



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2014

Semper Transformanda

March marks the beginning of the 121st year of the Presbyterian Church at Las Placitas. For twelve decades now we have been engaged in Christian ministry here in this village. It is remarkable to imagine the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us from generations past.

March 2014 also marks the beginning of the season of Lent. On March 5th we will gather for Ash Wednesday. The five Sundays of Lent will follow carrying us together towards Holy Week. Palm Sunday is April 13th this year. Easter Sunday is April 20th.

This season, and indeed the whole of our Christian faith, is all about transformation. *Transformata, semper transformanda* would be an equally appropriate motto for our lives. Transformed, always being transformed. Dynamic, not static.

While this congregation has been here since 1894, it does not take much to imagine the transformations Las Placitas Presbyterian Church has seen over the years. To name just a few: From a Spanish speaking church to a bilingual congregation; from a makeup of mainly long-time village families to the inclusion of newer, often anglo residents; from a two-room school house to today's church facilities; from a relatively remote, rural village to the current community of Placitas.

In our worship services we often use the Prayer of Jesus that John Philip Newell penned for the liturgies of Casa del Sol. One of the petitions of that prayer concludes "...lead us into new beginnings." As a congregation, we are in the process of exploring New Beginnings. Together we are assessing our current reality while listening and watching for the Spirit's guidance into a new future. The reality of our congregational life is that we are both an historic and a new church at the same time. *Ecclesia transformata, semper transformanda.*

Thanks be to God.

Peace, Drew

MARCH Texts and Topics

March 2 - Transfiguration "From the Mountain"
Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9

March 5 - Ash Wednesday "Transformation"
Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

March 9 - First Sunday in Lent "Led" Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11

March 16 - Second Sunday in Lent "Very truly, I tell you" Genesis 12:1-4; John 3:1-17

March 23 - Third Sunday in Lent "Knowing"
Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42

March 30 - Fourth Sunday in Lent "Seeing" 1 Samuel 16:1-13; John 9:1-41



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Ladies and Gentlemen...

Please give a warm welcome to members, Rhon and Margene! They showed up on our doorstep, that's to say into our Upper Room, during the Second Sunday Session gathering on February 9th. We are absolutely delighted, that after three years of attendance at LPPC, Rhon and Margene made the plunge!

Margene was born and raised in the small agricultural town of Gilroy (garlic capitol of the world) in Central California's San Joaquin Valley. A lifelong Presbyterian, she became interested in music at an early age, Margene mastered the French horn, drums, piano as well as the flute which she played in marching bands in both high school and college.

Rhon became a career military man joining the U.S. Air Force after high school and serving at military

posts all over the world. Spending nine years in Germany, Rhon retired after twenty-six years of service for our country. Currently Rhon is very involved in study of the Word through the international organization, Bible Study Fellowship. Now that you know a bit more about the Martins, be intentional in congratulating them and getting to know Rhon and Margene even better!

By the Numbers

Our Presbyterian Church’s General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky is now up-to-date with the statistical information for Las Placitas Church. During February’s Session meeting the **2013** data was approved for submittal to headquarters. In the event you’re interested in numbers, here are just a few:

Total Active Members	181
Female Members	114
Male Members	67
Christian Education (children)	32
Potential Giving Units (families)	115
Weekly Average Attendance	117

Our current total active member count now totals **184**, with the addition of new members Micki F-K and Margene and Rhon M. It may sound crazy to some, but I can’t get the number 200 out of my mind. What do you think?

~Bill L
Clerk of Session

**LPPC CELEBRATES
120 YEARS**

On Heritage Sunday, February 23, 2014, LPPC celebrated the 120th anniversary of its organization on February 25, 1894. On that long-ago Sunday all 95 adults present at the monthly church service in the Presbyterian Mission School voted to organize the Presbyterian Church at Las Placitas. For our 120th celebration, the following two projects were undertaken.



First, an updated brief history of the Church was written for the back cover of the Sunday Bulletin. This revised history replaces the decades-old history and more specifically ties LPPC’s history to other activities occurring in Placitas and the Territory of New Mexico in the 1700s and 1800s. It notes that LPPC was the 35th Presbyterian Church

established in the Territory of New Mexico and is the 17th of those early Presbyterian Churches still existing in the state of NM. The revised history also provides an abbreviated and up-to-date summary of the Church building construction.

