

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

March 2015



Worship Services

March 1 - Second Sunday in Lent

"Isolation to Integration"

Psalm 22; Mark 8:31-38

March 8 - Third Sunday in Lent

"Paying Attention to God"

Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

March 15 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

"Loving What God Loves"

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; John 3:14-21

March 22 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

"Centering in God"

Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33

March 29 - Palm Sunday

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord"

Psalm 118:19-29; Mark 11:1-11

Loving God

"Loving God is the heart of both Christianity and Judaism." Marcus Borg made this claim in the last chapter of the last book he wrote before he died earlier this year. Borg reminds us that when Jesus was asked *what is the greatest commandment*, he said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment" (Matthew 22:36-38). Jesus' words come from the Shema, the heart of Jewish daily prayer. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

Borg's final book *Convictions* carries the subtitle *How I Learned What Matters Most*. It was born out of an invitation to preach on the Sunday of his 70th Birthday. On his blog, he wrote, "Though for many years, I have not been especially timid, that occasion led me to think, 'What are the convictions that my life has led me to that I most want to speak as I turn 70?' If we don't share those at 70, when will we?"

The final conviction about which Borg wrote is loving God. Throughout the remaining Sundays in Lent I will be exploring with you what it means to love God. We will delve into paying attention to God, loving what God loves, and centering in God with a focus on compassion, freedom, courage, and gratitude.

I look forward to exploring with you how loving God can be transformative for our lives and for the world. I am grateful to Marcus Borg for sharing his *Convictions*.

Peace, Drew

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank You

..to all the teachers who keep Christian education exciting and fun: Tamara H, Meredith L, Sally G, Jeff D, Trip J, Judie H, Steve C, Carmen D, Beth S, Mary Helen J, and Leslie O. Their dedication and support for our children is tremendous.

Welcome **Ashton T and Lyle T!** We are happy to have two new fifth graders in our older elementary class. It's great to have these two young boys and it's so much fun for our children to make new friends. We look forward to many fun times together.

Our classes are slowly growing and with that, the need for more teachers. Please let us know if you are interested in teaching any class. Interested members are always welcome to observe a class.

This is also the time of year to order Vacation Bible School kits for the summer. We are looking for a **VBS coordinator**. We promise lots of support and you'll enjoy working with our wonderful children and youth as well as our adult team.

Our senior high youth have an opportunity this summer to attend the **Presbytery of Santa Fe Senior High Youth Mission Trip to Los Angeles, CA**, where they will experience "our calling as Christians to love others and to respond to those in need". They will be involved with "work teams" and given "service assignments" to prepare and serve meals, help with homeless adults, children's programs, cleaning, gardening, and working for change. This will also include evening sessions of worship and group reflection. Cost is \$555 for each participant with the Presbytery paying one-third.

With the **Ghost Ranch Youth Retreat, Wild Grace, June 22-28**, also being offered this summer to our Senior High and Mid High youth, we will start our fund raising in March. We have plans for a

"Blades Youth Night", a Bake Sale, and a Spaghetti Dinner on April 18th.

Our younger classes will be looking forward to the **Easter Egg Hunt** and celebration, April 5th.

There's always a lot going on in Christian Ed!

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

SESSION

New Member Blessings

The second Sunday Session gathering after the second service during the second month of 2015 gathered on the second floor (OK, the Upper Room) to welcome, no not two, but three new members!

On this day we were joined by church couple David S and Chantel T with Chantel's children Jacob, age 13, and Ashton, 10. Also attending was Crystal G, whose husband Peter joined LPPC in November, 2014. The three adults, all Placitas residents, shared their desire to become members of the church, citing in addition to Rev. Henry's ministry, the sincerity and friendliness of the congregation.

Dr. David S, who practices medicine for Presbyterian Health Services, has lived in the La Mesa neighborhood for many years. He and fiancée Chantel T are planning a June wedding. Chantel shared with Session her belief in the importance of raising children in the church. Her older son Jacob attends Menaul School with Ashton possibly soon to follow.

Crystal G shared her gratefulness in becoming a part the Las Placitas Family and is excited about the prospect of becoming engaged in church activities. She and husband Peter served as ushers/greeters on Ash Wednesday.

