



The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

February 2017

¡Bienvenidos!

Bienvenidos is the Spanish word for welcome. The spirit of welcome at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church is one of the most often cited reasons newcomers express for joining this congregation. What some might not know is that this welcome is rooted and grounded in profound theological belief.

The Hebrew Scriptures are very clear about how we are to welcome strangers. "The Lord your God is the God of all gods and Lord of all lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God who doesn't play favorites and doesn't take bribes. God enacts justice for orphans and widows, and God loves immigrants, giving them food and clothing. That means you must also love immigrants because you were immigrants in Egypt." (Deuteronomy 10:17-19 - CEB)

Jesus follows this tradition clearly in his teachings found in the Gospels. "I was hungry and you didn't give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you didn't welcome me. I was naked and you didn't give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me."

The righteous of the day asked him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?"

Jesus' answer? "I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me." (Matthew 25:31-46)

We are facing a critical moment in the life of our nation. Regardless of where we fall along political lines, we are united in our call to follow Jesus Christ, and our Christian faith clearly calls us to welcome the stranger. No one is arguing to allow the real threats of terrorism to reign free. However we must not close ourselves off as a nation to the many refugees who seek out shelter and safety because they know all too well the threats of terror back home.

Beginning in 1948, the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America called for the resettlement of persons made refugees and displaced by World War II. This call to welcome immigrants continues today with the resolution from our most recent General Assembly (to which I was a commissioner) which implores us to "respond to the ancient biblical directive to provide for the stranger and the sojourner."

I invite you and all the people of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church to prayerfully consider these We Choose Welcome resources recently offered to our community of faith. We need to become informed and have faithful dialogue with each other in order to discern the actions we will take.

Our 2016 General Assembly resolution encourages congregations to host, co-sponsor, and/or support refugee families. My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, may Jesus' response to our actions be: "I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me."

Peace be with us all,

Drew

Adult Forum in February

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

February 5: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Let it Shine

Isaiah 58:1-12 & Matthew 5:13-20

February 12: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

How to Live

Psalm 119:1-8 & Matthew 5:21-37

February 19: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Who to Love

Psalm 119:33-40 & Matthew 5:38-48

February 26: Transfiguration of the Lord

A Century of Faith in Song

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 & Psalm 59:16-17

"The Whys and Wherefores of Presbyterian Worship" - Why do we do the things we do in worship? Why do we have prayers of "confession" and "illumination" as part of the service? What is our theological understanding of baptism and communion, and of marriage? These, and other questions will be addressed in this five week series, using the proposed new revision of the PCUSA's Directory for Worship. Please e-mail Ken Cuthbertson at ScotsCotNM@aol.com if you would like the downloadable document file. The Adult Forum meets in LPPC's Upper Room, shortly after 9:15 a.m. each Sunday, following the early service.

January 29, 2017 - The Whys and Wherefores of Presbyterian Worship, Part 1: *The Theology of Christian Worship*

February 5, 2017 - The Whys and Wherefores of Presbyterian Worship, Part 2: *Christian Worship in the Reformed Tradition*

February 12, 2017 - The Whys and Wherefores of Presbyterian Worship, Part 3: *The Service for the Lord's Day*

Feb 19, 2017 - The Whys and Wherefores of Presbyterian Worship, Part 4: *Pastoral and Occasional Services*

Feb. 26, 2017 - The Whys and Wherefores of Presbyterian Worship, Part 5: *Worship and Christian Life*

~ Rev. Kenneth Cuthbertson

Children's Christian Education

Chef Diane Herrera Shepard taught a Pizza Cooking class on the 15th of January for our kids. We made, baked, ate, and sold the mini pizzas after church for \$3.00 to benefit our Ghost Ranch youth fund.

A very special Thank You to Sue Markewitz, Tamara Hudson, Sally Gosnell & especially Diane Herrera Shepard. Our kids loved learning and serving our congregation.

