

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

January 2016



Worship Services

January 3 – Second Sunday after Christmas

"God's Intentions"

Psalm 147:12-20; Jeremiah 31:7-14

January 10 – Baptism of the Lord

"Water Works"

Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

"A Variety of Gifts"

Psalm 150; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

January 24 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

"Worship Instructions"

Psalm 19; Nehemiah 8:1-10

January 31 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

"Responding to God"

1 Corinthians 13; Psalm 71

Songlines

Some ten years ago, father and daughter team Don and Emily Saliers wrote *A Song to Sing, A Life to Live: Reflections on Music as Spiritual Practice*. Emily is one half of the award-winning folk-rock duo the Indigo Girls. Her father Don is a church musician who early on cut his chops on jazz. Don is also a theologian and a professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Their work and the book they coauthored continually delve into the power of music in our lives. *Songlines* is a term they use with which I was not familiar. In their opening chapter "Tracing our Songlines" Emily and Don wrote: "Coming alive to music is coming alive to deep memory, as music recreates our sense of the world and who we are in it, right in the midst of the terrors and beauties, the pain and deep pleasures, of human existence. Coming alive to music, we are led on a double journey: into the mystery of God and into the depths of our humanity. If we listen well, we may even hear the voices of ancestors and of cultures and communities we've never met."

My terms of call as your pastor provide for a sabbatical in my seventh year of service with you. I aim to take that sabbatical in the summer of 2017. I've gathered a team of church members to help me envision how this can be a season of renewal for myself, my family, and the congregation. On Sunday, January 17th, following worship, we would like to invite you into a conversation about some of our initial thoughts and plans about the sabbatical. Ultimately we hope we can together explore the Songlines in our lives and in the life of this congregation. Please plan to join us.

Happy New Year!

Drew

NOTE FROM REV. DREW HENRY

Financial Secretary

by Drew Henry

One of the first actions the finance committee and I took together back in 2011 was to reestablish the financial secretary position here at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. We were fortunate enough at that time to be able to rehire Liz Allotta as our financial secretary, a role she had previously occupied before that position was cut during difficult economic times following the recession of 2008.

Liz has served as an excellent member of our church staff for the past five years. Her commitment and dedication to supporting the mission and ministries of this congregation have greatly increased our financial stability. I am grateful for Liz's service to the church, and I would like to thank her for sharing her gifts with us.

With the number of her grandchildren growing, Liz has wanted for some time now to be able to dedicate herself more fully to her family. Recent health complications also require greater attention on her part. For those reasons Liz has asked to step back from the primary role as LPPC's financial secretary.

We were fortunate yet again in a recent search to be able to hire Placitas resident Karen Cox as our church's new financial secretary. Karen has a professional background in books and bookkeeping. In our community she serves as chair of the board of the Placitas Community Library. She is familiar with our church after serving as the treasurer for Jardineros. Karen is also a longtime, regular attendee of the Placitas Artist Series. Additionally Karen is the outgoing secretary/treasurer of the Cactus and Succulent Society of New Mexico.

When Karen applied for this position, she wrote: "I have always been impressed by the warm, calm atmosphere and the loving nature of your staff. It is easy to see how your outreach efforts have made a deep impact on all around you. It would be a privilege to work on your team."

It is our privilege and pleasure to welcome Karen Cox to our staff team as our new financial secretary. She and Liz are already working through training and transition. In the New Year, Karen will assume the primary role of financial secretary, while Liz will remain available as able in a back up role for the position. We are indeed blessed with many great people who work with us here at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. Thank you both to Karen and Liz!

THE ADULT FORUM

A Quick and Messy Tour of the Prophets, Writings, and Apocrypha

In January the Adult Forum will return to a four-week plunge into the book *The Bible for Dummies (BfD)*, with brief surveys of the Prophets, the "Writings" (poetry texts and wisdom literature), and an introduction to the Apocrypha. *The Bible for Dummies* is a reader-friendly introduction to the contents of the Bible, written by Dr. Jeffrey Geohegan (Boston College) and Dr. Michael Homan (Xavier University). A few loaner copies of the book are available.