Pastor Henry recently introduced our newest members to the congregation during Sunday service; be intentional in welcoming and getting to know these beautiful folks.

~ Bill L Clerk of Session

EARTHCARE

Our Children and Our Earth

What could be better than combining the two most important things in this world for a whole long weekend?

This is a great opportunity for grandparents, parents, aunts or uncles, cousins, guardians or friends to enjoy real quality time with the children in their lives in one of the most spectacular landscapes in NM.



Wild GRACE is a program coordinated by New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light working with faith communities in New Mexico to provide opportunities of healing and leadership building with an eye to the future. Programs integrate wisdom from religious traditions, exploration and wonder of the natural world, education, Earth care and environmental education.

Wild GRACE Retreat is a 3.5 day program designed for children ages 8 - 12 accompanied by a parent or other adult mentor located at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM. Each day will be filled with activities that will delight the young people and enthrall the adults. Activities include hiking, boating, swimming, archery, cosmic eggs, art projects, service projects and council of all beings which are **opportunities to explore and celebrate our Earth through faith and creation care.**

Wild GRACE Retreat will be Friday June 4, 2015 starting at 4 pm through Sunday June 7, 2015 at 11 am. Please register as soon as possible but no later than April 15, 2015. Discounts and scholarships available.

A one page flyer with summary of the retreat and retreat slide show with pictures and highlights from the 2014 retreat is attached. We will post them on the church website soon.

See Pastor Drew or Ruth Wheeler about your questions or send them to wildgrace@NM-IPL.org

Thomas Berry, Passionist Priest said:

Tell them [the youth] that they must also develop the inner vision we need if we are to make the

adjustments required for a viable future. Our existential questions must now be: How do we relate to the earth and to the universe? Our most basic issue is how we bond with the earth.

~Ruth Wheeler, EarthCare

HEALTH MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

Healthy Eating

The Health Ministry Partnership is offering a wonderful series of classes on Healthy Eating. The series began with a lecture on Healthy Eating by a guest speaker, Niki S from the NM Direct Caregiver's Coalition, followed by cooking demonstrations each Monday in March.

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:

March 9th, Monday 10am-12pm, in the Kitchen: Join professional 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! Please call Delfina at 505-867-5718 to reserve your space. This class is 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.

March 16, Monday 10am-12pm, in the Kitchen: *New Mexican Cuisine: Quick, Cheap, Easy*, offered by Vivian D & Betty C.

March 23, Monday 10am-12pm, in the Kitchen: *Cooking for Diabetics*, Offered by a Home Economist from the Sandoval County Cooperative Extension Service.

March 30, Monday 4pm-6pm, in the Kitchen
Beyond Diet: Healthy Eating, offered by Nancy U & Beth S.

April 12th - 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 Brinkerhoff, *Signs & Symptoms of Heart Attack* (to be determined), *Fall Prevention, Home Safety & Tai Chi Intro*, by Pat T.

~ The Health Ministry Partnership Committee

FELLOWSHIP

Refreshment Sign Up

The refreshment signup sheet is on the kitchen counter next to the coffee maker, and it appears below. Will you sign up for a Sunday in April? Thank you!

Sunday, March 8	Anna H
Sunday, March 15	Chantel T & David S
Sunday, March 22	Martha R & Elsie D
Palm Sunday, March 29	T Family
Easter Sunday, April 5	
Sunday, April 12	
Sunday, April 19	
Sunday, April 26	

HMP - LIFE FILE

Life File Note from your Health Ministry Partnership:

Money. We've all heard that "it's the root of all evil", but it's also a tool for surviving in a very complex world. It seems that no matter how much money we have, it never seems to be enough, so it's very important to safeguard what we have and spend it wisely.

We all live within a budget and we all manage it somehow, whether by means of a formal written budget or a "back of the mind" budget, we all pay attention to money. First, of course, we must provide for our own safety and well-being. After that is secured, we can spend on the "extras" that make our life a little bit more comfortable. After that, we can explore how we can spend to improve our neighborhood, our church, community, state and country. It all boils down to good money management.

