



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

JANUARY 2013



A New Year Indeed

As we move into 2013, I am mindful of a number of transitions we have and are experiencing together. In December, you elected me as your pastor and approved a new terms of call. Many conversations and much work took place to get us to that point. I am grateful for your support and for God leading us together as pastor and people.

In our first two years together, we shared in a designated ministry with a special focus on strengthening the church's financial position. While that work is ongoing, we have made significant strides to this point. We reestablished our financial secretary position. We implemented new methods of financial reporting. Our giving levels increased significantly. Adequate staff compensation has and is being addressed. We saw a successful transition between two dedicated church treasurers. In the big picture, we are moving from a mindset of not having enough to realizing that God truly has given us all we need to do the ministry we are called to do.

Perhaps one of our most significant achievements was putting together a pathway to fully retire our building expansion mortgage debt. We are on track to do just that in the first part of 2013. Early on we set retiring our debt as a strategic goal for this congregation. Many of you aligned yourselves with that goal and made special gifts to help us reach it. Following a concentrated effort over the last few months, your gifts and commitments put us in a position to see debt retirement as a soon-to-be-realized reality. I want to say, "Thank you!"

As we move into 2013, we have the opportunity to look forward together with hope and expectation to the future into which God is calling us. I look forward to sharing that future with you. A Happy New Year to you and yours!

Peace,
Drew

January Texts and Topics

January 6 - Epiphany "Arise, Shine" Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

January 13 - Baptism of the Lord "Pass through the Waters" Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time "Gifted" Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

January 27 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time "The Body of Christ" 1 Corinthians 12:21-31; Luke 4:14-21

SESSION Highlights

Historic Congregational Meeting

This is one of those events in church history that will be remembered for a long time. On Sunday, December 16, 2012, our designated pastor, Reverend Drew Henry was, in unanimity, hired as our long term pastor at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. Lucky us!

Two years previously Rev. Henry had accepted the call to LPPC with the minimum salary terms allowable by the Presbytery. Now, two years later the church, having experienced a very positive turnaround, both in membership and finances, also voted our pastor, a new and adequate terms of call. The financial flexibility was/is a direct result of the successful plan to retire our mortgage debt that had encumbered our ability to move forward as a church. Thanks to your extreme generosity, soon this will no longer be the case!

Let it Snow!

In response to a Session business issue regarding snow and ice safety concerns, the LPPC *Elite Snow Team* was formed. The team is poised for winter weather. Each week, irrespective of the



weather, good or not, the team will carry on and perform the following duties: 1) Sweep/clear the three main entryways of the church 2) Fill the orange-colored sand buckets located at each these entryways 3) Restock the supply of sandbags to maintain a quantity of ten, of these 50 pound bags. In the event of a weekend snow, the team will converge on the church to clear the walkways and entry areas, spreading sand as required, to dissipate any ice. Snow team members are Chris B, Leland B, Stew F, Ed G, Matt G, Doug H, Bill L, and Kent R. If you enjoy vigorous outdoor exercise in the winter, please contact Bill L to join the team.

LPPC to Host Presbytery Meeting

Each year the Presbytery of Santa Fe is scheduled to meet in February, June and October. Traditionally, the October meeting is conducted at Ghost Ranch. The February and June gatherings are hosted by churches within the presbytery. The next meeting, slated for Friday afternoon, February 22nd, through mid-day Saturday, February 23rd, will be hosted by us.



Who attends these meetings? As many as 75 commissioners from the 42 churches in the presbytery (Las Placitas Church has two commissioners and an alternate), the teaching elders (pastors) of each of the churches, presbytery officers and staff, presbytery committee members (there are approximately ten committees), representatives from the Synod of the Southwest, and other invited guests. We expect up to 160 people will attend the February 2013 meeting.

Does LPPC need volunteers to help? You bet. Our Fellowship Committee will be in full swing, with pre-meeting preparation facilitated by the Building & Grounds, Membership, and Worship & Music Committees. We will need volunteers to assist in many different capacities. Please stay tuned as more will be revealed.

~Bill L, Clerk of Session

Pledge envelopes for 2013 are now available in Fellowship Hall.