On February 7 the Health Ministry Partnership will have a presentation on "Happiness" by LPPC member, Dr. David Scrase.

The Adult Forum is held in The Upper Room at LPPC, each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. following the early service.

January 3, 2016 - no class

January 10, 2016 - "The Prophets: More Than Mere Fortune Tellers" (*BfD*, chapter 13)

January 17, 2016 - "Israel's Wisdom Literature and Love Poetry" (*BfD*, chapter 14)

January 24, 2016 - "Psalms: Rockin' the Temple" (*BfD*, chapter 15)

January 31, 2016 - "The Apocrypha's Hidden Treasures" (*BfD*, chapters 16-17)

February 7, 2016 - "Happiness" (Health Ministry Partnership & Dr. David Scrase)

~ Reverend Ken Cuthbertson

We ended 2015 with our children's annual Christmas program.

The elementary children delighted us with a short skit showing what it was like in the stable when Jesus was born through the eyes of the animals. The older youth blew us away with their *Reader's Theatre: For Unto Us a Child is Born*. We want to thank all the teachers and parents for their tremendous support in making this presentation a success. But most importantly **we thank our wonderful children for their talent, enthusiasm and gift of entertainment!**

With our Sunday school program growing, we are looking forward to an exciting New Year! Our Sunday school classes will continue the new curriculums we have begun this year. The elementary is using **"Growing in Grace & Gratitude"** which emphasizes that God's grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life and worship. Our Middle school youth are studying **"Shine: Living in God's Light"**, where our youth experience the transforming power of God's love and shine God's light in the world. Our High school youth are studying **"Ancestors"**, the unlikely people called by God to do amazing things. The gift of guiding our children as they travel their spiritual journey is a tremendous privilege and a heartwarming experience. We invite anyone thinking about joining Christian Ed to call Sally Gosnell at 771-0481 or the church office at 867-5718.

We want to thank our December teachers and assistants for another month of giving their time and talents to our children: Judie Hendry, Trip & Mary Helen Jennings, Tom Thomas, Elizabeth & Jeff Dickson, Tamara Hudson, Karen Martinez, Amy Dapolito, Leslie O'Hanlon, Carmen Douglas, Steve Chewing, Delfina Hernandez, Carolyn Mann, Charmaine Lawrence, Ed and Sally Gosnell. A special thanks to Martha Ritchie for the Christmas crafts and gifts she lovingly selected for all our children and youth.

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

Sleeves Rolled-up!

If you are at all like me, you're probably not familiar with the required "ingredients" that constitute a Church Nominating Committee (PC-USA's Book of Order). More commonly referred to as the "CNC" the necessary components are: 2 ruling elders, at least 1 of which is currently serving on Session; 1 actively serving deacon; and two or more church members.

Our CNC Team serving this year are elders Drexel Douglas and Bill Lumm, deacon Anna Howarth, and LPPC members Jim Quick and Beverly Schippers. The only requirement for any church member to serve on the CNC is a "yes" when volunteers are annually solicited by our pastor.

For 2016, the CNC is tasked in recruiting candidates for the following positions:

Session: 3 candidates to serve a standard 3-year term, and 1 candidate to serve a 1 year term.*

Deacons: 3 candidates to serve a standard 3-year term, and 1 candidate to serve a 1 year term.*

How are the candidates selected? The answer may sound familiar: the only requirement for any church member to serve on the CNC is a "yes" when volunteers are annually solicited by the CNC. If you would like to volunteer, simply inform Rev. Henry or a CNC member.

*These 1 year terms will complete the 3 year terms for individuals that stepped down from their positions of service.

In next month's newsletter I will outline the responsibilities for ruling elders and deacons.

