



B. Bowen

The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

AUGUST 2013

Una Casa Rosa

A Lutheran pastoral counselor once said to me: "God uses the manure in our lives to cultivate rose gardens."



The acquisition of the pink house just east of the church some ten or fifteen years ago lifted an aroma of tension that did not always smell like roses. The church was in need of additional space. The home which belonged to members of the DeLara family was purchased with the intention of remodeling it for use as classrooms, offices, and meeting space.

A number of issues were later discovered that complicated the adaptation of the house for those purposes. A church expansion committee was established. Their work eventually led to the construction of our most recent addition. This expansion met many of the growing needs of the congregation. The use of the DeLara house, however, had not yet been determined.

In challenging times of transition in both the church and the community, a new idea arose that envisioned the home being utilized to meet some of the needs in the wider community. The church's small food pantry had been outgrown, and hard economic times brought more and more hunger into homes in our community.

A process of discernment and mission reflection led to the birth of what we now know as Casa Rosa. From its inception members of the church and the wider community partnered together to build this food bank into the model that it is today. Real needs are met each week and community continues to grow in and around Casa Rosa.

This month we celebrate five years of the initial cultivation of this "rose garden." Volunteers have

come and gone. Leaders have effectively passed on their charge. Who knows how many pounds of groceries have been carried home. Let us pause to give thanks and stop for a moment to smell the roses.

Peace, Drew

AUGUST Texts and Topics

August 4 - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost "Put to the Test" Luke 12:13-21; Galatians 4:12-20

August 11 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost "Faith Expressed in Love" Luke 12:32-40; Galatians 5:1-15

August 18 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost "Live by the Spirit" Luke 12:49-56; Galatians 5:16-26

August 25 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost "Reap what you Sow" Luke 13:10-17; Galatians 6:1-10

Children's Christian Education



We are thrilled to report a wonderful summer of activities for our children. In June, six of our youth: Missy, Annabella, Claire, Dana, Santiago and Jacob traveled with chaperones Elizabeth D. and Beth S. to Ghost Ranch for Youth Week. The guest leader was Claudio Carvalhaes, Brazilian theologian and artist who lead the youth from all over the country on many activities to discuss **Jesus – Who Do You Say That I Am?** The kids participated in mission work, hikes, music and art, visits to the local mosque, swimming and many wonderful group building activities and worship of many forms. Everyone can't wait to go again next year – thank

you to everyone who offered their prayers and financial support to our youth group.

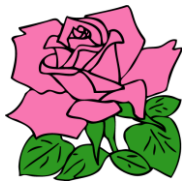
Vacation Bible School Adventure was held during the evenings of July 14 – 18 as we explored **God Calls Us around the World**. We had 31 children here to ride the imaginary LPPC Airlines plane in the Upper Room and travel to a different country each night: Guatemala, Malawi, Philippines, and Argentina. As their passports were stamped and guest speakers shared their stories, the children explored what it meant to be a missionary in each of these fascinating countries, including the food, music, art projects, games and stories. The last evening was celebrated as a volcano from each country was exploded and gifts were shared. A huge thank you to our fabulous leader, Sally G and her amazing team of volunteers for putting on such a fantastic week of learning and fun!

Our Sunday School program is scheduled to begin again in September as our church schedule moves from summer into fall. Look for our volunteer postings—we need you! We will be holding a teacher orientation before classes start. Whether you would like to lead a class in Sunday School with our young group (Kindergarten – 2nd grade) or with our older group (3rd grade and up), or if you would just like to assist in the class with art projects and lessons, please contact Sally G or Elizabeth D through the church office with any questions. We are also hoping to schedule a confirmation class for our youth this year. We would love your help to keep the love of God alive in our children!

~Elizabeth D
Children's Christian Education Committee

CASA ROSA NEWS

Back before there was a Casa Rosa there was Grandma Elsie. (Of course, there still is a Grandma Elsie, Gracias a Dios.) Those who needed to know, knew that Elsie DeLara left food on the stove and cookies on the table. Many of our clients still call her Grandma.