If you'd like a box please take one and be sure to sign your name and note the number on the box you chose. Pledges (checks) can also be mailed to be church office without using a pledge envelope. Blank envelopes are always available in the pews as well. Questions? Call Cory in the office at 867-5718.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Monday Night Study Group *The Search for Shakespeare*

On January 14 the Monday Night Study Group will begin a five-week video (dvd) study using the series *The Search For Shakespeare* done by Michael Wood for PBS in 2004.

This is a wonderfully lively series of one-hour episodes which looks into things like: the Coventry Mystery Plays (religious drama), Reformation era religious politics and the Catholic underground, the diverse population and culture of late Elizabethan London, and the emerging Puritan era at the end of Shakespeare's life. Besides the history of that time it is a wonderful study of a major cultural shift not unlike what the emerging church movement talks about in our current era.

The Monday Night Group meets from 7 to 8:30pm in the Upper Room at LPPC, and we cordially invite new participants from the congregation and community to take part.

Sunday Morning Adult Forum *Presbyterian 101*

During the month of January, our pastor, the Rev. Drew Henry, will lead a four week *Presbyterian 101* series. This class will take place during our Adult Forum in the Upper Room on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15am. We will take a look at the history of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, the history of the Presbyterian Church, and some of the foundations of Christian faith on which we as Presbyterians stand. This class would be especially helpful for newcomers or newer members of the church. Longtime members or lifelong Presbyterians who would like to reengage with these topics are also welcome. Please join us as we look to deepen and grow in our faith together as Presbyterians at Las Placitas.

Annual Congregational Meeting—Sunday, January 27th



The Session of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church has called the Annual Congregational Meeting for

Sunday, January 27, 2013, following the 10:30am worship service. This year's annual meeting will again take place over a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate the ministry and accomplishments of this past year and receive the budget adopted to carry forth the mission of LPPC in 2013. Make your plans to be a part of this important event.

2012 Annual Reports will be distributed electronically to all members prior to the meeting and hard copies available in Fellowship Hall prior to and during the meeting.

ATTENTION: Committee Chairs!

The dawning of the new year brings with it the production of LPPC's annual report. All committee chairs are responsible for submitting a report of their activities and accomplishments for the year 2012. The deadline for submitting an electronic copy of your annual report to Cory in the office is **Wednesday, January 16**. Email address is: lpcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org.

As you produce your electronic copies, it would be helpful if you could format your report with **Times Roman font, size 11, with one-inch margins**. This would save time having to re-format prior to printing.

If you have any questions or need assistance just contact Cory in the office. **The deadline for submission is firm** as the reports need to be proofed and printed by Tuesday, January 22.

Volunteers are needed on Friday, January 25 at 10:00am to collate and staple the pages of the annual report together. Let Cory know if you can assist.

The Winter Season is Here!

Following is our closing and cancellation policy:

The Church Office will close due to inclement weather according to the same guidelines as the **Bernalillo Public Schools**. (If the schools are on two hour delay, the office is on two hour delay. If the schools close for the day, the office is closed for the day.) Closings are announced on local TV



stations via a runner on the bottom of the TV screen. They are also posted on the Bernalillo Public Schools website: <http://www.bernalillo-schools.org>.

***If Sunday Worship Services (or other church events) are cancelled** due to inclement weather, it will be announced on KOAT channel 7. It will also be announced on the church voicemail message: 505-867-5718 and posted on the website: www.lasplacitaschurch.org.

CASA ROSA NEWS

Deep autumn-
my neighbor,
how does he live, I wonder?

~Matsuo Bashô



Every week it seems one of our clients at Casa Rosa tells me how much they appreciate our food bank. Last Saturday a man said to me, "You have no idea how much this place has helped me. I no longer have to worry if I will have enough food or clothing. Now, when I need them, I know where to come."

Placitas is indeed a generous and caring community that helps its neighbors.



