



The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

August

Thank You Casa Rosa

This month marks the 10th Anniversary of our community food pantry Casa Rosa. Thousands of meals have been served in countless Placitas homes over the past decade thanks to the dedication of the volunteers and generous donors who make Casa Rosa possible. You will find out more about the Casa Anniversary celebration in this issue. Please plan to join us on the morning of August 25th if you are able.

Casa Rosa is so much more than a food pantry. It is a gathering place, a connector of communities. Our support of Casa Rosa is also connected to our worship life, for having been fed at the Lord's Table we are sent out to feed others. The welcome offered weekly at Casa Rosa is an extension of the welcome offered to us all by Christ to join together at the Lord's Table.

In an "Invitation to Christ: A Guide to Sacramental Practices," we the members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) affirm - *The sacraments are not a prized possession of the church. They are gifts held by the church on behalf of all humanity. The movement of the sacraments is always twofold—into the center of the gathering and out again into the world. The sacraments invite us to a way of living that connects deeply to earth and to neighbor.*

We reflect upon our connection to our neighbor in this way:

Attending to these things, we cannot leave font or table without being changed. We must leave this place and go and work to ensure that all have enough to eat, enough water to drink and to keep clean, and a place to rest their heads. The sacraments issue in works of justice. The font and the table shape communities that are open to strangers, relate to one another as

equally made in God's image, and joyfully rehearse God's promised future.

A community whose existence is based on font and table cannot help but be a community that offers hospitality to the stranger and sanctuary to the refugee. The prophet invites us, "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!" So too we invite those who thirst for community, for forgiveness, for healing touch, for food and clothing and shelter.

Those who have been washed in the waters of baptism and fed at the table of the Lord know that the world continues to bear the marks of sin and brokenness. Washed and fed, we give witness to the redemptive love of God in Jesus Christ. Evangelism is the church's mission to share with a broken world the good news of God's saving grace. The sacraments do not turn us away from the needs of others in complacent satisfaction; they lead us back into the world with a greater hunger for righteousness. When Christians join the struggle for justice, for a world where all have enough to eat and all are honored and live in peace, they cry, "How long, O Lord?" More often than not, such communities testify that God may not come when we want, but God gets there on time.

The sacraments rehearse the way things ought to be, the way God has promised they will be—and in fact the way things already are, if only we have eyes to see. Practicing them, we become unable to be satisfied with less, with living in a world of violence and pain and discrimination and meaninglessness. And so we welcome the stranger and provide shelter to the refugee because we know that in God's future reign, all will sit together at the great welcome table.

Thank you Casa Rosa! Happy Anniversary!

Peace,

Drew

Upcoming Adult Forums

Adult Forum will NOT meet over the summer, beginning in June. We traditionally resume the Sunday after Labor Day.

Christian Education

What an exciting summer! In July our youth and two chaperons experienced Ghost Ranch. They spent the week connecting with the earth and learning our our faith is part of that connection. Each day was full of physical activities from Hiking to Archery along with spiritual services with daily community worship, and time for sharing the experiences of the day. Our youth had a week of growing together, experiencing decision making, time management and independence. Once again we thank the generous support of LPPC congregation for this gift of growing spiritually and physically in the beauty of Ghost Ranch.

August will be a time of organizing the “Sunday School 2018-2019 Year”. We invite anyone interested in teaching to contact Chantel Tarin. We have the most wonderful children and they will touch your heart.

Chantel Tarin

Updates

CASA ROSA FOOD PANTRY TO

CELEBRATE 10 YEARS ON AUGUST 25, 2018

Casa Rosa opened its doors on August 30, 2008 and will be holding its 10th anniversary celebration in August. This year’s annual celebration will be on Saturday August 25—starting during client food distribution (which takes place from 9-11am on Saturdays) and continuing after distribution is over. In the courtyard behind Casa Rosa, food will be plentiful—with a grill producing ribs, hamburgers, brats, and hot dogs to accompany the many side dishes and desserts. Serving of food will begin around 10:00 to 10:30 and continue to midday. As usual, there will be special activities for children.

As this is a special anniversary, we are expanding our invitation to the broader community and have invited the participation of many local businesses, who will be contributing food and prizes for the children.

Supporters of the Food Pantry are very welcome at the celebration, and **a special invitation is being extended to members and friends of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church.**

The volunteers and clients of Casa Rosa always enjoy this annual celebration, and we look forward to seeing you on August 25.

To: Our many Friends at Las Placitas
Presbyterian Church

From: Nancy and Wayne Ullery

June 27, 2018

As you all know by now Wayne and I have moved to Rock Hill, Mo near Webster Groves, Mo where our son and his family live. We are settling in our small 1947 bungalow home. It is perfect for us and we are so vey pleased with it all.

The neighborhood is very quiet, our street is short, green and tree lined. We have most of our things unpacked and have found a place for them in our new home. Wayne has already mowed the lawn with the battery powered lawn mower our son purchased to use at this home, which is his rental home.

We just want to thank all of you for your friendship and for the wonderful send off. Mindy's beautifully lap throw will be treasured. The reception after church put on by the Mission Committee was very nice. I know Jeannine Potter headed that and we both thank her for all she has done for this church.

The years at LPPC will be treasured in our hearts and bring us many wonderful memories. You all have made a big difference in our lives. One of my goals is to write my memories down. When I get the section done about LPPC I will send it to you.

Love and blessings to you all.
Nancy and Wayne Ullery

Help the Deacons provide meals to those in need: The deacons could still use help from church members to provide meals. There is a signup sheet on the cork board outside the sanctuary. Thanks so much. Sue E. Hoff, Moderator of Deacons, 505-404-1705.

**Member Profile
June/July 2018
DAVID SCRASE**

David was born in Detroit, MI and lived in the Southfield suburb until after high school graduation. He went to school in Ann Arbor, MI where he attended the University of Michigan. He graduated with a degree in Zoology which was the precursor to a medical degree. He also earned his Medical and Master's in Health Services Administration degrees at the University of Michigan, and practiced internal medicine in Ann Arbor for 17 years.

David was always fascinated with the southwest and started thinking about Denver, Phoenix, Salt Lake City or Albuquerque as possible places to advance his health administration career. He liked Albuquerque and decided to look around the area. He was checking out the East Mountains in February when someone mentioned a place called Placitas. Looking on a map he discovered a road from the East Mountains to Placitas. As most locals know the road is closed in February. So David's first experience to Placitas was slip sliding like a toboggan run to the bottom in a small rental car until he made it safely to Rte.165. He did find a house in La Mesa and has lived there since Cinco de Mayo, 1998.

He began working for Presbyterian Healthcare Services near the Sunport and was there for 12 years from 1998-2009 in the capacity of President, Presbyterian Health Plan and then Chief Operating Officer for Presbyterian Healthcare Services. He subsequently spent six years there in a half-time practice and was a consultant for the State Medicaid program from

2009-2015. His work focused on expanding coverage for treatment for Hepatitis C in the Medicaid program, which now covers treatment for all patients with hepatitis C.

In 2015, David moved to the UNM Medical School as a professor of Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. As the Chief of Geriatrics he works to help our state to plan healthcare strategies for the growing number of seniors here.

He has recently begun working on a new project to improve care in nursing facilities throughout New Mexico with UNM Project ECHO. Professionals from hospitals and nursing homes across the State have Skype-like meetings to discuss how to best take care of the aging population.

His research interest is in improving methods to monitor people still living at home to avoid hospitalization and to delay their need to live in a nursing home.

David and Chantel have 5 children. Charles has 3 children and is manager of the Google office in Ann Arbor. Rob lives in CA and works as an I.T. manager for Sutter, focusing on electronic medical records. Lindsey has 1 child and works for Google in CA. Jaycob is a junior at Menaul HS and Ashton is 13 and in the 8th grade at Menaul. David has a sister in Traverse City, MI and they enjoy sharing time together on his annual trip there every fall.

David doesn't have a favorite job – he has liked all of them because his goals have been taking care of people and improving healthcare systems.

David's hobbies are: biking, hiking, being outside, music and traveling. He loves serving on not for profit organization boards and being a mentor to executives and other individuals. He typically mentors 10 people at a time and meets them each about once a month. Many have become very successful in their lives.

His 15 minutes of fame was when he was in high school. This was during the Vietnam War era and the widespread protesting on college campuses.

He and some of his buddies began a program called "Protest Service for Minor Causes"! Their jobs included carrying posters and picketing in front of a house where the husband forgot his wife's birthday! Check out the article attached! He also gave the graduation speech at his Medical School after being selected by his peers. Now David is often asked to give talks all over the world on topics such as unusual patient diagnosis. He recently returned from giving one in Qatar and in Toulouse, France.

If he could meet anyone in history it would be David Bowie. He always followed his career and admired how he was always comfortable with himself, was always reinventing himself and was an inspiration for change.

David's travels have been many, but this year he has enjoyed Qatar, a religious state where there is no crime, and also Barcelona. On his bucket list is to permanently retire. He and Chantel plan to take a year off when the kids are out of high school to travel but will probably do it in two to four month trips. He also wants to attend more meditation retreats.

For the last 40 years he has gotten up at 4:40 each morning to meditate, read a daily short story, saying, or paragraph, and answers 5 questions in his journal. He says it makes him grounded and ready for the day. Something he wanted to do but never did – be a rock and roll star instead of a doctor. Instead, he chose to live a life of service. Five things he cannot live without – morning quiet time, outdoors, laughing hard (one of his quotes – "I am the chairperson of my own entertainment committee"), exercise and his mountain view in Placitas.

What David likes about LPPC is the opening music by Mindy – his way of relaxing and being in the moment. Also the choir, the sermons and the benediction.

Betty Closser

Wendy Ingram

Aug. 2018