



### *Worship Services*

February 1st – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 111 Mark 1:21-28

*Astounded & Amazed*

February 8<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 147:1-11, 20 Mark 1:29-39

*Jesus in Mark*

February 15<sup>th</sup> -Transfiguration of the Lord

Psalm 50:1-6 Mark 9:2-9

*Terrified*

February 18<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday

Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20- 6:10

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – First Sunday in Lent

Psalm 25:1-10 Mark 1:9-15

*Preparations*

### *Birthday Gift*

In February we celebrate the birthday of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. 2015 marks the beginning of our 122nd year of ministry. While this congregation did not have an option for online giving when we started in 1894, we do now.

I would like to thank our treasurer Ed G, our webmaster Russell M, and his predecessor Elizabeth D for putting the pieces in place to enable us to offer online giving through our church website. You can go to [www.lasplacitaschurch.org](http://www.lasplacitaschurch.org) and select the GIVE tab or simply click the \$ Give Online icon at the bottom left corner of the page to access this feature.

I would like to invite you to make a special birthday gift to the church during February using our online giving portal. There are a variety of reasons why. It would be helpful for you to know how this resource works. I would like you to learn how easy and secure it is. It would also be helpful for you to know about this option in case others ask you how they might support the ministries and mission of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church.

You can select the amount you give and whether your gift will be one-time or recurring. You can choose to make your payment via credit/debit card or bank account transfer. Please be responsible in your use of credit cards. You can also set up an account enabling you to view previous transactions. If you choose to use this portal for your regular giving, know that the church does pay a fee of up to 3% for a credit card transaction. For regular giving, please consider adding this amount to your total so that 100% of your gift can go towards supporting the church.

Your giving makes a vital difference. Thank you!

Peace, Drew

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday mornings our children and youth divide into their classes with smiles and happy thoughts after Judie H has given us the gift of her music. We presently have three classes: primary K-2<sup>nd</sup>, intermediate 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, and Youth. Next year we will have thirteen youth (5 high school and 8 middle school). We see the need to add a new class (what a difference there is between a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and a 12<sup>th</sup> grader!) Just when everything was going smoothly recruiting teachers we now need another class. But just as always we know LPPC will come through. Any level would be available to anyone interested in teaching. Just contact Sally or Elizabeth and you will be welcomed with open arms. The rewards received from working with our children far outweigh any time or effort involved! Sally is available as a mentor/trainer to anyone thinking about volunteering. (Call 771-0481) Our curriculum is easy to use and is on the church website.

As this newsletter is being printed our high school and middle school youth are attending a 24 hour retreat, January 30-31, ***God's Gift of Sexuality: Tool for Navigating***. Meetings are at Covenant Presbyterian for our middle school and First Presbyterian for our high school. "This retreat is designed to allow open, safe, and thoughtful dialogue about sexuality and spirituality. God created us as spiritual and sexual beings with the intent for us to love and be loved. This is a weekend to allow the youth of today to navigate the complex road of sexuality, dating, and the need to love and be loved: God created you and you are wonderfully made!" We are so thankful for this opportunity for our youth! Thank you to Elizabeth, Drew and Tamara for their leadership in this retreat.

***Youth Week, Wild Grace*** will take place this summer, June 22-28. Our youth will be celebrating and exploring "Earth, Faith and Creation Care". With the cost of \$395 for each we are now planning our Spring fund raising drive. We will have our annual Spaghetti Dinner along with other surprises. Our elementary children are busy learning about the life of Jesus and developing a timeline showing

some of the major events of his life on earth. We plan to make February 15<sup>th</sup> (the day after Valentine's Day) a special day to celebrate "God's Great Love" for us.

What a pleasure it is to work with our wonderful children!

~ Children's Christian Ed Co-chairs  
Sally G & Elizabeth D



## CHANCEL CHOIR

Our Chancel Choir sings at the 10:30 am service every Sunday (September through May). The choir is directed by Warren L and accompanied on the piano by Mindy S. Rehearsals are held every Thursday night at 7:00 pm in the church and before each service on Sunday morning. Everyone who wants to add their vocal talents to the Chancel Choir are welcome!

Fringe benefits of choir membership: Wages: satisfaction and a good time, new friends and beautiful music; retirement-no particular age, but generally determined when the pianist is unable to play the notes you sing. We look forward to the addition of your voice to the Chancel Choir. The choir and congregation are blessed to perform and enjoy beautiful music in the acoustically superb sanctuary of LPPC.



## SESSION



### **New Member Blessings**

The second Sunday of January found our Session assembling in the Upper Room to again speak with folks that have been attending LPPC and are now interested in becoming members. Why? Well, in part because of all of you and your Christian values of friendliness, compassion, love, tolerance and forgiveness.

On this day we were joined by church couple Armel and Megan, with children Lyle, age 10, and Malachi, 3. Also attending was Virginia whom recently relocated to Placitas from Storrs, Connecticut. All three adults shared their desire to become members of the church, citing Rev. Henry's ability to bring them closer to God, as well as the sincerity and friendliness of the congregation.