The world's first modern food bank was started in Phoenix, Arizona in 1967 – St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance – and it is still going strong. Founder John von Hengel had a sign in the food bank that said:

*The POOR shall always be with us – But
WHY the HUNGRY?
Cash donations will be greatly appreciated.*

In 1975 St. Mary's received a federal grant to help develop more food banks throughout the country. From this effort came America's Second Harvest in 1979 which was a warehouse food banking operation. Also, supplementing food banks were food rescue organizations – the largest was Foodchain. Food rescue is the process of collecting and distributing prepared foods donated by schools, hospitals, restaurants, hotels and grocery stores. In 2001 Second Harvest and Foodchain merged into a single national organization. In 2008 their name was changed to Feeding America.

New Mexico's Roadrunner Food Bank was started in 1980 and is a member of Feeding America and the primary source of the food we distribute through Casa Rosa. All of the clothing and household goods we distribute are donated by the Placitas community.

Thanks to all of the individuals, companies and organizations that make Casa Rosa possible through their donations and support!

While the spirit of neighborliness was important on the frontier because neighbors were so few, it is even more important now because our neighbors are so many.

~ Lady Bird Johnson

~Ruth W
Casa Rosa Board of Directors

MEMBER PROFILE ELLEN B



Ellen was born in Lima, Ohio and lived there for fifty-six years until moving to Placitas. She was a teacher's aide and bus driver for the Marimor School for twenty-five years. This school worked with the developmentally and physically disabled from ages one through eighteen. Ellen really enjoyed working with the teachers and students. While living in Lima she spent many years volunteering for Special Olympics and was a *Volunteer Buddy* for the Allen County Aides Task Force.

Thirty-seven years ago Ellen came to visit a friend living in Placitas and fell in love with the area and New Mexico. The Bakers built a home in Paradise Hills thirteen years ago and would come out for visits four times a year to make sure this was the place they wanted to retire. They lived full time in that home for one year while their home in Desert Mountain was being built. Ellen oversaw the design and building of the home - culminating in their move in April 2007.

Ellen and Chris have a son, Dylan, who works for Financial Services in Columbus, OH and daughter, Kimberly who works for Valmont Industries in Omaha, NE. They also have two grandkids and two step grandkids.

Ellen's hobbies now are traveling, cooking, reading, volunteering and entertaining friends.

If she won the lottery she would first purchase a home for her kids here and then donate money to the church, Casa Rosa and other local charities.

The person Ellen most admires is her Mother because she was such a great role model. She was kind, and always taught and lived the golden rule.

Ellen's favorite places to visit are Tulum in Old Mexico and Cancun. They have been there three times - always enjoying their history. Anyone who has been to Ellen's house will see lots of Mexican influence.

Ellen hopes to get to Machu Picchu one day as well as take the Copper Canyon train trip.

Ellen's fifteen minutes of fame was the opening of Casa Rosa in 2008 under her leadership.

Her bucket list includes "helping others till the day she dies and doing God's will in her life".

If there was a fire, she would grab her pets Toby, Sage and Cuiza.

The two things she always wanted to do but never did are: learning to speak Spanish and playing the piano.

Her favorite part about attending LPPC is the eclectic essence of our church and congregation.

The five things that Ellen would not like to live without are: her ice maker, washer, dryer, books and her wood fireplace.

Her pet peeve is disorganized people.

~ Wendy I & Betty C

JANUARY Calendar Highlights

- Mon Dec 31 New Year's Eve
Church office is closed
- Tues Jan 1 New Year's Day
Church office is closed
- Sun Jan 6 **Epiphany of the Lord
Communion Sunday**
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Wed Jan 9 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun Jan 13 **Baptism 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 Jan 14 Monday Adult Study begins, 7pm
- Tues Jan 15 Mobile Food Pantry, 10am-12noon
- Wed Jan 16 Deadline: Submission of annual reports
- Sun Jan 20 **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Jan 21 Martin Luther King Jr Birthday
Church office is closed
- Sun Jan 27 **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Early service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second Worship service, 10:30am
(Nursery provided; Sunday School)
Fellowship follows this service

Annual congregational meeting and potluck follow this service

PAS Reception & Concert, 2-5pm

**FEBRUARY Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, January 25th—noon**

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