



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

JUNE/JULY 2014

Welcome Delfina

On May 5th, Delfina Hernandez joined the staff of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church as our Administrator. Over the weeks of May, Delfina worked and trained with Cory Franklin our long-time Administrator who retired on May 30th.

Delfina and her family have made Placitas home for some ten years now. While a brief sojourn led them away to the Midwest, their love for this community and the Southwest brought them back home. Delfina loves living in Placitas and is excited about joining in the work of this congregation.

It is difficult to get a grasp of all the many things our church administrator actually does. This position not only oversees our office, but is also responsible for the majority of our communications and for coordinating the multitude of activities that take place in the church facilities. Our Administrator serves a central public contact for Las Placitas Presbyterian as well as welcoming a diverse community of people into this church. I often refer to this position as "the hub." With contiguous offices, I have a unique opportunity to witness the important work our administrator carries forth.

Delfina brings excellent skills, experience, and enthusiasm to this position. She has already begun to integrate new ways to enhance the missions and ministries of this congregation. She is also asking important questions about how we can better get the word out about all the many activities that are a part of this place.

I want to thank our Personnel Committee and its chair Susan Hickman for their diligent work in filling this position. I want to thank all the candidates who applied, all of whom were excellent in their own way. Finally, I want to thank Delfina for answering the call. Please join me as we welcome Delfina Hernandez to Las Placitas Presbyterian Church.

~Peace, Drew

JUNE/JULY Texts and Topics

June 1 - Worship in the Mountains, "Lift Up a Song to God" Psalm 68

June 8 - Pentecost, "We Lift our Voices" Psalm 104:24-34; Acts 2:1-4

June 15 - Trinity Sunday, "Sharing in God's Grace" Philippians 1:3-11

June 22 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, "Our Offerings to God" Micah 6:6-8

June 29 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost, "The Great Commission and The Great Commandment" Matthew 28

July 6 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost, "Bearing Fruit" Luke 13:6-9

July 13 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost, "Entrusted" Matthew 25:14-27

July 20 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost, "Stories from the Gospel of John" with Biblical Storyteller Dennis Dewey

July 27 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost, "By faith we..." Hebrews 11:1-12:2



New Beginnings Kickoff

On Sunday, June 15th, you are invited to a congregation-wide kickoff for the discernment phase of the New Beginnings process. We will meet around tables in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 9:30 worship service. An overview of the New Beginnings program will be given. Light snacks will be provided. We will finish before lunch time.

New Beginnings is a program offered by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Las Placitas Presbyterian is taking advantage of this opportunity along with some 20 other churches from the Presbytery of Santa Fe. New Beginnings is designed to help us explore together significant questions about Who we are as Las Placitas Presbyterian Church?, Where are we at this point in our life as a congregation?, Who is our neighbor?, and What is God calling us to do and be as we move together into the future

We have already completed the first two phases of the New Beginnings Process – Assessment & Leadership Training. Now together as congregation we enter into the discernment phase. On June 15th you will get an introduction to New Beginnings. You will be invited to join a small group facilitated by one of our trained leaders that will meet 4 times over the course of the summer for conversation, learning, and prayer. At the end of the summer we'll reconvene together as a large group to gather energies and ideas and move forward into the new beginnings God is already preparing for us.

In their book *Holy Conversations*, Gil Rendle and Alice Mann offer discernment to us as a set of attitudes and practices by which we willingly open our hearts to the heart of God, our minds to the mind of God, and our intentions to the purposes of God. They say in spiritual discernment, we perceive sacred significance in the current moment and in the winding path by which we have arrived. We listen for the small voice that beckons us onward, quietly revealing what we are here on earth to do and to become.

Join us on June 15th as we begin this congregation wide discernment phase together. Your participation and input is extremely important.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

“Second Sunday” Nets Two New Members!