Rev. Henry then explained that membership into the Presbyterian faith could be attained by either by letter of transfer from a current church of membership or reaffirmation of faith. Rev. Henry furthered by stating that becoming a church member is a personal decision and commitment to belong to a community living in faith, and in doing so, one makes the church an important part of your life. Rev. Henry added that the only question the Presbyterian Church (USA) requires prospective members to answer is "who is your Lord and Savior?" In kind, Virginia, Megan and Armel responded "Jesus Christ."

Rev. Henry made a motion to sustain examinations. Each of these new members stated their intent to join Las Placitas Presbyterian Church by reaffirmation of faith, having agreed to offer their time, talent, energy, financial resources, to be committed, and to make LPPC an important part of their lives. A motion was then made and approved by attending Session members to accept Armel, Megan and Virginia into membership at Las Placitas Church.

I know everyone will want to reach out and welcome these new folks into the flock. Soon they will be formally introduced by Rev. Henry during

Sunday service, so you can place names with beautiful faces. Blessings abound as our church continues to grow.

Bill L., Clerk of Session

## FELLOWSHIP



Fellowship will be baking cinnamon rolls for sale on February 8, 15, & 22. Cinnamon rolls will be for sale by individual rolls for \$1.00. We will also have rolls done up and frozen by the dozen for sale for \$12.00 per dozen during coffee hour after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service.

Please support Fellowship for this fund raising effort, and make February the sweetest month of the year.

Thanks for your support,  
Joan D., Fellowship Chairman

## HEALTH MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP



The Health Ministry Partnership will be offering a wonderful series of classes on Healthy Eating. This series will begin with a lecture on Healthy Eating by a guest speaker, Niki S from the NM Direct Caregiver's Coalition. This will be followed by 3-4 cooking demonstrations on each Monday in March. The first two lectures/demonstrations will be taught by Diane S, a chef and culinary educator here in Placitas. She specializes in having fun producing healthy meals and effectively using kitchen tools. She is a frequent speaker on topics related to healthy living and brings her skills as a professional chef into our home kitchens. Here is the schedule:

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday 9:30am:** *Healthy Eating* by Niki S during Adult Forum \*\*\* PLEASE CALL DELFINA IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. It is not

limited, but we would like to have an idea of how many will attend.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Monday 10am-12pm**, Upper Room: *Tools & Techniques for Selecting, Preparing and Eating Healthy Foods* \*\*\* PLEASE CALL DELFINA TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE. These classes will be limited to 15 persons at the request of the presenter - Topics will include:

- Sanitation procedures in your homes
- Safety in the kitchen
- Using kitchen tools effectively
- Using, caring for, and storing knives
- Selecting, storing and preparing healthy foods.

**March 9<sup>th</sup>, Monday 10am-12pm**, in the Kitchen: Join Chef Diane as she continues her two-part cooking series on *Tools & Techniques for Selecting, Preparing and Eating Healthy Foods*. Diane will demonstrate how to make a fun, colorful and delicious winter salad. Participants will help prepare the meal, and together, we will enjoy the results! AGAIN, PLEASE CALL DELFINA TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE. This class is also limited to 15 persons at the request of the presenter. She would prefer the same individuals that attended the first class to attend the second.

Save the following dates on your calendars for more cooking demos to come:

**March 16, March 23, and March 30.** We will be tapping on members of our congregation to lead these classes. More information will be provided in the next newsletter as these classes are confirmed.

Another series will follow relating to Medical Diagnoses and Conditions. So far we have the following:

**April 12<sup>th</sup>** - *Signs & Symptoms of Stroke*. This will be offered by David S, a physician and new member to LPPC. This will take place during the Adult Forum.

Other topics of interest yet to be scheduled include *Chest Compressions in CPR* offered by Deb B, *Signs & Symptoms of Heart Attack* (to be determined), *Fall Prevention, Home Safety & Tai Chi Intro*, by Pat Thorpe.

~ The Health Ministry Partnership Committee



## LIFE FILE

### **Life File Note from your Health Ministry Partnership:**

It's the start of a new month and that means it's a good time, once again, to fill out a chapter in your Life File notebook. This month we're looking at Chapter 4 "Your Estate". We all have a lot of "stuff", and we all have an idea somewhere in our head as to where that "stuff" should go after we're done with it on this earth. Chapter 4 will help flush those wishes and plans out of your head and onto paper so your loved ones can deal with your property and belongings according to your wishes. Chapter 4 begins with a single page where you (and your spouse) can list all of your important documents for your will and/or trust, and where to find them. This is followed by several pages where you can list all of the different types of insurance you may have, including life insurance. Another page provides a place to list all of your special bequests for your things. This will help prevent hurt feelings or arguments within your heirs if you haven't yet made specific bequests known to them. Or, perhaps, you want to keep it a secret until the time is right. Whatever works for you is best, just record it on these pages to prevent misunderstanding. Your Life File notebook is yours to design to fit your needs.