But what would happen to your budget if you were suddenly unable to manage it yourself? Chapter 5 of the Life File Notebook can help should this occur. This chapter provides a convenient place for you to list all of the accounts that you use for moving money around and where you save it for a rainy day. It also includes some handy pages for listing your normal expenses and whether they are paid automatically or if someone has to do something (like write a check) to satisfy a bill. Are you associated with any loans, either as the borrower or the lender? List them here. Are there some expenses that you absolutely must pay regularly, or are there some that can wait a while? Chapter 5 is a great place to collect all of these details so that those who fill in for you can keep you safe and secure until you are able to do these things for yourself again.

If you do not have a Life File notebook, there are some extra copies in the LPPC library or see Delfina in the office. Please contact any member of the Health Ministry Partnership if you have any questions.

~ Tom L for the Health Ministry Partnership.

MEMBER PROFILE

Micki P

Micki was born in Bismarck, ND and was raised in Anamoose, ND (250 residents). There were 8 children in her class at Anamoose Public School and 72 students in grades K-12. After graduation she went to the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks earning a degree in secondary education. She learned while student teaching that she would quickly burn out if that was her profession so she immediately enrolled in Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. earning a Master's in College Student Personnel Administration. Her first job was as Director of Programming at the Sacagawea Girl Scouts of America in the Bismarck area. After 2 years she moved with her 1st husband to Guatemala for 1 year while he practiced medicine and she learned how to construct and help build a library for the elementary school. They returned to Grand Rapids, MI where Micki worked at the University of Phoenix in Admissions for 7 years. During those years she moved to Chicago where she helped the school build 5 campuses from scratch. She was single when she moved to Chicago. She met and started dating Mark, while working at the University of Phoenix, Chicago Campus.

They soon were very tired of the 2 hour commute each way to work in Chicago traffic. Mark's parents were living in Alamogordo as a result of their car breaking down 50 years prior on their way to California to find employment. Micki and Mark wanted to be closer to his parents because they had become ill and also because they could leave the harsh winters and traffic behind. They left their jobs in Chicago and settled in Albuquerque.

Through her previous Chicago boss, she found her current job at Carrington College where she is Director of Enrollment Services. She has been there for 5 years. The hours are long but she loves the slower pace and feels she is really helping the students get started in their careers.

Having grown up in Alamogordo, Mark had explored the State over the years. He knew about Placitas and they love it here. Micki was happy because she always wanted to live in the Southwest.









Micki's hobbies are hiking and horseback riding. Her horse Sky, lives on their property and she rides as often as possible. The person she would like to meet is Abe Lincoln because of his steadfastness in such tumultuous times, and resiliency while battling depression. She is looking forward to exploring the southwest. She hasn't had time to get to the Grand Canyon or Utah yet but is working on seeing northern NM. So far, she has found the Rio Grande Gorge, Ojo Caliente, Tent Rocks and Red River fascinating.

She would like to try bungee jumping sometime. Her favorite things are spending time with her husband, taking her dog for walks, riding her horse in the hills of Placitas, and eating German food and desserts. She loves it when her parents come to visit from ND and bring canned goodies from their garden. Micki grew up enjoying the farming life surrounded by a loving family. Her 2 brothers and families still live in ND and MN.

Micki usually attends the early service and enjoys the casual style that combines Bible study and church in one.