Elizabeth Dickson has volunteered to be our Point Person for Ghost Ranch info, and plans to attend as chaperone this summer.

We are in great need of teachers and assistants for the remainder of this school year. High School, especially, needs assistance. Please consider volunteering for this opportunity to work with our youth.

The Committee has decided to host a Spaghetti Dinner/Talent Show on April 29th from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., as we did two years ago. We decided it would be helpful to ask local merchants for donations of salad, spaghetti sauce; Chantel, Tamara, and Karen will be asking.

Jeff and Tamara will be in charge of the Talent Show. We would like to see if Carmen might be our Head Cook for the event. We will make posters and advertise at the Post Office, the Library, the Merc and the Sandoval Signpost.

We are so fortunate to have many talented and gifted youth in our congregation.

We are looking for a Lead for VBS this summer, and hope to have a musical theme.

~ Charmaine Lawrence

Songlines Renewal – Save the Dates!

We are very excited about the schedule we have for our Songlines journey together this summer.

Sunday May 14: Renewal Commissioning Service for Rev. Drew Henry and family at 10:30 a.m. service

Friday May 19: Special Music with Rev. Dr. Don Saliers

Saturday May 20: Special Workshop with Rev. Dr. Don Saliers

Sunday May 21: *Songlines*, with Rev. Dr. Saliers at regular services, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Don Saliers and his daughter Emily Saliers co-wrote “A Song to Sing, A Life to Live: Reflections on Music as Spiritual Practice.”

This book inspired the Sabbatical/LPPC Renewal committee to plan the LPPC renewal and write the Lilly Grant proposal. We highly recommend this book to the congregation and several copies will be in the church library by February 2nd.

Century of Faith

Many of you don't know what the *Century of Faith* book is all about. Suzanne Forrest, an author who was a very involved member of LPPC, was asked by Reverend Jim Anderson if she would write a book based on the 100 year history of LPPC as well as the Village of Placitas to go along with the Centennial celebration in 1994. In 2011, our administrator Cory called to let me know that we were almost out of copies of the original book, Bunny and I started down this road that we never thought would turn into such a huge project. In the beginning, we were going to send the book to a publisher who would take it apart and copy it since the original book was printed using plates. Last year, when we returned to the book in earnest, we discovered the Amazon site called CreateSpace that would let us be the publisher and CreateSpace would be the printer. We had to scan the pages using optical character

reader. The good news was that we could make changes and corrections to the original book. The bad news was that all the fonts and formatting was gone – every line had a hard break that had to be deleted so the page would right justify, the Spanish accents and the endnote numbers were gone, Spanish names were switched around at random among other issues. The good news was that I got to read the book very slowly and that was a pleasure.

Then, the book went to the proofreaders who were: Ila Little, Joan Jander, Sherrill Cloud, with Sally Curro and Diane Shepard's sister Ellen, taking the chapters with lots of Spanish. Throughout the entire process, Suzanne Forrest, who is now 90 and living in Mexico, was kept in the loop via email concerning any changes or corrections. We always wanted the 2nd edition to be Suzanne's book. She is thrilled with the new, more accurate and detailed book. When Sherrill Cloud proofed her 2 chapters, she found recommended changes that affected every chapter so the review started again. From here on, Sherrill joined Bunny and I in getting this book published. Suzanne and her daughter Ilona were very involved and were the last proofers. Bunny took on the photo sections as well as designing this beautiful new cover.

The 2nd edition contains photoshopped versions of the Founding Family photos plus some additional photos that were given to us or that Sherrill tracked down. The 2nd section of photos in the original book were not of good quality and we didn't have copies. Bunny was able to find photos of similar events to replace them. Sherrill wrote 2 timelines to help readers follow our history more clearly. Drew went off-site to a writing retreat for 3 days to compose the wonderful Afterword in the book which covers the life of LPPC from 1995 – 2016. Ken Cuthbertson wrote the bios for the pastors since Jim Anderson. Then we added a 3rd photo section to go along with the Afterword.