If you do not have a Life File Notebook yet, extra copies are available in the LPPC Library and are available for download from the LPPC website. Just click this link:

<http://lasplacitaschurch.org/#/ministries-of-lppc/lppc-health-resources>

~ The Health Ministry Partnership Committee





## CHURCH UPDATES

### *Online Giving*

Online giving is here! Now it is easier than ever to support the ministry and mission of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. LPPC now offers the convenience of donating online via a credit card, debit card, or a bank account transfer. It is easy, safe, and secure. You can go to our website [lasplacitaschurch.org](http://lasplacitaschurch.org) and click **GIVE** or you can use this link:

<https://lasplacitaspresbyterianchurch.cloverdonations.com/lppc-donation/>.

Your continued generosity helps us do what we do.

### *Directory update:*

The church directory will be updated for 2015. There will be a paper copy of the directory in Fellowship Hall the first two Sundays of the month, February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 8th. Please take a quick look at your name, address, phone numbers, and email address to see if it's correct and complete. Kindly pencil in additions and corrections. If I have your correct email address, you'll receive the revised directory via email by Thursday, February 12th. Paper copies will be available by Sunday, February 15th. Thanks for your help!



### *About the cross on the exterior wall of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church by Bunny B.*

As many of you remember, in March 2004 Las Placitas Presbyterian began a year-long "Milagro" project to provide more space for the growing congregation and its ministries. As work progressed, the Church Expansion Project Committee (CEPC), chaired by David S,

realized that we would present a large blank wall to those passing by on NM 165.

It was suggested that, instead of a lettered sign, a cross be placed there.

The CEPC invited me to design a new logo for LPPC which would be replicated in a large cross for that space. I presented several designs to the congregation, and one was chosen. An accomplished woodworker, Dave salvaged a few beams when the fellowship wall was removed during construction. From these parts of the old wall, he built the wooden cross. Leland B did the metal work from my drawings, and Kaehr Corporation of Albuquerque powder-coated the various parts. Dave and Leland assembled the cross and it was hung in time for the dedication of the new addition in May 2005.

The shape is based on the Latin cross, to which is added the Celtic ring of the Presbyterian Church. The red ring and flame symbolize the Holy Spirit, while the green plant symbolizes the creation and our church's commitment to the Earth Covenant. The turquoise water reminds us of our baptism, and of the springs and acequias which support our community here in Placitas.

Many of you may know that David S also crafted our beautiful baptismal font, as well as finishing the trim by the stairs in the Upper Room. A hands-on building committee chair before the CEPC was formed, he spent many hours at the church doing repairs and maintenance.

CEPC members: David S, *chair*, Bunny B, Bud B, Linda B, Don T, and Jane H, *ex officio*

Contractor: Drew O



## MEMBER PROFILE



Russell was born in Roanoke, VA and at 6 months of age his family moved to Butler, TN. At the age of 5 years, it was necessary to move elsewhere because the TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) took over their town and built a lake for flood control that involved flooding the town. Russell grew up in Elizabethton, TN and served in the Army with a stint in Neu-Ulm, Germany, where he was a Medical Administrator for the battalion doctor. After his military service, he worked and completed studies at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN with a degree in Business Admin.

Russell was employed by a major telecommunications company for 37 years and managed mega data center operations in the Tennessee and Florida areas. He lived in Bristol, VA and worked in Bristol, TN because Bristol is a twin city and located in both states!

Russell and Christine married and moved to Florida. Between them they have 5 children and 8 grandchildren! Before coming to NM, they were living in Mount Dora, FL. Their travels have taken them to several places, including Hawaii, Alaska, Italy, Spain and Greece. However, their favorite trip was their visit from Florida to Albuquerque, renting a car, and touring areas like Mt. Rushmore, a ranch in Douglas, WY (“the middle of nowhere” which belonged to Russell’s cousin). They also visited Yellowstone, Jackson Hole, Blackfoot, ID where they visited Christine’s friend. They travelled to Salt Lake City, Zion National Park, through Nevada and back to Florida. This trip had a lot to do with why Russell and Christine decided to retire in the Albuquerque area.

Russell says that he would like to attend a Major League Baseball World Series. Something else he would also like to do is visit the town in Italy where Christine’s dad grew up.

Russell’s hobbies are photography, walking, sports, traveling, music and his computer. As far as sports, he refereed high school football and basketball for 20 years when he was in VA.

His 15 minutes of fame is the time his town was flooded by the TVA. A picture surfaced with a young boy pulling a wagon on the main street prior to the flood. After a search was made, Russell revealed that it was he and that his father had made the wagon in the picture. The picture was published in Life Magazine, Time Magazine and numerous publications and is hanging on the kiosk with Russell’s profile.

If Russell could meet anybody in history, it would be Abraham Lincoln and ask him how he kept his sanity in all he went through...and did he write the Gettysburg Address?

If Russell had to leave his house quickly, he would take important documents, autographed baseballs and his Bible.

Five things Russell would not like to live without are: his Bible, water, air, glasses and computer.

One other thing Russell would like people to know about him – “He is just an ole country boy, and a sinner saved by the Grace of God!”

He loves coming to LPPC because it is a friendly, warm, loving and accepting congregation, the music; and, of course, Pastor Drew’s sermons and his dynamic charge at the end of the services. I have never heard a charge like that and I love it!

February 2015  
Betty C  
Wendy I