As is our occasion, the Session heads to the Upper Room after the 10:30 a.m. service (yes, the sermon is often times that inspiring!). Sure, it's closer to heaven, but also a good place to meet and discuss membership possibilities with those so inclined. And on May 11th that was the case for our two newest members. One name you'll probably recognize, while the other, not so much.

Sue H has been worshiping with us pretty much every Sunday for over a year with good friend

Louise M. Sue, a loyal Green Bay Packers fan, grew up in Ohio attending the United Church of Christ, the Nazarene and Baptist churches with her father and six brothers and sisters. Sue has a military background having served seven years active duty and thirty years in the Air Force Reserves. In 2012 Sue moved to New Mexico from Wisconsin and began attending Las Placitas Church in March, 2013. Sue stated loves the friendliness and social events here, particularly the eating part!

Mary K is from the deep southeastern corner of Oklahoma, Idabel. Also from a large family, Mary attended Forest Grove Southern Baptist Church as a youth, and has lived in Placitas a very long time...over forty years. Neighbors here, Leland and Bunny B, introduced Mary to LPPC a few months ago, and Mary was at once taken by the acceptance and friendliness of the congregation.

COM Was Here!

Just to refresh your memory, COM refers to the Commission on Ministry. Every presbytery in the Presbyterian Church (USA) employs this commission composed of ordained ministers, commissioned ruling elders, and ruling elders. Our Presbytery of Santa Fe has eighteen COM members, all from different churches within our presbytery.

Every three years LPPC receives a visit from a team of COM representatives. The purpose of their visit is to:

1. Affirm and support the good ministry being accomplished in the name of Christ
2. Acquaint the Session with the resources of the presbytery, synod and General Assembly.
3. Ask questions and share information that will raise the vision of church leaders
4. Encourage church leaders as they seek to respond to God's call
5. Help church leaders to deal with any problems that may exist

The Session was more than happy to share with COM the many strengths of our church, which is to say the people...YOU PEOPLE! How you step-up with your pocketbooks with projects such as our new hymnals, Easter candy sales to help finance our middle-school kids Ghost Ranch summer camp, on what's going on with the thriving and very active committees including our most recent addition, the Health Ministry Partnership, mission work including Casa Rosa, our ministry with Cuba, membership (now 44 new members since Pastor Drew arrived), finances (what mortgage?), Christian

education (another creative and now popular VBS is on the horizon), Fellowship (Chili Pepper Café), etc., etc...heck, just read the remainder of the newsletter!

A follow-up question from COM was to identify areas for improvement within LPPC. Session cited stewardship as a challenge as our congregation consists of 120 families (giving units) with only 75 pledges this year. That equates to a 62.5% pledge ratio. As a result several capital improvement projects such as the roof, building re-stuccoing, plus heating and cooling upgrades have remained "on the drawing board." But, we have HIGH HOPES...not to worry, not with YOU People!

~Bill L, Clerk of Session



CABEZON SOLSTICE

Come join our Summer Solstice Celebration Saturday June 21st at Placitas Open Space. Together we will commemorate

the wonder of our world. Old folks, young folks and everyone in between are welcome. There is a 10 minute hike into our spot on loose rock trails – bring your own chair. We'll have a short, secular celebration as we observe the sun drop into the 'head' of Cabezon at 8:24. We need to be out of the park by 9pm. Meet at 7:30 at the entrance off Calle Cienega. Parking is limited and on the street – car pool if possible. If you need more detailed directions, contact Ruth W through the church office, 867-5718.

~Las Placitas Presbyterian Earth Care Fellowship and Las Placitas Association

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

Ken C is going to the PCUSA General Assembly in Detroit as the Overture Advocate for Santa Fe Presbytery. He will be helping to present the presbytery's overture, originally sponsored by the LPPC Session, allowing ministers and local church sessions to use their own discretion in choosing to perform or host same-sex weddings in places where they are legal. Ken will be working in cooperation with overture advocates from twenty other presbyteries who have passed similar overtures, helping with a joint presentation to the assembly committee working on marriage issues. That presentation will occur on June 16 or 17.