I can tell you for sure, this book would not be in my hands today if it wasn't for Glenn's high level IT support. He spent days working on it at times.

I think I speak for Sherrill, Bunny, and myself that we are proud of the book we have created and so glad that we were able to make sure the *Century of Faith* book is now always available.

Now for the sales pitch. Steve Chewning will have a table set up in the Fellowship Hall for the next several weeks for anyone wanting to purchase the book. The book will cost more on Amazon, but we have kept the price for you the same as it was in 1994 - \$15. We are requesting Cash Only. The profits from this book are going to our upcoming youth programs.

Hope you enjoy the book.

~ Wendy Ingram

Member Profile

Joan Chewning

Joan was born in Indianapolis, Indiana and lived there for 23 years. After high school, Joan attended Hanover College, with a major in English Literature and Composition, and a minor in History.

Her first job was a summer job working for the State Republican Party on the campaign of future Vice President Dan Quayle. In 1983, after moving to Houston, Texas, Joan worked for a restoration company that restored homes after damages from fire or flooding. After various temporary assignments around Houston, including a stint at GECO Geophysical Co., where she met her husband, Steve. She worked 10 years at Hermann Hospital in Houston; 2 years for the hospital president and 8 years with well-known TV doctor, James "Red" Duke MD. This was her favorite job. Dr. Duke was the Trauma/EMS Director and Joan was his assistant; managing his schedule, speeches, travel and phone calls (including conversations with celebrities as well as political elite). Joan was privileged to be in a close-up position to assist Dr. Duke with his wide range of interests and leadership positions related to his patients and surgeries, nation-wide broadcast of his televised Medical Minutes, the Emmy-winning PBS show

“BodyWatch”, founding of the LifeFlight helicopter rescue program, and political initiatives for injury prevention as well as hunting and conservation groups. His range of interests allowed Joan to expand her own skills and responsibilities, and to meet fascinating people in medicine, politics, conservation causes, the music industry and show business. His many interests and involvements were key to Joan broadening her own abilities and outlook.

Having transitioned to a job in the Houston oil drilling business for 10 years, Joan decided she and Steve were ready to make a change and relocate to New Mexico. Joan currently works for Presbyterian Health Care in the HR Department coordinating the hiring of new providers (MD’s, PA’s, Nurse Practitioners, and Midwives) on behalf of the hospitals of Albuquerque, Ruidoso Socorro, Espanola and Clovis. She’s planning to retire in October 2016.

Joan and Steve loved to vacation in New Mexico and visited several times before deciding to check out the real estate areas and prices. In 2005 they came to Placitas and got a map of the area from a realtor “just to look around.” After seeing the mesa land, they drove straight to the realtor’s office and purchased the lot. This was their most spontaneous decision ever! After purchasing the lot, they spent a year creating the design for their home. They moved to NM in 2012 and worked with Jim Madueña to fine-tune their house, which they hope to soon be sharing with a dog or two.

Joan’s hobbies and passions are bird watching, hiking and photography. She is reacquainting herself with learning to play piano after receiving a keyboard as a Christmas gift from Steve. She also enjoys reading, especially murder mysteries.

If there were anyone in history Joan would like to meet, it is Abraham Lincoln because she believes he was wise and kind with a great sense of humor, making him a very interesting fellow!

Her most interesting travel experience was a two month semester in England at Stratford-upon-Avon as a student of the Shakespeare Institute during her junior year.

If there were a fire, the only item she really would hope not to leave behind is a picture from her maternal great grandmother, which is irreplaceable. Something Joan would like to do that she has not done is take a ride in a hot-air balloon.

Her favorite things about attending LPPC are the warm and welcoming feeling, the coffee hour, and becoming quickly and easily involved.

~ Betty Closser & Wendy Ingram