Happy Holidays,
Bill Lumm Clerk of Session

MOTHERS' DAY OUT

Happy New Year!

Our MDO Preschool munchkins were busy in December making lots of fun crafts, playing Christmas Bingo, and even had a chance to make "snow" castles outside! Of course, their excitement knew no bounds. We sang Rudolph and Jingle Bells more times than I can count (did we ever really stop singing them from last year☺?!?).

MDO was again invited to participate in the PAS/SFO Holiday Concert by hosting a silent auction. Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this a successful night for MDO!

I will enjoy the 2 ½ week break, not sure the parents feel the same excitement I do! We will be back in all our glory January 11th.

Wishing you a healthy and joyous 2016!
Debbie Stueber

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

LPPC received a gift this Christmas!

No, it wasn't from Santa...it was from our very talented Joyce Thompson. Please take note of the beautiful white paraments that Joyce designed and created for the lectern and pulpit. According to Joyce, "they speak to the Celtic foundations of Presbyterianism, the Southwest (Zia Cross), and the swirling presence of Holy Spirit — Ruach, Breath of God."

MEMBER PROFILE

Nancy Ullery

Nancy was born in Arkansas City, Kansas and lived there for 18 years. She attended many colleges and received numerous certificates and associate degrees in music. She attended college every summer from 1972-1982 taking piano, organ and speech classes. Nancy earned a Masters certificate in playing the organ. Nancy's musical career actually started at age 5 with piano lessons. Her career mostly centered on teaching piano and playing the organ. She opened a piano studio

in her home in Grandview, MO and taught until 1988. She became certified in Piano Pedagogy (the art of teaching music and music theory using the piano as a tool) learning the Robert Pace Method. Nancy's favorite job was teaching piano to pre-school and elementary school children. She was often a substitute organist in Wichita until she became the regular organist at the Presbyterian Church in Grandview, MO. In 1962 Nancy started working with children's choirs and was the director of various children's musicals in churches.

Nancy met Wayne when they both worked at Amoco Oil in Kansas City and were married in 1970. When Amoco moved their offices to Des Moines, Wayne decided to retire. Nancy and Wayne took a trip to visit Nancy's brother and sister-in-law mountain home near Colorado Springs. Since they didn't want to deal with all the snow in that area, they headed south on I-25. They rented a house in west Albuquerque for a short time before exploring and finding Placitas.

Nancy has 2 sons. Greg is a gastroenterologist in Kansas City. He has 2 children. Son, Brad is a marketer of accounting software for the Cloud living in the St. Louis area. He has 3 children. Nancy has 2 stepchildren (Wayne's children). Wayne's daughter Reeca, has 2 girls. Her oldest daughter has 2 girls. His son, Bret has a son and a daughter. His daughter has two little girls and his son is expecting a baby in May. Nancy and Wayne have 10 grandchildren and 4 soon to be 5 great-grandchildren.

Nancy's hobbies now are: quilting, reading, knitting and gardening. Her 15 minutes of fame happened when she taught group piano lessons to children twice a week. The recital for her students was directed by Dr. Pace. There were 10-20 pianos with 2 students on each piano. Nancy and other music teachers played in the recital as well. The recital took place at the large Mormon Church in Independence, MO.

Nancy's trip to the Seattle World's Fair was a highlight trip. She hopes to travel to NYC to see a Broadway play as well as see more of the East Coast. Her favorite things include: coffee, her piano, being mobile, her sewing machine and the computer. Nancy presently is partnering with her husband Wayne in a Real Estate business called **Heartland New Mexico, LLC, a full service Real Estate Company.**

LPPC is special to her because of the people. She always has to have a place to worship and play the organ. As a 5-year old she was insistent that her family attend Sunday school and church.

