

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

February 2016



Worship Services

February 7 – Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

"Transfigured"

Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36

February 10 – Ash Wednesday

1 John 1:1-9

February 14 – First Sunday in Lent

"Touch"

Luke 7:11-15; Revelation 21:1-4

February 21 – Second Sunday in Lent

"Sight"

Mark 8:22-25; 1 Corinthians 13:12

February 28 – Third Sunday in Lent

"Taste"

John 2:1-10; 1 Peter 2:2-3

Embodied

Incarnation is the theological term used to describe God's coming to us in human form in the person of Jesus Christ. Incarnation literally means in the flesh. As Christians, we seek to know God more fully in the flesh through Jesus.

This Lenten season we will be exploring how we know God through our own bodies, literally through our senses. Presbyterian theologian Matthew Skinner invites us into "Sensing the Gospel." He writes:

"We encounter God and God's salvation in embodied ways -- in our bodies' abilities to perceive familiar realities and to interpret new ones. Lent provides opportunities to acknowledge this... Lent allows us to consider together who we are and how we encounter an incarnate God."

Ash Wednesday provides the perfect portal for entering into an embodied faith. Our foreheads are marked with dusty ashes that remind us of our finitude. Across the five Sundays in Lent we will be exploring the senses through Gospel stories that involve touching, seeing, tasting, hearing, and smelling. We then move into a Holy Week that is full of embodied realities and sensory experiences.

Too often we Christians have denied, if not vilified, the body. Yet we too were created by God incarnate with all of our faculties and senses. I affirm Matthew Skinner's invitation to us "to reflect on who we are and how we bear witness to the gospel -- not so Lent causes us to denigrate this life, but so we learn to encounter God among us and to know Christ through our bodies."

Ash Wednesday comes early this year on February 10th. Did you know that the dates of the Lenten and Easter seasons are determined by the first full moon that follows the Spring Equinox?

Embodied. Incarnate. Join us this year as we honor a living faith.

Peace,
Drew

THE ADULT FORUM

February / March - Health, Happiness, and the Senses

Beginning on February 7 the Adult Forum will be looking to health and happiness, with a presentation by Dr. David Scrase, on "Happiness and Aging" sponsored by the LPPC Health Ministries Partnership.

On February 14 the Adult Forum will begin a series on "Sensing the Gospel" relating to Pastor Drew's Lenten emphasis. We will be considering a series of themes, drawing on scripture and spiritual writings, along with brief clips of several movies as we reflect on embodying faith via the senses.

The Adult Forum takes place in The Upper Room soon after 9:15 on Sunday mornings, following the early service.

February / March Schedule:

Feb. 7 - Happiness and Aging (Dr. David Scrase & HMP)

Feb. 14 - Sensing God (theme film: Brother Sun and Sister Moon)

Feb. 21 - Embodied Praise (theme film: Chariots of Fire)

Feb. 28 - Taste and See (theme film: Babette's Feast)

March 6 - Dance of Life (theme film: Billy Elliott)

March 13 - Dance of Love (theme film: Big Eden)

March 20 - To Life! (theme film: Chocolate)

March 27 - EASTER (no class)

~ Reverend Ken Cuthbertson

HEALTH MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

What: Adult Forum Lecture on **Happiness** by David Scrase MD

When: February 7th at 9:15 am

Where: LPPC Sanctuary

Why are we happy? Why not? What does research say about the characteristics of those people who are happy?

How does our brain chemistry affect our mood? Are religious people happier than others? Come Sunday, February 7, at 9:15 am in the LPPC Sanctuary to hear the answers - and more!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday mornings

Sunday mornings our children and youth divide into classes with smiles and happy thoughts after Judie Hendry has given us the gift of her wonderful music. We presently have four classes! There are 6 in our high school class, 9 in the middle school class, 5 in the 3rd-5th grade class, and 2 in the K-2nd grade class. As you can see we are experiencing a huge "age shift"! As our youth get older, the need for a youth director gets more essential. Then as we look at the little ones coming up we see 6 three to five year olds. Wouldn't it be great to have a preschool class? Just when it seems everything is going great recruiting teachers and assistants there is always more we can do. But just as always we know LPPC will come through.