Secondly, a five-panel display of the evolution of the LPPC Church buildings was assembled to describe through text and pictures the following:

- The one-room adobe building (1894-1930), with renovations occurring in 1913
- The new Church building in 1930 (current Upper Room)
- The major Church addition in 1984 that gave us a Fellowship Hall, new Sanctuary, indoor lavatories, and kitchen
- The significant Church addition in 2005 that gave us an administrative/educational wing, and code-compliant facilities, including a new kitchen and large restrooms.

As you take a look at the Church buildings history (displayed in the Fellowship Hall), we encourage long-time members to share any memories and newer members to share any questions with Sherrill Cloud or Wendy Ingram.

We are always open to creating new presentations, displays, and research projects on the rich history of LPPC. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

~Wendy I and Sherrill C

**April 5 Firewise
Placitas Fair and
Celebration**



There’ll be something for everyone at the **Firewise Placitas Fair** Saturday, April 5 from 10am – noon at the Placitas Community Center, 41 Camino de la Huertas.

Firewise Placitas is celebrating the Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District sponsorship of last year’s wood chipper events and matching grants that helped reduce wildfire risk around five Placitas homes. Enjoy cake and drinks, talk to property owners who had trees and vegetation thinned and pruned to create an acre of defensible space around their homes, find out how to be prepared for

emergencies, meet government officials and others who can answer questions, learn about 'go' packs, erosion control and firewise plants.

There will be activities and candy for children of all ages. There will be giveaways, including a free one-acre 'defensible space' assessment, usually \$50, to identify what can be done to the winner's property to reduce wildfire risk. You can meet local folks who can help make your property more firewise, clean up debris, remove dead wood, etc.

Come to the Fair, share in the celebration, learn a thing or two and you might just be surprised.

You can make a difference by helping make Placitas fire wise. Check us out at our gatherings between 10am – noon on Thursday, March 6 and 20, in the Collins Meeting Room of the Placitas Community Library. Contact Vicki Gottlieb, through the church office.



ADULT FORUM—March

Looking at Transfiguration, and Embracing a Life of Meaning

The Adult Forum meets each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Upper Room.

On March 2 the Adult Forum will be guided by Karl Gustafson as we read the story of Jesus' transfiguration, and then look and reflect on how it has been portrayed in art.

Beginning on March 9 we will be viewing and discussing the DVD series, *Embracing a Life of Meaning*, with Kathleen Norris and Tim Scorer. Best-selling author Kathleen Norris (*Dakota, The Cloister Walk, Amazing Grace*) provides a unique viewpoint of "what matters most," including these sessions:

1. Belief Matters: Why does belief matter? To what do we give our hearts? What is the

core message of what we believe—creeds or commitment? To what extent is to believe also "to believe"?

2. The Bible Matters: The Bible is our collective story. How is that story reflected in our daily lives? What is it about the Bible that always seems to address our present moment?
3. Community Matters: In community, individualism and imperfection meet grace and acceptance. What is our part in the Body of Christ?
4. Place Matters: In what ways is faith set within the physical space of home, church, land and people?
5. We Matter: What it means to remain in God's image and to counter our selfishness by embracing the world and its needs?

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 is reading: *The Age of the Spirit: How the Ghost of an Ancient Controversy Is Shaping the Church*, by Phyllis Tickle and Jon M. Sweeney. .

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

Join us at 7pm in the Upper Room.

~Karl G

CHILDREN

The children's Sunday School is currently following the curriculum, **WE BELIEVE**, which is published especially for use in the Presbyterian Church (USA). It has wonderful lessons using a child-centered, multiple intelligences approach. What does this mean? It means the lessons are designed to provide a basis for belief that is geared to how children learn through many senses and modalities. It is fun for the children and fun for the teachers!



Looking forward to the upcoming events, the teachers are planning for ***LPPC Parable Productions*** as the theme for the Vacation Bible School (VBS). The dates of VBS are July 13-17. Sunday will be a kick-off dinner and introduction. Monday through Thursday will have fun activities based on the parables. We welcome any volunteers (no experience teaching needed), for either the whole VBS or part!

The Presbytery of Santa Fe is hosting a Senior High School Retreat at Ghost Ranch this spring, Friday, March 7 through Sunday, March 9. The cost for our three students who are of age to attend will be borne by the church. The theme, ***Family Matters: Exploring the relationship of Jacob and Esau and the issues of our modern families***, is very applicable to those in high school and to our modern age.

The youth will once again be selling See's candy for Easter. The money they earn will be used to help pay for the week this summer at Ghost Ranch. This is a wonderful way to support our youth and to have a treat for one's self besides. Be on the lookout for their table soon for the delicious See's candy fund raiser!

We thank all of you who have so lovingly contributed with time, money and talents to the Christian Education of our youth! We are so lucky to have you and them in this adventure together!

~Meredith L
Christian Education Teacher

Upcoming Event: A Day with Diana Butler Bass

The New Mexico Conference of Churches, in cooperation with Called Back to the Well, and the Bosque Center, is hosting a day-long conference with Diana Butler Bass on **Saturday, May 3**.



Diana Butler Bass is an author, speaker, scholar and teacher who specializes in religion and culture. The author of eight books, her most recent being, ***Christianity after Religion: The End of the Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening***, Diana wrestles deeply with the changing role of the Christian faith in a postmodern era and offers a hope-filled approach to faith today.

This presentation is part of the *Congregational Vitality Series* being offered by the NM Conference of Churches, and is the first of two events with Diana Butler Bass. The second will be on October 18 of this year. The May 3 event goes from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bosque Center, 6400 Coors Blvd, NW (just north of Sagebrush Church). Cost for the day is \$35, with lunch included. Registration is now open via www.nmchurches.org/register.

MISSION NEWS

The Mission Committee is collecting household goods and furniture for The Refugee & Asylee Programs. These programs are dedicated to helping vulnerable individuals and families rebuild their lives, equipping them to achieve self-sufficiency within their first year in the United States by fostering integration into their new communities. Last year the agency helped over 1,200 refugees, asylees and victims of trafficking in New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana, making it the largest such program in the Rocky Mountain region.

Clean out that garage and get ready for summer. Look for furnishings, kitchen items, linens and other household items, cleaning supplies, toiletries and food. All of you can help in different ways. Any questions I am at church most Sundays.

Call Jeannine P through the church office to arrange for a pick-up of your goods or you can deliver them yourself.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The Fellowship committee will sponsor a dinner of Irish baked potatoes, salad and lots of toppings for the potatoes, cookies and a beverage to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, March 15, from 5 to 7:30pm



Entertainment for the evening will be:

Live with John Bullock and John Davis

A donation of \$5 will be accepted at the door. Please come join your friends for an evening of fun, good food and fellowship.

~The Fellowship Committee

LPPC's Vernal Equinox Celebration - "In the Praise of the Creator"

In the praise of the Creator
In the presence of the Savior
In the power of the Spirit,
We come.

-- Celtic prayer



The Earthcare Fellowship at LPPC invites the congregation and friends to join us on Sunday, March 23, at 8:30 a.m., for a celebration of the Vernal Equinox in the Memorial Garden at LPPC (weather permitting). This will be in place of the regular early service. In the spirit of the season, the celebration will draw on Celtic Christian themes as we reflect on the shift of the seasons and the balance of day and night.

MEMBER PROFILE RUTH W

Ruth was born in Norwalk, Ohio – the closest hospital to the family farm in Wakeman, which is forty miles from Cleveland. Her Dad was a chef and her Mom was a dietician. They had several restaurants over the years, and farmed and raised chickens on property that Ruth's great, great grandfather homesteaded. Ruth graduated from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio majoring in speech



and hearing pathology. She thinks she developed this interest because her Dad was deaf due to the usual practice of reusing needles when he was inducted into the Army; many other soldiers died from the resulting spinal meningitis.

Ruth spent five years working with severely disabled children helping them with their language development at the Columbus State School for the mentally disabled.

After Ruth's Dad passed away when she was 18, her Mom joined the Peace Corps in the late 60's when it was so popular. She volunteered in the jungles of Borneo for two and a half years and was a primary school curriculum advisor. Ruth and her sister visited their mom for a month and then traveled in that part of the world for another month. This opened up the world for Ruth.

Back home in Columbus, Ruth, through family friends, got involved in learning how to program computers (IBM System 3). She worked at this for four-five years and this opened many more doors as she saw how companies worked. She decided to become a CPA through a degree from Ohio State and worked for various companies including her own for twenty years.

Accountants love round numbers so this round number of twenty years told Ruth that it was time to start something new. She sold everything, including her business and joined the Peace Corps in 2000. She went to Guatemala where she was a business marketing consultant in a small village. She helped them market their dehydrated lemons to the Middle East. When she completed her time there, she didn't want to return to the inclement weather in Ohio so joined a friend in Mesilla, NM for six months. She decided she loved NM!

Then the Peace Corps came calling again – this time with a paying job. She moved to Turkmenistan for three years where she was the administrative officer for the Peace Corps there.

In 2006, she had her small amount of belongings shipped from Columbus to Albuquerque to check out living here. She decided to apply for a federal government job so that when she was 62 she would have had enough years in to be covered by health insurance in retirement. She worked for the Defense Contract Audit Agency auditing large defense contractors. Ruth officially retired in 2011.

She had purchased her current home (Jane H's former home) in July 2010. She had discovered Placitas years ago and loved the wide open spaces. She knew she wanted a house where she could see the sun rise and set.

Ruth's favorite job was with the Peace Corps in Guatemala because it was such a challenge to learn a new language and culture. Their slogan is correct – it is the toughest job you'll ever love! Her hobbies now are travel, bird watching, wildlife rehabilitation and Casa Rosa.

If she could meet anyone in history, it would be Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a suffragette who said, *"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal."*

In May, Ruth and her sister will travel in Spain including a two week walk organized by Road Scholar on the Camino de Santiago.

In an emergency, Ruth would only grab one thing – her passport!

Her reasons for loving LPPC are the friendly welcoming congregation and its sense of community.

~Wendy I
~Betty C



Before retiring on Saturday, March 8th, set your clocks ahead one hour. Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9th.

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ALL women are invited to the Spring Gathering of the Presbyterian Women on March 29th at First Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. The program and registration forms will be sent to our church later in March. Let the church office know if you'd like to register (867-5718).

Wild Grace: Exploring Volcanoes and Petroglyphs

**Saturday, March 15, 9am-noon
Young people (7-12) with parents,
grandparents, adult mentors**

A wonderful multi-faith based outing kicking off the *Wild Grace* program initiated by New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light and area faith communities. Join us at the Petroglyph National Monument in Albuquerque - this program is on top of the mesa in the volcano area.

George and Marchell Schuman are geologists who will offer teachings about earth in our place. Teresa will do storytelling. The event also includes time to explore, reflection and prayer appropriate for young people.

Bring a sack lunch for the end of the event. E-mail any questions to Rev. Jennifer Phillips, wildgrace2@gmail.com. RSVP to same e-mail by March 10 to reserve your place.

This is a nature experience, please leave electronics at home.

**Las Placitas Presbyterian Church
PO Box 768, Placitas, NM 87043**

**Rev. Drew M. Henry, Pastor
E-mail: pastor@lasplacitaschurch.org**

**Cory Franklin, Administrator
505-867-5718 ~ lpccaa@lasplacitaschurch.org**

**APRIL NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
Wednesday, March 26th at noon**

MARCH Calendar Highlights

Sun Mar 2 **Transfiguration of the Lord
Communion**
Early worship service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am, Upper Room
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided; Sunday School
Fellowship follows this service

Health Fair, 11:30am

Mon Mar 3 Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm

Wed Mar 5 Ash Wednesday service, 7pm

Thurs Mar 6 Women's Prayer Circle, 7:30pm

Sun Mar 9 **1st Sunday in Lent
Daylight Saving Begins**
Early worship service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am, Upper Room
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided; Sunday School
Fellowship follows this service

Session meets to welcome new
members, 11:45am, Upper Room

Mon Mar 10 Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm

Wed, Mar 12 Bible Study, 10-11:30am,
Upper Room

Sat Mar 15 St. Patrick's Day Dinner, 5-7:30pm

Sun Mar 16 **2nd Sunday in Lent**
Early worship service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided—Sunday School
Fellowship follows this service

Mon Mar 17 Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm

Thurs Mar 20 Women's Prayer Circle, 7:30pm

Sun Mar 23 **3rd Sunday in Lent**
Vernal Equinox service, Memorial
Garden, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided—Sunday School
Fellowship follows this service

Mon, Mar 24 Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm

Sun Mar 30 **4th Sunday in Lent**
Early worship service, 8:30am
Adult Forum, 9:15am
Second worship service, 10:30am
Nursery provided—Sunday School
Fellowship follows this service

Mon Mar 31 Monday Night Adult Study, 7pm