



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 2014

SOTC

I write this as our President prepares his SOTU (State of the Union) address. I thought I might give you my perspective on the SOTC (State of the Church).

Let me start with this congregation. 2014 marks the 120th anniversary of the founding of the Presbyterian Church at Las Placitas. For over a century, this church has been an integral part of this community. It has seen its ups and downs across the years. The fact that the church is standing and strong gives testament both to God's Spirit and to the many men, women, and children who have been a part of this family of faith.

At present, together we have accomplished several significant steps over these past three years. We are actively honoring our Spanish heritage as a mission church in this village. We have not forgotten *nuestras raíces* nor our call to be about mission. We have and are addressing financial challenges the congregation faced. Our ability to carry forth our mission and ministries is now strengthened. Finally, we are growing. I invite you to consider the many different dimensions of this growth.

Taking the wider view, the SOTC is in flux. Many congregations unfortunately are finding themselves in a state of decline. Denominations that historically have been called "mainline" are now being referred to by some as "sidelined." When asked, more and more people in our country claim their religious affiliation as none.

At first glance, Las Placitas Presbyterian Church might appear as a relic in some museum. We should not be blind to the wider trends. However, how we are church is being transformed or reformed. *Semper reformanda*. I trust God's hand is at work in all of this. While challenging, I find it exciting to witness and be a part of this transformation.

Peace, Drew

FEBRUARY Texts and Topics

February 2 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
"Blessed" Psalm 15; Matthew 5:1-12

February 9 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany "Salty"
Psalm 112:1-10; Matthew 5:13-20

February 16 - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany "You
have heard it said" Psalm 119:1-8; Matthew 5:21-
37

February 23 - Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
"You have heard it said too" Psalm 119:33-40;
Matthew 5:38-48

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



New Year, New Member!

The Second Sunday gathering in the Upper Room was blessed as the Session welcomed our first member in 2014, Mickie F-K. Mickie, whom along with her husband of thirty-three years, Rev. Peter F-K (a member of the Presbytery of Santa Fe), have been attending LPPC for about ten months. During this time she has become heavily engaged in service work in the outdoor area that initially captured her heart, our Memorial Garden.

Mickie was baptized in Salt Lake City, Utah as an infant but was raised in the United Church of Christ in the town of McCook, in South Central Nebraska. Mickie further stated that being a Presbyterian pastor's wife, she has lived and worshipped in a number of locations but Las Placitas is only the second church of which she has wanted to become a member. That's quite a compliment and speaks volumes about everything that is LPPC. Welcome Mickie, we are grateful to be your church.

Overture Updated

The overture from LPPC to Santa Fe Presbytery, on allowing ministers and sessions to decide for themselves whether they will officiate at or host same-sex weddings, was updated by the LPPC Session on January 14 and will be considered by the presbytery on February 8. The update basically reflects the change in circumstances in New Mexico following the ruling of the New Mexico Supreme Court on December 19. The Session of New Life Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque is also sending this overture to the presbytery, and the Session of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque has voted its support. If approved, the overture will go before the General Assembly of the PCUSA in June.

LPPC Continues as Key Polling Location

Session approved the extension of the contract with the Sandoval County Bureau of Elections. The contract extension for two years runs through December 2015. LPPC is remunerated \$150 for each voting occurrence.

LPPC Projects—Work in Progress

1. Hearing Loop for Sanctuary: A resource has been selected and a specific installation plan adopted. Procurement of the system will be completed within the next several weeks.

2. MDO (Mothers Day Out) Access Control: On December 18, Rev. Henry met with Robert Andrews of AG Supply of Albuquerque, to discuss desired access control improvements for our MDO program. Mr. Andrews has just gotten back to me with proposed hardware solutions. We will review his proposal before making recommendations.

3. Columbarium Expansion: During the January Session meeting Rev. Henry reported that the next step is to meet with mason/contractor James Garcia, builder of our existing columbarium. Progress is to continue in February.

4. Bell Tower Refurbishment: Hopes are this long term project will be completed in 2014.

5. Roof & Exterior Stucco Repair: Until significant capital funding is raised, volunteers and contractors will continue to plug and patch.

~Bill L
Clerk of Session

Health Ministry Partnership Kick-Off



The LPPC Health Ministry Partnership has been meeting during this year, interviewing members of our congregation and researching other health ministries and parish nurse programs. The Health Ministry Partnership is now hosting a kick-off for this new ministry with a Health Fair event March 2, during the Fellowship hour following the second service. Tasty healthy snacks will be available.

The purpose of the Health Ministry Partnership is **to promote health and wellness in the congregation and in the community.** We will start within our congregation and gradually expand into the community, much as we have seen happen with Casa Rosa.

Our target audience is our older adult population. It is important to note that our ministry is a "partnership." We not only will provide support to our congregation and community, but we are looking to them to offer their time and talents as well. There will be roles for non-medical volunteers as well as for those with medical backgrounds and we will look into training in both areas as we proceed.

We will not compete with or duplicate existing medical health care programs nor offer direct health care services.

The Health Fair will provide our church family and community friends with an opportunity to talk with key representatives from Sandoval County's Health and Human Services Agency and the Placitas Community Center as well as members of the committee. The tables & topics include:

Table 1: Resource Table - information, resources, volunteer/sign-up list, and donation basket

Table 2: Vials of Life - emergency contact information, advance directives

Table 3: Nursing - health information and screenings

Table 4: Fall Prevention & Medication Disposal - medication information and simple tests to determine risk of falls

Table 5: Placitas Community Center/Sandoval County Senior Services - representatives from both of these organizations provide information

Please mark the date on your calendars. Anyone in the community is welcome to attend.

We ask for your help, support and prayers as we move forward.

~Pat T

The Health Ministry Partnership member



ADULT FORUM—February Glory to God!—Exploring the New Presbyterian Hymnal

During February the Sunday morning Adult Forum will continue to focus on our new hymnal, "Glory to God!" This hymnal includes a lot of new music, drawn from various traditions of church music around the world.

For each class we will look at some of the spiritual and theological themes of the various genres, and do a bit of singing too. The Adult Forum meets each Sunday at 9:15am in the Upper Room.

February 2: African American Spirituals and Gospel Songs - led by Georgiana K

February 9: Evangelical and Pentecostal Songs

February 16: Folk Song Influences - led by Judie H

February 23: Global & Ecumenical Songs

Join us!

~Ken Cuthbertson
Parish Associate

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study continues on the second and fourth Wednesdays, 10-11:30am in the Upper Room. We'll continue our lively discussion of Genesis. Everyone is welcome at any time!

MONDAY NIGHT ADULT STUDY

The Monday night group will be reading: *The Age of the Spirit: How the Ghost of an Ancient Controversy Is Shaping the Church*, by Phyllis Tickle and Jon M. Sweeney. Books are in and will be available for \$15.

In this fascinating book, readers will encounter not just the interesting historical realities that have shaped our faith today but also the present resurgence of interest in the Holy Spirit seen in many churches across the theological spectrum. Tickle and Sweeney make accessible and relevant the forces behind the current upheaval in the church, taking readers by the hand and leading them confidently into the Age of the Spirit.

~ Amazon.com

Please join us at 7pm in the Upper Room.

~Karl G

CHILDREN

The Children's Christian Education Program is off and running in 2014. After a tremendous Christmas pageant, we are back into the Sunday School classrooms with new lessons!



Our younger class (K through 2nd grade) and our older class (3rd through 5th grades) are meeting in the classrooms. A youth enrichment class (middle and high school) will be downstairs in the basement. We are already planning our spring and summer activities, including a Vacation Bible Adventure this summer, "The Parables of Jesus." A planning committee will begin meeting in February, and if you are interested in donating your time or resources to help the program this summer, please let us know.

Our Confirmation Class led the worship service on January 19th and did an outstanding job! They gave a thought-provoking message on the blessings and importance of water, reminding us of our baptism vows and included the "wave" for the entire congregation! The class will be meeting with Session to finalize their confirmation journey this spring. The entire youth of the church is planning a week at Ghost Ranch in June so watch for some fundraising activities this spring.

As always, we need at least two adults in the classrooms on Sunday morning, and your support as an assistant to the teacher is invaluable. Please consider supporting our kids, being that extra set of hands for the teacher, and spending a Sunday morning sharing your love of God with them. Any questions please talk to a teacher, Sally G or Elizabeth D through the church office (867-5718).

~Elizabeth D
Christian Ed Co-Chair

FELLOWSHIP IS BAKING AGAIN!



Fellowship will be baking cinnamon rolls for sale after church on February 9 and 16. The rolls will be \$1.00 per roll or \$10.00 by the round. If you want more than a dozen you may order them by contacting Joan D through the church office.

Please support our fund raiser by buying our delicious cinnamon rolls!

Donations for coffee during the fellowship hour are greatly appreciated.

Thanks from the Fellowship Committee!

MEMBER PROFILE HERMAN H

Herman was born in Chicago and graduated from Glenbard High School in Glen Ellyn, IL. He then earned a BA in Economics from Blackburn College in Carlinville, IL and a JD from Northwestern University. After college he was a submarine officer for four years because he had a wife and baby, and the submarine pay of \$100.00 per month was significant at the time.

Herman's career then turned to Underwriting, becoming an Assistant States Attorney, going into private law practice, becoming a Circuit Judge, Appellate Court Judge, Chief Judge, a Public Defender, Mediator and currently he is a Foreclosure Mediation Specialist. His career was all

in Chicago except for the time in the Navy which took him to Groton, CT, Norfolk, Va. and Charleston, SC.

Herman and Shelly had a winter home in Belen. He and Shelly were looking for an inexpensive place with milder winters. Sunrise Bluffs Community was such a place. When they decided on a retirement location they decided on Placitas after driving around the area, eating at the Placitas Café and meeting just the kind of people with whom they wanted to spend their retirement.

Herman has two children. Sharon is a research biologist working on the Great Lakes Water Study but is currently a stay-at-home Mom to her two children. Son Matt is a CPA and principal at his firm in Wichita, KS.

Herman's favorite job was as a Circuit Judge in Illinois for thirty years, because he was able to help people who found themselves in a bad situation. At first he traveled around but then it became a single county circuit so he spent most of his time in Will County, IL. For the two years he was an Appellate Judge he traveled to Ottawa, IL which was fifty miles away.

His favorite hobbies now are woodworking and travel. So far Herman has built his bedroom set, tables in the living room, his grandson's bedroom furniture, office furniture and his latest project was the entry table in the foyer.

Herman's fifteen minutes of fame was when he got to work with State Senator Barack Obama on some Juvenile Legislation.

The person Herman would most like to have met is Dwight Eisenhower because unlike many of our present public officials, Dwight put country and getting the job done over partisan politics. Also, he had an amazing gift for helping people who were very different, work together.

Herman's best trip was to New Zealand. It was the most beautiful place he had ever seen as well as having the nicest people he had ever met. His most amazing trip was a Hurtigruten Cruise through the Fjords and Lofoten islands of Norway. The ship was very small and was able to maneuver in and out of very small harbors delivering everything from sewer pipes to cars. Every village where the ship docked was only accessible by water – an amazing experience.



Herman's bucket list includes visiting Iceland, improving his Italian so he is fluent and also viewing a baseball game in every park.

In case of a fire, he would grab his dogs, his dad's watch and his computer – he is not much of a 'stuff' person.

The five things Herman wouldn't want to have to live without are: his computer, his Loftstrand Crutch, a vehicle, classical music and green chili chicken stew.

Herman's favorite parts about LPPC are Drew Henry and the people in the congregation.

~Wendy I
~Betty C

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Former church members, Joyce and Dick M would like to sell two cemetery plots that they do not plan to use. These plots are located in Sandia Memory Gardens, a cemetery in Albuquerque currently under the auspices of Daniels Family Funeral Services. The asking price is \$5,000. The price includes: two plots with outer burial containers and linens; opening and closing of plots; one monument (flat) with names—44"x14." Contact the church office (867-5718) if you would like more information.

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Monday, February 24th at noon

FEBRUARY Calendar Highlights

- Sun Feb 2 **4th Sunday after Epiphany Communion**
Early worship service, 8:30am
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided; Sunday School Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Feb 3 Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm

- Wed Feb 5 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun Feb 9 **5th Sunday after Epiphany**
Early worship service, 8:30am
Adult Forum resumes, 9:15am
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided; Sunday School Fellowship follows this service
- Session meets to welcome new members, 11:45am, Upper Room
- Mon Feb 10 Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm
- Wed, Feb 12 Bible Study, 10-11:30am, Upper Room
- Sun Feb 16 **6th Sunday after Epiphany**
Early worship service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided—Sunday School Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Feb 17 Presidents' Day
Church Office is closed
- Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm
- Sun Feb 23 **7th Sunday after Epiphany Heritage Sunday—120th Birthday of LPPC**
Early worship service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided—Sunday School Fellowship follows this service
- Mon, Feb 24 Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm
- Wed, Feb 26 Bible Study, 10-11:30am, Upper Room

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