal, 4pm, Sanctuary
- Sat June 15 Molinar/Maestas Wedding, 3pm
- Sun June 16 **4th Sunday after Pentecost**
Father's Day
Single combined worship, 9:30am
(Nursery provided)
Fellowship follows the service
- June 17-23 **Youth Week at Ghost Ranch**
- Sat June 22 Member Potluck at the home of Tom
& Tina Thomas, 6pm
- Sun June 23 **5th Sunday after Pentecost**
Single combined worship, 9:30am
Baptism of children
(Nursery provided)
Fellowship follows the service
- Sun June 30 **6th Sunday after Pentecost**
Single combined worship, 9:30am
(Nursery provided)
Fellowship follows the service

JULY Calendar Highlights

- Thurs July 4 Office is closed—Independence Day
- Sun July 7 **7th Sunday after Pentecost**
Communion is served
Single combined worship, 9:30am
(Nursery provided)
Fellowship follows the service

- Sun July 14 **8th Sunday after Pentecost**
Single combined worship, 9:30am
(Nursery provided)
Fellowship follows the service
- July 14-18 **Vacation Bible School**
Sun, Dinner—4-6pm
Mon-Thurs—5-7:30pm
- Sun July 21 **9th Sunday after Pentecost**
Single combined worship, 9:30am
(Nursery provided)
Fellowship follows the service
- All Faiths Night** at Isotopes
Baseball, 6pm
- Fri July 26 August Newsletter deadline for
submission
- Sun July 28 **10th Sunday after Pentecost**
Single combined worship, 9:30am
(Nursery provided)
Fellowship follows the service

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