~ Betty Closser & Wendy Ingram

January 2016

Fri	1/1		Happy New Year!	Sun	1/17	2:00pm	PAS Concert & Reception
Sat	1/2	9:00am	Casa Rosa Food Pantry Distribution			7:00pm	AA, Upper Room
Sun	1/3		2nd Sunday after Christmas Day	Mon	1/18	*	Martin Luther King Day Church Office Closed
		8:30am	Early Worship, Upper Room			4:00pm	Cooking Class Benefit
		9:15am	Adult Forum: No Class today			7:00pm	Adult Study Group, Upper Room
		10:30am	Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary	Tue	1/19	8:00am	Breakfast Discussion Group, Placitas Café; Yoga, Upper Room
		7:00pm	AA, Upper Room			1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall
Mon	1/4	7:00pm	Adult Study Group, Upper Room			6:00pm	Casa Rosa Board Meeting
Tue	1/5	8:00am	Breakfast Discussion Group, Placitas Café; Yoga, Upper Room	Wed	1/20	7:30pm	Women's Prayer Circle, LPPC Library
		6:00pm	Personnel Meeting, Upper Room	Thu	1/21	1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall
		7:00pm	Finance Meeting, Upper Room			7:00pm	Choir Practice, Sanctuary
Wed	1/6	7:30pm	Women's Prayer Circle, LPPC Library	Fri	1/22	8:00am	Yoga, Upper Room
		7:00pm	Choir Practice, Sanctuary	Sat	1/23	9:00am	Casa Rosa Food Pantry Distribution
Fri	1/8	8:00am	Yoga, Upper Room	Sun	1/24		3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Sat	1/9	9:00am	Casa Rosa Food Pantry Distribution			8:30am	Early Worship, Upper Room
		2:00pm	ESCA Meeting, Fellowship Hall			9:15am	Adult Forum, Upper Room: <i>Psalms: Rockin' the Temple</i>
Sun	1/10		Baptism of the Lord			10:30am	Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
		8:30am	Early Worship, Upper Room			7:00pm	AA, Upper Room
		9:15am	Adult Forum, Upper Room: <i>The Prophets: More Than Mere Fortune Tellers</i>	Mon	1/25	5:00pm	2 nd Annual Winter Book Night for Parents & Children
		10:30am	Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary Session Mtg,			7:00pm	Adult Study Group, Upper Room
		11:45am	Session: Welcome New Members, Upper Room	Tue	1/26	8:00am	Breakfast Discussion Group, Placitas Café; Yoga, Upper Room
		7:00pm	AA, Upper Room			1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall
Mon	1/11	7:00pm	Adult Study Group, Upper Room			7:00pm	Mission, Earthcare, Worship & Music Mtgs, Upper Room
Tue	1/12	8:00am	Breakfast Discussion Group, Placitas Café; Yoga, Upper Room	Wed	1/27	10:00am	Bible Study, Upper Room
		1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall	Thu	1/28	1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall
		5:30pm	Deacons Meeting, Upper Room			7:00pm	Choir Practice, Sanctuary
		7:00pm	Session Meeting, Upper Room	Fri	1/29	8:00am	Yoga, Upper Room
Wed	1/13	9:00am	Jardineros	Sat	1/30	9:00am	Casa Rosa Food Pantry Distribution
		10:00am	Bible Study, Upper Room			12:00pm	Private Event, Fellowship Hall
Thu	1/14	1:45pm	Kids Karate, Fellowship Hall	Sun	1/31		3rd Sunday after Epiphany
		7:00pm	Choir Practice, Sanctuary			8:30am	Early Worship, Upper Room
Fri	1/15	8:00am	Yoga, Upper Room			9:15am	Adult Forum, Upper Room: <i>The Apocrypha's Hidden Treasures</i>
Sat	1/16	9:00am	Casa Rosa Food Pantry Distribution			10:30am	Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary
Sun	1/17		2nd Sunday after Epiphany			11:45am	Annual Congregational Meeting
		8:30am	Early Worship, Upper Room			7:00pm	AA, Upper Room

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