Please hold Ken, and the entire General Assembly, in your prayers. Many important matters, including the marriage overtures, will be considered by the assembly as it meets from June 14-21.

In order to help with Ken's travel and lodging expenses, the LPPC Session has approved setting up a temporary fund to which those who wish may contribute. Ken's travel and lodging expenses will be about \$1300. If more is contributed than is needed, any excess amount will be passed on to The Covenant Network of Presbyterians, which is coordinating the work at General Assembly.

Checks should be made out to Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, with "General Assembly - Ken C" on the memo line.



How do we thank our wonderful Sunday School teachers? The ones who sign up every year, the ones who volunteer to substitute, the ones who assist in all our classes, the ones we can never pay back for their time, treasure, and talent they have given our children. They will smile genuinely and love the card and beautiful plant given to them but all they really want is the chance to work with children because that is where God speaks to them and feeds their soul.

Our dedicated teachers have been Jeff & Elizabeth D, Tom T, Meredith L, Karen F, Andrew A, Tamara H, Dana H, and Sally G. Our wonderful assistants and supporters have been Mia A, Steve C, Ken C, Amy D, Elizabeth & Jeff D, Carmen D, Stew F, Katherine G, Shelly H, Tamara H, Mary Helen J, Meredith L, Bill L, Carolyn M, Sue M, Leslie O, Mike & Jeannine P, Pat & Jim Q, Beth S, Ruth W, and Leslie Y.

We do say "Thank You!" from the bottom of our hearts. We also want to thank our children because they are the most important part, the reason for it all. With that in mind, we are planning a fun summer for all the children.



THE HEALTH MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

Do you have, readily accessible and in one spot, your vital information -- family members, financial facts, medical data and final arrangements? How about what needs to be taken care of around your house if you have to be away? The LPPC Health Ministry has put together "Life" notebooks that can be a 'Go To' source of information about YOU should a need arise. No one will need to wonder who to contact or what investments you have, who your doctors are or what medications you take, what possessions you own or what constitutes your home maintenance information.

Later this year, the LPPC Health Ministry Partnership will make notebooks available that contain this information, and are designed to be completed by you in small steps. The notebook comes with the first tab: your Personal Information section, ready for you to fill in the blanks. Each month we'll hand out, at no cost, another section. The next month is Your Medical History. In future months you'll add Your Estate section, Your Investments and your Personal Possessions, among others. There are nine sections altogether.

If you choose to participate, by spring of 2015, you will have assembled all of your vital information in one place for those that may need to know in an emergency. The notebook will have to be stored in a secure location, of course, but you can notify only those with a "need to know" where it is stored. As the sections are distributed each month, the Health Ministry Partnership expects to post them on the church's website so that you can download them from home if you should miss a monthly distribution at church.

Be looking for more information in this newsletter and through other communication mediums at church. We are excited to offer this comprehensive program to you.

~The Health Ministry Partnership Committee

Our Youth Group is closing in on the monies needed for their Ghost Ranch Retreat. One last fund raiser will be a **Father's Day Bake Sale, June 15th, and 50/50 Raffle** (that's when the winner receives 50% of the raffle earnings and the other 50% will go to the Ghost Ranch Fund). Anyone wishing to donate baked goods please contact Jeff D at the church office, 867-5718.

Monday, June 23 - Sunday, June 29 nine of our youth will be attending **Youth Week: Fruits of the Spirit in Our World Today** where they will explore and wonder together about what scripture says about the Holy Spirit. Their week will include hiking, swimming, service/cultural experience, small groups, prayer services and so much more.