Now, you all know that Elsie does not like to be the focus of attention as she quietly goes about knitting the fabric that holds this community together. Most of you have heard her say, "I'm a newcomer here; I married into Placitas – I was not born here." So Elsie, this story is not about you – it is about the inspiration you have been and what that inspiration has done for our community.

It has been five years since the first food distribution at Casa Rosa Food Bank—August 30, 2008. We will be celebrating our anniversary with the church congregation on **Sunday, August 4 after the 9:30am service** as we open the doors and invite you all to walk through and see what it has become. We'll serve refreshments and welcome your stories of how this all happened. So many people were involved, so many hours of labor invested, so much hunger has been relieved. It's a remarkable thing – come celebrate with us. You are also invited to join us for our client and volunteer anniversary party during the food distribution on **Saturday August 24 from 9 am to 11 am**. We'll fire up the grill and serve up ice cream and cake.

Here's the way our clients Sunshine and Denys tell the story of the beginning. They lived in the village then and would go to Bernalillo Baptist Church to their food pantry. They would wait until the distribution was over and then bring the leftovers back to Placitas. Charles D helped, since he had the truck. This food and other food that could be scrounged was distributed to all who were hungry. One day Elsie flagged down Sunshine and Denys and said there was going to be a meeting at the church to talk about starting a food pantry—would they come? They did and gave testimony to the community need.

Ellen B remembers attending a Congregational meeting wherein Pastor Elizabeth Lyman was encouraging the congregation to reach out to the wider community beyond LPPC. Ellen raised her hand to suggest there was need for a food bank. And so it all began—with Ellen's determination and hard work. From that initial meeting came the inspiration and courage to create Casa Rosa.



Bill L and Chris B were recruited and put to work. Many hands held paint brushes—we especially remember Wendy Ingram's eye-popping pink paint! Charlotte L was a major key in the early organization and systematization of Casa Rosa.

The church purchased the building in 2000—it was being used mainly for storage and it was determined that with some renovation it could be used as a food pantry. "Some renovation" is an understatement. As with many remodels it took on a life of its own. Tom L was living in Placitas part-time but became one of the key drivers of the

renovation. In September 2009 a friend of Tom's came to visit and wanted a project so Tom took him to look at the house. Inspections were done and plans were made. The project was on! Remember the generosity of the ten members of Grosse Ile (Michigan) Presbyterian Church? They came in September 2010 and, working alongside LPPC members, Casa Rosa clients, Placitenos James G, Matt G, and yes, Grandma Elsie, they transformed the old pink house into Casa Rosa.

So many people have helped—have donated unthanked hours and uncounted dollars—have donated thousands of pounds of food—have relieved so much hunger. (See the last page of this newsletter for photos of some of the many folks seen at Casa Rosa.)

“... And may God bless you with just enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others say cannot be done.”

~ Ruth W
Casa Rosa Board of Directors



Interested in photography?

Join us in the Library on Sunday, August 11th following worship to talk about how we might learn together about the world around us by using our cameras. The meeting won't last long. It is just to assess interest.

~Peter F-K

Love In the Name of Christ, (Love INC), is a non-profit organization in Albuquerque that provides household items to those in need: beds, dressers, kitchen tables, couches etc.



For our fall fundraiser, “**Love INC’s BLING show!**” we are looking for donations of new and used jewelry, purses and scarves to sell. We’ve all got jewelry we don’t wear, or we’ve received a gift that is just “not us” that could be sold to raise money for this great organization.

There will be a purple collection box at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church from August 7-21 for your

donations. Questions? Please contact Janet at www.loveincabq.org.

COMFORT & JOY PRAYER SHAWL CIRCLE MEETING

The Comfort & Joy Prayer Shawl Circle will meet Saturday, August 10 at 10:30am at LPPC. Knitters, crocheters, weavers, and other non-crafty helpers are always welcome. Requests for shawls to comfort those who are ill, grieving, or otherwise in need of comfort may be submitted to Pastor Drew or the Deacons. Contact Eda W through the church office for more information (867-5718).