We are very excited that four of our high school youth have been accepted to attend the **PCUSA Triennium** this summer. Triennium is a gathering of high school age youth from the Presbyterian church and the Cumberland Presbyterian church that occurs every three years. The 2016 event is July 19-23 at Purdue University with the theme "**GO!**".

Our middle school youth are looking forward to attending **Youth Week at Ghost Ranch** once again. The theme this year, "**Bring it on: Be the Being You Were Meant to Be**". This event takes place the last week in June where they will experience activities involving service learning and leadership development along with lots of fun.

Carolyn Mann is leading the fund raising for these summer events. You will soon have the chance to order See's Candy for Easter, attend a painting class, enjoy another youth dinner and lots of other surprises in the plans to raise the \$5000 goal we need to make sure our youth can attend these wonderful summer programs. A huge thank you to Carolyn Mann for taking this on!

As always I delight in the pleasure that it is to work with our wonderful children! The rewards received far outweigh any time or effort involved. Anyone interested in joining our team will be welcomed with open arms.

~Sally Gosnell & Elizabeth Dickson,
Children's Christian Ed Co-directors

SESSION

Responsibility

As you may recall, last month I wrote about the responsibilities of the church members elected to the Church Nominating Committee (CNC). I noted that the CNC is comprised of: two ruling elders, at least one of which is an active session member; a deacon currently active on the board of deacons; and two or more church members.

When a CNC member asks a fellow church member to consider serving as a church officer, it is obviously important for both parties to know the responsibilities relevant to that position. They are as follows:

Book of Order/Deacon Defined/G-2.0201

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

Deacon Responsibilities

1. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month except July, at 5:30 p.m. at the church.
2. Deacon training is held in March or April each year, frequently on a Saturday or Sunday.

Activities*

- A. Communion preparation/set-up, the 1st Sunday of each month plus Maundy Thursday, Easter, and Christmas Eve
- B. Cards (get well, sympathy, etc.) are mailed out to our congregants
- C. Phone communication to ill/frail/homebound congregants
- D. Participation in the LPPC Annual Thanksgiving Food Basket Program
- E. Preparing/delivering food to the homebound, ill, or in times of family grief
- F. Funeral/memorial service receptions
- G. Special needs/services i.e. driving a frail church member to a doctor's visit
- H. Updating our church bulletin's prayer list
- I. Participation in the Comfort & Joy Program via shawl delivery/presentation
- J. Hospital visits

**One, several, or all of the deacons take part in the following, as required*

Book of Order/Ruling Elder Defined/G-2.0301

As there were elders in Old Testament times for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation, but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders together with teaching elders, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session. When elected as commissioners to higher councils, ruling elders participate and vote with the same authority as teaching elders, and they are eligible for any office.

Ruling Elder Responsibilities

1. Session meetings:

a. Stated meetings: held every 2nd Tuesday of the month except July, at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room.

b. Called meetings: held the 2nd Sunday, as required to discuss membership possibilities, after the second service. These are also conducted in the Upper Room.

2. Congregational meetings: usually held only once a year, the last Sunday in January after the second service. These are held in the church sanctuary.

3. Stated Session meeting preparation: the Clerk of Session emails both the completed minutes from the previous month's meeting (within 5 days subsequent to that meeting) and the agenda for the upcoming meeting (no later than the Monday before the meeting) for each elder to:

a. Review the minutes and agenda for approval

b. Familiarize one with the business items to be addressed at the meeting for discussion/approval.

4. Church committee chair: with some exception, ruling elders are expected to chair one of the following seven committees. The committees usually include: Building, Grounds, Christian Education, Finance, Personnel, Stewardship and Worship & Music.**

Committee meetings are normally held every month (except July) on a Tuesday evening, but never on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Committee chairs are required to submit a report to the Clerk of Session prior to the upcoming Session meeting, which are included in the Session agenda and the meeting minutes.

5. Session meeting devotion and church lock-up: once or twice a year each Session member leads the Session

meeting devotion and prayer and also selects one or two months to stay late after Sunday service and lock-up the church.

6. Elder training is frequently held in March or April each year

7. “Regular” (non-intinction) communion: any ruling elder may be asked by the deacons, on a 1st Sunday of the month, if they can/would like to participate in the distribution of the elements.

***FYI: Earth Care, Fellowship, Health Care Partnership, Membership, and Mission Committees are chaired long term by church members.*

Yours in service,
Bill Lumm Clerk of Session

MEMBER PROFILE

Margene Martin

Margene was born in San Luis Obispo, CA and lived there till 2 years old. Her family moved to Gilroy, CA, known for the Garlic Festival. She lived there through 2 years of college where she graduated from Gavilan Community College. She earned a B.A. degree from San Jose State with a major in Occupational Therapy and a minor in Psychology. After graduation, she moved to Santa Cruz, CA where she worked as an OT for 5 years.

Margene moved to Sacramento, CA in 1978 and bought a house in Rancho Cordova – just outside of Sacramento. She continued her career in OT and completed a Master’s Degree in Rehabilitation Administration from the University of San Francisco. She met Rhon learning to country-dance at a local dance club called Incahoots. When they had their wedding in 1996 – they had a western theme! They moved to Loomis, CA, which is a small town like Placitas and knew this is the type of town they would like to retire to. Margene still has a brother and 2 sisters who live in Gilroy, CA.

Part of Rhon’s military career had taken him to Kirkland and he owned property in Angel Fire so they decided to visit here on vacation around 1998 – driving around exploring, they drove up 165. There was a lot for sale sign lying on its side on a nice piece of property so they got out and looked at the sign – they called and the people that owned it lived out of town and had inherited the property – Rhon and Margene bought it immediately and after 12 years decided this is where they would build when they retired. In 2010 they moved to Placitas. It was a 2-year project building their current home but are loving it very much.

Margene has 2 stepsons and 5 grandchildren. Rhon Jr. lives in Colorado and has 3 children, and Kevin lives in Germany and has 2 children. Margene and Rhon visit both families often.

Margene liked her career as an Occupational Therapist. It has specialties within it from home health care to rehabilitation and she liked the variety the specialties offered. She enjoyed developing new programs within the specialties and implementing them. Her position ranged from staff therapist to department head.

While living in California, Margene’s favorite hobby was sailing her own boat and was active in the local sailing club. She participated in races in Sacramento and sailed on the Delta, San Francisco Bay and Folsom Lake. However, California had begun to be affected with drought and that is what ended her fun of sailing – no place to conveniently enjoy it! These days, Margene enjoys traveling, hiking, country western dancing at The Dirty Bourbon and reading. One of her favorite travels was a camping backpack trip to the Big Island of Hawaii for a week. Another favorite was bare boating in the Virgin Islands. They sailed between islands in the quiet waters, visited local homes, saw waterfalls and beautiful countryside.

Margene’s bucket list would include visiting Australia and the Great Barrier Reef, Costa Rica, and England. As far as what she would save if there were a fire, she and Rhon experienced just that when they lived in Loomis. Luckily, they were already packed as they were moving to a new home when it happened, so they were able to easily retrieve their financial records, photos and personal mementos. It was a large grass fire which spread through Loomis but their home was thankfully spared.

There’s really nothing she feels she needs or wants to do other than more traveling because she likes her life and has no regrets. What she would not want to live without are: hot showers or baths, traveling, reading, sunshine and nice weather. (That’s why they love living here!)

When they moved here, Margene and Rhon drove up and down 165 many times passing LPPC and every time saying “we need to go there sometime”. Sometime came and they enjoyed the experience of the size, friendly welcome, comfortable atmosphere, our all-inclusiveness and feeling such a part of it!

Betty Closser
Wendy Ingram
Feb. 2016

February 2016

Mon	2/1	7:00pm	Adult Study Group, Upper Room	Thu	2/18	9:00am	Yoga, Upper Room
Tue	2/2	8:00am	Breakfast Discussion Group, Placitas Café; Yoga, Upper Room			1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Personnel Meeting, Upper Room			7:00pm	Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Wed	2/3	7:00pm	Finance Meeting, Upper Room	Fri	2/19	8:00am	Yoga, Upper Room
		9:00am	Jardineros	Sat	2/20	9:00am	Casa Rosa Food Pantry Distribution
		7:30pm	Women's Prayer Circle, LPPC Library	Sun	2/21		2nd Sunday in Lent
Thu	2/4	9:00am	Yoga: Upper Room			8:30am	Early Worship, Upper Room
		7:00pm	Choir Practice, Sanctuary			9:15am	Adult Forum, Upper Room: <i>Psalms: Rockin' the Temple</i>
Fri	2/5	8:00am	Yoga, Upper Room			10:30am	Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
Sat	2/6	9:00am	Casa Rosa Food Pantry Distribution			2:00pm	PAS Concert & Reception
Sun	2/7		Transfiguration of the Lord	Mon	2/22	7:00pm	AA, Upper Room
		8:30am	Early Worship, Upper Room	Tue	2/23	7:00pm	Adult Study Group, Upper Room
		9:15am	Adult Forum, Sanctuary: <i>Happiness & Aging</i>			8:00am	Breakfast Discussion Group, Placitas Café; Yoga, Upper Room
		10:30am	Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary Session Mtg,			1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall
		1:00pm	Placitas Sage Cohousing: Upr Rm			7:00pm	Mission, Earthcare, Worship & Music Mtgs, Upper Room
		7:00pm	AA, Upper Room	Wed	2/24	10:00am	Bible Study, Upper Room
Mon	2/8	7:00pm	Adult Study Group, Upper Room	Thu	2/25	9:00am	Yoga, Upper Room
Tue	2/9	8:00am	Breakfast Discussion Group, Placitas Café; Yoga, Upper Room			1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall
		1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall			7:00pm	Choir Practice, Sanctuary
		5:30pm	Deacons Meeting, Upper Room	Fri	2/26	8:00am	Yoga, Upper Room
		7:00pm	Session Meeting, Upper Room	Sat	2/27	9:00am	Casa Rosa Food Pantry Distribution
Wed	2/10	10:00am	Bible Study, Upper Room	Sun	2/28		3rd Sunday in Lent
			Ash Wednesday			8:30am	Early Worship, Upper Room
		7:00pm	Evening Service, Sanctuary			9:15am	Adult Forum, Upper Room: <i>The Apochrypha's Hidden Treasures</i>
Thu	2/11	9:00am	Yoga, Upper Room			10:30am	Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
		1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall			7:00pm	AA, Upper Room
		7:00pm	Choir Practice, Sanctuary	Mon	2/29	7:00pm	Adult Study Group, Upper Room
Fri	2/12	8:00am	Yoga, Upper Room				
Sat	2/13	9:00am	Casa Rosa Food Pantry Distribution				
Sun	2/14		1st Sunday in Lent				
		8:30am	Early Worship, Upper Room				
		9:15am	Adult Forum, Sanctuary: <i>Sensing God</i>				
		10:30am	Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary Session Mtg,				
		11:45am	Session: Welcome New Members				
		7:00pm	AA, Upper Room				
Mon	2/15		President's Day; office closed				
		7:00pm	Adult Study Group, Upper Room				
Tue	2/16	8:00am	Breakfast Discussion Group, Placitas Café; Yoga, Upper Room				
		1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall				
		6:00pm	Casa Rosa Board Meeting				
Wed	2/17	7:30pm	Women's Prayer Circle, LPPC				

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