Our younger children, K-5th grade, will have a fun week at **VBS**, starting **Sunday evening 4:00-6:00, July 13** continuing **Monday through Thursday 5:00-7:30, July 14-17**. Lights! Camera! Action! It's **LPPC Parable Productions** where our children will explore four parables through drama, music, dance, creative arts and interactive games. We are still recruiting storytellers, directors, guides, videographers and kitchen staff. Please contact Sally G at the church office 867-5718 if you wish to join in on the fun!

Thinking about teaching Sunday School? Give it a try! VBS might be the perfect place to start. The rewards so outweigh any effort involved.

We want to thank the tremendous support this congregation has given our children! The love, the prayers, and your willingness to buy anything we're selling from See's candy to Spaghetti dinners. Without you we could not have such a solid program full of laughter and God's Love.

~Sally G
Children's Christian Ed Co-director

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will resume on the second and fourth Wednesday of June—the 11th and the 25th—from 10-11:30am in the Upper Room. We'll continue our lively discussion of Genesis. Everyone is welcome at any time!

SAVE THE DATE!

Isotopes Baseball—Sunday,
July 20th—Tickets are \$11.50
(Same price for adults and
children)—Game starts at 6:05pm.

Look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship hall.
Questions?—contact Janice L at the church office
867-5718.



MEMBER PROFILE

WES K

Wes was born in Philadelphia, until he graduated from Overbrook H.S. and joined the Army. As a young 18 year old in the Infantry in the winter of 1945 in Berlin, he saw the misery and devastation at the end of the war and it had a great impact that changed his life.



Wes went to the University of Penn. on the G.I. Bill, studied Political Science and on a partial scholarship received his Masters in International Relations. He married Jane C, his late wife and moved to Washington, D.C. He has four children; Linda, who chose to be a stay-at-home mother (has an advanced degree in Chemistry) and lives in Palatine, IL with two of his grandchildren. John lives in Marin County, CA where he specializes in remedial teaching; he has 17 year-old twin daughters. Paul lives in Washington, D.C. works for the NIH and has his PhD in cell research. Jeff lives in West Chester, PA and is a Career Counselor at West Chester University; he has two children.

After working for the State Department in DC for two years, Wes passed the test for the Foreign Service. Wes worked with the Foreign Service for the rest of his career. He served in England, Ottawa, Canada, South Korea, Nigeria and Gambia with varying periods in between each posting in DC. In Nigeria, Wes met Marilyn when she was working as managing director for an American company there.

Wes retired in 1987, married Marilyn and moved to Chicago where Marilyn had lived. They traveled to Jerusalem and Istanbul for their honeymoon. They traveled to Ethiopia for their 10th anniversary and while there attended a church service for two hours beginning at 4:00am!

Marilynn had friends from college living in New Mexico. She had been visiting NM since the 60's. After she and Wes moved to Chicago, they visited friends in NM together. They loved going to the Santa Fe Opera and enjoyed the beauty and history of the Southwest. They bought their current home after visiting friends in 2000 - almost sight unseen - because of the beautiful views!

Wes's favorite job was working for the Foreign Service (Nigeria favorite post) - which is the U.S. Diplomatic Corp with 3 different tracks (Political, Economic, and Administrative). Wes worked on U.S. political issues with foreign countries (with political connotations).

Wes enjoys reading, bird watching and walking. He and Marilyn have made numerous pilgrimage/backpack walks in France and England. The bird watching made the trips more interesting.

One person in history that Wes would like to meet is Joan of Arc. He admired that she had no particular status, had tremendous will and determination and was a defining figure in French history. He has read all about her.

Wes is now interested in visiting areas in the Southwest and the Native American cultures throughout Yucatan and Mexico.

If there were a fire, and he was in Placitas, he would get out as quickly as possible! If in Chicago, he would take the pictures of his grandchildren off the piano.

Five things Wes cannot live without would be his Bible and hymnal (Wes was anchored in church at a young age and attended church with his family, and attends a Presbyterian church when in Chicago), his medications, books and music.