The New LPPC Online Photo Directory will be rolling out in mid September. You will be able to access it from our website with password protection and you can download an app to your smart phone, tablet or computer so you will have the contacts with you at all times. On Sunday, September 15 and 22, there will be demonstrations in Fellowship Hall after church to show you how easy it is to use. We would like you to check your contact information at that time and give any corrections to Cory (867-5718 or lppcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org) right away so that both the annual LPPC Directory that will also be distributed at the end of September and the online photo directory will be correct.

Our goal is to have 100% of our members/friends on our online church directory. Therefore, if you haven't had your photo taken, we encourage you to do so before the September dates. Please see Wendy, or Russell to schedule your photo session after one of our Sunday morning services.

We are looking forward to introducing this new communication tool to you.

~Wendy I and Russell M
Membership committee

Bible Study returns to LPPC!

Beginning on Wednesday, September 11th, from 10-11:30am in the Upper Room, Karl G will host a twice monthly conversation about things Biblical. He is suggesting that the Book of Genesis be the center of attention for the Fall. Bring your faith and your doubts, your heart and your mind, and join



some others who want to engage with that strange and wonderful text that is the foundation of our life together. The group will meet throughout the Fall on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Please join us!

MEMBER PROFILE

KEN C



Ken was born to a farming family in Girard, Kansas and lived there through high school. His family has had the family farm since about 1877, and his nephew still lives there. Ken grew up as a member of the Osage Presbyterian Church outside of Girard. The church was founded by families who originally came from Fenwick, Scotland, to Illinois in the 1830's, and then in the 1870's the younger generation moved west to Girard where the land was more affordable. Ken's father, and one of his grandfathers, were Presbyterian Elders.

Ken graduated in 1978 from Sterling College in Sterling, Kansas, with a degree in Religious Studies and a minor in British Literature. Sterling is a Presbyterian-related college. Ken then went to Gordon-Conwell Seminary in South Hamilton, MA, for three years earning his Masters of Divinity. Billy Graham preached at his graduation ceremony. Ken was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in 1982 at Osage, his home church.

After seminary Ken moved back to Sterling to become the chaplain at the college for two years. His next move was to Iowa City, Iowa, attending the University of Iowa from 1984-1989 where he earned his PhD in Church History at the School of Religion. While he was writing his dissertation, he moved to Chicago (where Doug was living) and was interim pastor for four years at a small church (Trinity Presbyterian Church) in Northlake, IL, which was very near to O'Hare Airport.

In 1993 Ken and Doug were both ready to make a change, and realized they could live anywhere they chose. Doug had a history in New Mexico so they moved to Cedar Crest (in the East Mountains). They then moved down into Albuquerque in 1999. Since moving to New Mexico, Ken has been a ministerial jack-of-all-trades including a spiritual director, teaching for TVI (CNM) and for the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry, and leading retreats. He was a Parish Associate at New Life

Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque from 1997 – 2001.

Ken began attending LPPC in 2003 because of his friendship with Pastor Jane Harmes through the Presbytery of Santa Fe. Ken filled in for Jane when she was away on sabbatical for three months in 2004, and then Jane invited Ken to be Parish Associate from 2005 - 2007. Ken again filled in at LPPC for three months after Pastor Jane's retirement in 2007. Shortly after coming to Placitas in 2011, Pastor Drew also invited Ken to be Parish Associate. [In the Presbyterian Church (USA), a Parish Associate serves at the invitation of the pastor, with the concurrence of the Session and the Presbytery.]

Ken currently serves on the Presbytery of Santa Fe's Commission on Preparation for Ministry, which oversees both seminarians and elders seeking to be lay pastors. Ken has also been very active in teaching at Ghost Ranch, and serving as a member of the Advisory Team for the Casa del Sol Retreat House there.

Ken's favorite work is teaching, especially historical theology. He also taught world religions at CNM. Ken's hobbies include gardening, genealogy, and the British Royal Family. Ken and Doug's home has family heirlooms from both families, and the garden even has heirloom plants (lilacs, iris, and daylilies) from Ken's family farm. If he hadn't gone into the ministry, he would have pursued architecture, landscaping, or interior design. His favorite things include: dark chocolate, tea, red wine, flowers, books, and church.

Doug and Ken have been friends since 1976, and life partners since 1987. They married in Niagara Falls, NY, last year on their 25th anniversary of being together.

If he could have met anyone, past or present, Ken would have liked to know his great-grandmother who was the rock of the family. She was the bridge between the Scottish and US family members. The second person with whom Ken would have liked to talk would be Lincoln.

His favorite trip was to Scotland in 1988. He visited the village where his (and Doug's) ancestors are from and especially loved his day on the island of Iona where the sunlight on the sea was so special. He hopes to travel to Scotland again, with Doug, someday.

In the event of an emergency he would grab his grandparents' eight-day clock, several family teapots, and photos.

In May of this year Ken published his first (and probably only) book. The title is, ***The Last Presbyterian?: Remembering the Faith of My Forebears***. It is published by Resource Publications in Eugene, OR, and is available via Amazon as well as directly from the publisher. The best description is that it is a "historical-theological memoir" focused on the particular strain of Presbyterianism from which both Ken's and Doug's family originated.

Ken says that LPPC feels like a country church – like his in Girard. He also loves the music, especially the good congregational singing.

~Wendy I & Betty C

Book Signing by Ken Cuthbertson

On Sunday, August 18, during the coffee hour, Ken Cuthbertson will make a brief presentation on his recently published book, ***The Last Presbyterian? - Remembering the Faith of My Forebears***. Copies of the book will be available for purchase, and Ken will be signing them for those who wish. Here is the cover description of Ken's book:



“In a time when organized religion is suffering an identity crisis, the author of *The Last Presbyterian?* examines the faith culture that shaped him and his family over the last half millennium. Filled with historical, theological, and spiritual reflections and set in the context of both old family stories and current trends, Cuthbertson’s book addresses such timely issues as practicing faith within families, setting aside time for God, and the changing facets of leadership and discipleship within the Presbyterian tradition.

Starting with the “Psalm-singing, Sabbath-keeping, Shorter-Catechism-memorizing” branches of Scots-American Presbyterianism, this book offers an affectionate look back, and a hopeful look ahead to an emergent Presbyterianism coming to terms with issues such as LGBT ordination and same-gender marriage, interfaith relations, and care for the earth.”

AUGUST Calendar Highlights

- Sat Aug 3 Funeral Service, Leo W, 11am
- Sun Aug 4 **11th Sunday after Pentecost**
Communion is served
Single combined worship, 9:30am
(Nursery provided)
- Fellowship** follows this service at **Casa Rosa** as we celebrate the 5th anniversary of this community food shelf.
- Wed Aug 7 **Jardineros de Placitas**, 8am-2pm
Donations will be collected for back-to-school packs.
- Sun Aug 11 **12th Sunday after Pentecost**
Single combined worship, 9:30am
(Nursery provided)
Fellowship follows the service
- Photography** Interest group, Library
- Session** meets to welcome new members, 11am, Upper Room
- Sun Aug 18 **13th Sunday after Pentecost**
Baptism of Evangeline Sena
Single combined worship, 9:30am
(Nursery provided)
Fellowship follows the service
- Book Signing by Ken Cuthbertson of his new book, “**The Last Presbyterian?: Remembering the Faith of My Forebears**” follows service
- Sat Aug 24 **5th Anniversary Celebration** at Casa Rosa, 9-11am
- Sun Aug 25 **14th Sunday after Pentecost**
Single combined worship, 9:30am
(Nursery provided)
Fellowship follows the service

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*It Takes A Village
The creation of Casa Rosa*