~ Wendy I & Betty C

March 2015

Sun	3/1		2nd Sunday in Lent 8:30am Early Service, Upper Rm 9:15am Adult Forum, Upper Rm 10:30am Second Service with Choir, Sanctuary ~Nursery is provided. ~Sunday School 3:00pm Stewardship Mtg, Upper Room 7:00pm AA, Upper Room	Sun	3/15	7:00pm	AA, Upper Room
Mon	3/2		10:00am HMP Food Prep & Safety, LPPC 7:00pm Adult Study Group, Upper Rm	Mon	3/16	10:00am 7:00pm	HMP New Mexican Cuisine, LPPC Adult Study Group, Upper Rm
Tue	3/3		8:00am Yoga, Upper Room Breakfast Discussion Grp, Placitas Café 1:45pm Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Personnel Meeting, Upper Rm 7:00pm Finance Meeting, Upper Rm	Tue	3/17	 8:00am	St. Patrick's Day Yoga, Upper Room Breakfast Discussion Grp, Placitas Café 1:45pm Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Casa Rosa Board Mtg 8:00am Yoga, Upper Room 7:30pm Women's Prayer Circle
Wed	3/4		9:00am Jardineros 7:30pm Women's Prayer Circle, Library	Wed	3/18	8:00am 7:30pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Thu	3/5		1:45pm Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	Thu	3/19	1:45pm 7:00pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Fri	3/6		8:00am Yoga, Upper Room	Fri	3/20	 8:00am	First Day of Spring Yoga, Upper Room 9:00am Casa Rosa Food Pantry
Sat	3/7		9:00am Casa Rosa Food Pantry 3:00pm Ruthann Hopkins Memorial, Sanctuary	Sat	3/21	 9:00am	5th Sunday in Lent 8:30am Early Service, Upper Rm 9:15am Adult Forum, Upper Rm 10:30am Second Service with Choir, Sanctuary ~Nursery is provided. ~Sunday School
Sun	3/8		2:00am Daylight Savings-Spring Ahead	Sun	3/22	8:30am 9:15am 10:30am	Placitas Sage Cohousing, Up Rm Placitas Artist Series Concert & Reception 1:00pm AA, Upper Room 7:00pm HMP Cooking for Diabetics, LPPC 10:00am Adult Study Group, Upper Rm
Sun	3/8		3rd Sunday in Lent 8:30am Early Service, Upper Rm 9:15am Adult Forum, Upper Rm 10:30am Second Service with Choir, Sanctuary ~Nursery is provided. ~Sunday School Session – New Members Placitas Sage Cohousing, Up Rm	Mon	3/23	7:00pm 10:00am 7:00pm	AA, Upper Room HMP Cooking for Diabetics, LPPC Adult Study Group, Upper Rm
			11:45am Placitas Sage Cohousing, Up Rm 1:00pm AA, Upper Room 7:00pm HMP Winter Salad Demo, LPPC	Tue	3/24	8:00am	Yoga, Upper Room Breakfast Discussion Group, Placitas Café 10:00am Stewardship Fireside Chat 1:45pm Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Mission, ECF, Worship & Music, Upper Room
Mon	3/9		10:00am Adult Study Group, Upper Rm 7:00pm Yoga, Upper Room Breakfast Discussion Group, Placitas Café 1:45 pm Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall 5:30pm Deacons Mtg, Upper Room 7:00pm Session Mtg, Upper Room	Wed	3/25	8:00am 10:00am	Yoga, Upper Room Bible Study, Upper Room Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Tue	3/10		8:00am Yoga, Upper Room Breakfast Discussion Group, Placitas Café 1:45 pm Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	Thu	3/26	1:45pm 7:00pm	Yoga, Upper Room LPPC Spring Clean Up Casa Rosa Food Pantry
Wed	3/11		8:00am Yoga, Upper Room 10:00am Bible Study, Upper Room	Fri	3/27	8:00am	Yoga, Upper Room
Thu	3/12		1:45 pm Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	Sat	3/28	9:00am	Casa Rosa Food Pantry
Fri	3/13		8:00am Yoga, Upper Room	Sun	3/29	 8:30am 9:15am 10:30am	Passion/Palm Sunday Early Service, Upper Rm Adult Forum, Upper Rm Second Service with Choir, Sanctuary ~Nursery is provided. ~Sunday School
Sat	3/14		9:00am Casa Rosa Food Pantry	Mon	3/30	7:00pm 	AA, Upper Room
Sun	3/15		4th Sunday in Lent 8:30am Early Service, Upper Rm 9:15am Adult Forum, Upper Rm 10:30am Second Service with Choir, Sanctuary ~Nursery is provided. ~Sunday School	Tue	3/31	4:00pm 7:00pm 8:00am 1:45pm	Holy Week HMP Healthy Eating, LPPC Adult Study Group, Upper Rm Yoga, Upper Room Breakfast Discussion Grp, Placitas Café Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall