

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship Services 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Contact us: 505-867-5718
administrator@lasplacitaschurch.org
lasplacitaschurch.org

Sunday Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.

April 3rd & 10th: Jonah 1 –
“Reluctant Prophets & Faithful
Foreigners”

April 10th: Jonah 2 –
“Taking Up Space in a Fish Named
Grace”

April 17th: Guest Dr. David Scrase –
“LPPC Cares about your Heart (and
you should too!)”

April 24th: Earth Day Sabbath

Adult Forum April - May

Easter tide is a good time to examine some biblical humor. We will be looking at a Bible Study on Jonah by biblical scholar Carol Bechtel who teaches Old Testament at Western Seminary in Holland, Michigan. Dr. Bechtel's "read" of Jonah is that it was originally intended and written as a meaningful spoof, full of exaggeration and word play that make it fun to hear and read, and yet be something that still speaks meaningfully to God's people.

On April 17th, we will take a break for a presentation by Dr. David Scrase and the Health Ministries Partnership, this time on heart health. This will be followed by an Earth Day Sabbath presentation (to be determined) on April 24th.

In May we will return to the Jonah study. May 15th will be the last Adult Forum for the Spring. We will resume after Labor Day.

The Adult Forum meets at approximately 9:15 a.m., following the early service, in the Upper Room.

Schedule:

April 3: Jonah 1 - "Reluctant Prophets and Faithful Foreigners"

April 10: Jonah 2 - "Taking Up Space in a Fish Named Grace"

April 17: "LPPC Cares about your Heart (and you should too!)" - Dr. David Scrase (meet in sanctuary)

April 24: Earth Day Sabbath (to be announced)

May 1: Jonah 3 - "Once More, with Feeling?"

May 8: No Class

May 15: Jonah 4 - "God's Extravagant Grace"

~ Rev. Ken Cuthbertson

The Session

Repair or Replace?

That's an age-old question that Session addressed at the March 8th meeting regarding our church sanctuary roof. With the approximate cost of \$6,000 for the material and labor to coat* the sanctuary roof, Session concluded that reroofing was a far more advantageous and permanent solution to our leaking roof woes. Mr. Leland Bowen, project manager when the previous roof was installed in 1985 has agreed to supervise this 2016 sanctuary roof effort. Martha Ritchie, Building Committee chair, agreed to contact Rome Mazza of Cornerstone Roofing Inc. ** and set-up a job walk to secure a quote for the new roof. Rev. Henry stated that it is our moral responsibility to maintain the church infrastructure for future generations.

Note: During Elder Martha Ritchie's committee report at the February 9th Session meeting she presented this roof repair opportunity to Session. Elder Bill Lumm volunteered to further investigate the validity of this product/coating versus roof replacement.

*Research indicates the very best coating product is EDPM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer), essentially a liquid rubber.

** Cornerstone Roofing facilitated minor repairs to various areas of the Upper Room roof in 2014 to lasting effect. Additionally several LPPC members have employed this company to a positive end.

New Officer Training!

The elders and deacons you elected during our January 31st Annual Congregational Meeting recently joined Instructor Rev. Drew Henry for training in the Upper Room. Course work, which began at 9:00 a.m., concluded about noon on Saturday, March 19th. The following new elders: Trip Jennings (Class of 2016), and Dan Lawrence (Class of 2018); and new deacons: Ellen Baker (Class of 2016), Sue Hoff (Class of 2018), Joyce Hoses (Class of 2016), and Pat Quick (Class of 2018) attended.

Rev. Henry noted the next Stated Session meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, April 12th, will be a joint elder/deacon occasion, beginning at 6:30 p.m., also in the Upper Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Lumm
Clerk of Session

Childrens' Christian Education

Thank you to everyone who made the Easter activities this year a huge success. Our youth led the activities for the younger elementary children and toddlers. They helped fill and hide the plastic Easter eggs. Dana Douglas did a beautiful job reading a children's picture book explaining the events of the First Easter. Missy Hopkins led the Annual Easter Bingo game with the youth handing out prizes as each child won. Then this sweet youth group helped all the children with a tie-dyed Easter egg project. It is always a pleasure to watch our youth help the younger toddlers find the eggs. A huge thank you to Chantel Tarin who then led the youth in a scavenger hunt of their own. All had a great time! We want to thank this congregation who donated the plastic eggs, candy and toys once again. We appreciate how you continue to help make Sunday School so much fun for our children.

April 10th, 9:15 a.m. in the kitchen, Diane Shepard has offered to give our youth a cooking class. The youth voted and chose "Super Smoothies". She will teach them how to make a healthy smoothie for breakfast, lunch or a snack. Our youth will then serve smoothies to the congregation after the 10:30 service along with scones prepared by some of the adults.

As the congregation is enjoying their smoothie on April 10th, a Mini Silent Auction will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Yes, we are once again fund raising for the retreats this summer. This time we have donations of beautiful artwork. We have a watercolor by Secundino Sandoval, a stereogram by Gary Priestler, New Mexico photography by Helen Johnson, California

Poppies by Shelly Fritz and more. We have three beautiful baskets to auction off: “Chocolate Lovers” basket, “Family Game Night” basket, and a “Wine and Cheese” basket. Come join the fun!

We are getting our youth ready for Triennium this summer! Titus Ortiz, a wonderful former LPPC Youth and Triennium attendee, will be coming on Sunday, April 24th, to talk with all youth during Sunday School about his experiences at Triennium. He will also be talking with be our youths’ families and other interested individuals after the service in the Upper Room. Come find out what this incredible experience called Triennium is all about!

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

Health Ministry Partnership

Spring Health “Housecleaning”

Once most of us recover from the juniper and mulberry allergies, we’re often celebrating spring, spending more time outside, and also spring cleaning. As part of spring cleaning, we often go through our homes to see what we can donate, throw out, clean or change. We can do the same things with our health. Use spring for a time to check up on your health and what you’re doing to promote your health. Here are a few tips:

Develop a health file, which could be part of your LPPC Life File. Life Files are available through the church office. List your health issues, doctor/s, medications and other health related information that could be helpful to your relatives. Then, think about doing an inventory of how you support and maintain your health. Are you scheduling regular visits with your health care professional, and following through with their suggestions? Are you taking medications as prescribed? What health issues do you think you might face in the next few years? As we age, we find that we are more susceptible to falls,

problems with eyesight, and we move more slowly (however, we are often wiser!).

What are you doing to take good care of your physical health? How is your nutrition, and can you do some things to improve your nutrition? How is your physical strength and flexibility? No matter what age we are, exercise is a very important part of physical health. However, when we’re busy, it’s often the first thing we set aside, thinking that “tomorrow, I’ll catch up.” Develop an exercise program that fits with your lifestyle, and work it!

Taking care of your mental, emotional and spiritual health is as important as taking care of physical health and there are a number of things one can do to reduce stress and build spiritual capacity. Prayer and meditation have incredibly positive effects upon our mental, emotional, spiritual and physical health. You can even integrate prayer and meditation with light exercise in a walking meditation!

On April 17th, Dr. David Scrase will offer another Adult Forum on building health, called ***LPPC Cares About Your Heart – And So Should You!*** Please join us in the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. for this wonderful event.

And, watch for new activities including an upcoming healthy eating fellowship hour on April 10th featuring smoothies made by our youth.

~ Your friends in HMP

Member Profile

Trip Jennings

Trip was born in Augusta, GA and lived there for 29 years. Guy E. Jennings III is his given name. He’s a third; hence “Trip” – it’s a Southern thing! He attended University of Georgia for three years and Augusta State University for another 3 years (he had a really good time at UGA!). He earned a degree in Mass Communication. His first position was in his hometown as a news reporter for the Augusta Chronicle for six years. After that he

moved to Stockton, CA and worked for the Stockton Record for 3 years. From CA to FL he worked at the Daytona Beach News-Journal. Trip took a break from journalism and earned a Masters in Divinity at the Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. His Mom earned the same degree there 10 years earlier and introduced Trip to this way of critical thinking. Then he moved to Naugatuck, CT. (near Waterbury) where he worked for the Waterbury Republican American for 6 years. He was there during a very challenging and stressful time. He reported on 9/11 and the anthrax scare. One of the 5 people killed by anthrax lived 10 miles from his house and the governor of Connecticut, who was under federal investigation, eventually went to federal prison for corruption.

In 2005, Trip moved to NM and worked for the Albuquerque Journal from 2005-2008. From 2008-2010 he worked for the State's first online newspaper, from 2010 – 2012 for the Santa Fe New Mexican and currently he is the executive director of New Mexico In Depth – a non-profit news outlet online with partnerships with KNME, KUNM and several newspapers in the state.

Trip and his wife, Mary Helen Aguirre, have two children – William (16) and Kathryn (12).

His favorite job would probably be when he was in Connecticut at such an intense, history-making time; he was able to research and write about it. Trip's favorite things are reading, conversation, staying fit, and travel.

His 15 minutes of fame would be when he was reporting about Governor Bill Richardson having to withdraw from being appointed Commerce Secretary under President Obama due to the corruption scandal with Richardson's administration. Trip was quoted on some of the things he had said to Ted Robbins of *NPR-All Things Considered*, regarding Richardson's persona.

Trip would like to meet Jesus and have a conversation about what has been written about

Him, how He lived his life and about the people that follow Him.

The most meaningful trip that Trip (oxymoron?) had was to Uxmal in Southern Mexico in 1999. It is a lost Mayan city covered over by the jungle now. This was part of his seminary study. He was there three weeks and his observations were, to him, put in the same category as his seeing the Pieta, Sistine Chapel, walking through Florence and the Tivoli Gardens outside Rome.

Trip loves to travel and would like to see Iceland, sub Saharan Africa, China, Russia, and Vietnam to name a few. He is curious about the world, loves and reads books on history, literature, etc.

If there were a fire, he would grab his computer. One thing he would like to do is hike the Appalachian Trail. Some of his favorite things are books, other people (conversation), computers, dim sum, and doing careful research on avenues of faith and secular history on the internet.

Trip enjoys attending LPPC because it gives him space to be his inquisitive self and to experience the example of a dual and loving community. Trip and family came to LPPC when a friend from the Santa Fe Opera mentioned to him that he would love LPPC. That was a few years ago, and when he and his wife attended the Opera more recently, his friend introduced him to the Dickson's. After the encounter, Trip came to LPPC the next day! His family attended the Sunday after and have been here ever since.

What you may not know about Trip – he was raised a Southern Baptist and went to seminary at the encouragement of his mother who always influenced him and his brothers to question and to learn. His mother is now a Presbyterian Minister! Another thing, he was introduced to Maria Von Trapp, whose story was depicted in the Sound of Music, at her Vermont Inn. It was thrilling for him and his parents.

~ Betty Closser & Wendy Ingram