What Wes likes about LPPC is it being a mission church and the efforts to make it still work. He really appreciates sharing the Spanish in the service.

Betty C
Wendy I

Even In Reunion

It was with mixed feelings that I made the decision to retire as Administrator of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. And now as the last day draws near similar feelings again bubble to the surface—feelings of gratitude, a sense of yearning and excitement laced with a bit of uncertainty and loss.

I am proud of the work we have accomplished together and grateful for the friendships I have made. I appreciate your kindness and care. I am also looking forward to new challenges and opportunities, not knowing just what they will be or what I will discover in the coming days, weeks and months ahead. I do know that I will miss the daily contact with each and every one of you that make up the warm, caring community that is LPPC.

Thank you for letting me serve you. Thank you for all you have given me these past six years. ¡Muchas Gracias!

Minnesota singer, songwriter Ann Reed expresses best what I am feeling as I depart.

Even In Reunion

*Like a feather riding on a river
Passing by then floating to the dark
A single moment having been delivered
And even in reunion there is parting.
A circle round and round made up of memories
And as we finish, then again we start
And at the end we're back at the beginning
And even in reunion there is parting
Like watercolors bleed red into blue
One day into another, love will travel with you
And like a feather riding on a river
And as we journey friendships of the heart
Are carried close within, 'til the time we meet again
Even in reunion there is parting
They're carried close within, 'til the time we meet
again and
Even in reunion there is parting.*

(Words and music: Ann Reed; 1991 Turtlecub Publishing)

Take good care! ~Cory

JUNE Calendar Highlights

- Sun, June 1** Worship In The Mountains
9:30am Picnic/potluck follows this service
- Mon, June 2** Monday Night Adult Study
7:00pm
- Tue, June 3** Primary Election Voting/Polling
All day
- Wed June 4** Jardineros de Placitas
9:00-12:00pm
- Sat, June 7** Musical Magical Moments
7:00pm
- Sun, June 8** **Day of Pentecost**
9:30am Single Combined Worship
Summer schedule begins
9:15am, Nursery provided;
Fellowship follows this service
- Mon, June 9** Monday Night Adult Study
7:00pm
- Wed, June 11** Adult Bible Study
10:00am
- Thu, June 12** Women's Prayer Circle
7:30pm
- Sun, June 15** **Trinity Sunday**
Father's Day
9:30am Single Combined Worship
9:15am, Nursery provided;
Fellowship follows this service
Father's Day Bake Sale
- Sat, June 21** Summer Solstice Celebration
7:30pm Placitas Open Space
- Sun, June 15** **Second Sunday after Pentecost**
9:30am Single Combined Worship
9:15am, Nursery provided;
Fellowship follows this service
- June 23-29** Ghost Ranch Retreat, *Fruits of the Spirit in our World Today*
- Wed, June 25** Adult Bible Study
10:00am
- Sun, June 29** **Third Sunday after Pentecost**
9:30am Single Combined Worship
9:15am, Nursery provided;
Fellowship follows this service

JULY Calendar Highlights

Fri, July 4 Independence Day – Church office is closed

Sun, July 6 **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
9:30am Single Combined Worship
9:15am, Nursery provided;
Fellowship follows this service

Wed July 11 Jardineros de Placitas
9:00-12:00pm

Sun, June 13 **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
9:30am Single Combined Worship
9:15am, Nursery provided;
Fellowship follows this service

4:00-6:00pm Vacation Bible School (VBS)
Kickoff and Dinner

July 14-17 VBS, *LPPC Parable Productions*
5:00-7:00pm Monday through Thursday

Sun July 20 **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**
9:30am Single Combined Worship
9:15am, Nursery provided;
Fellowship follows this service

6:05pm All Faiths Isotopes Baseball at
Isotopes Field

Sun, July 27 **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**
9:30am Single Combined Worship
9:15am, Nursery provided
Fellowship follows this service

**August Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, July 25th at noon**

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