



# The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

## JANUARY 2012

### *Happy New Year (again)*

Writing a January newsletter column is the first thing I've done twice in the life of this congregation. Last year I sat in Birmingham writing my first piece for this newsletter. This year I sit in Placitas writing my second first-column of the year.

A New Year brings a spirit of both reflection and anticipation. In our first year of designated ministry together much has been accomplished. Specifically we committed ourselves to the task of strengthening the financial foundation that supports the ministries and missions of this congregation. We have made impressive strides in that area.

Our giving and budget both reflect important increases. We finished and began the year in the black. We have made a considerable paydown on our mortgage loan. Our financial secretary position is firmly reestablished. We held significant dialogues about faith and money in our lives. Our regular financial reporting to the congregation is being enhanced.

While we were assigned the financial tasks, we've also experienced a full year of meaningful worship together. We've welcomed a cadre of spirited new members who bring a variety of gifts to bear. We've seen growth in the number and energy of children in our midst. Your commitments of time, talents, and leadership have soared. The Spirit and your spirit are truly palpable in this place.

We will have the opportunity to look back and celebrate the many events of the last year at our annual congregational meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>. We'll ask you to bring one of your favorite dishes that day to share in a potluck lunch after our 10:30 service. Personally I am thankful to celebrate the anniversary of my first Sunday with you on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, and I look forward to another great year together. God is not done with us yet.

Peace, Drew

### January Text & Topics

**January 1** 1st Sunday after Christmas, "Redemption" Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7

**January 8** Epiphany, "Reyes" Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

**January 15** Reaffirmation of the Covenant of Baptism, "Calling" 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

**January 22** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, "Jonah," Jonah 3:1-5,10; Mark 1:14-20

**January 29** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, "God News" Psalm 111:1-10; Mark 1:21-28



### Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Session of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church has called the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2012 following the 10:30am worship service. This year's annual meeting will take place over a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate the ministry and accomplishments of this past year and receive the budget adopted to carry forth the mission of LPPC in 2012. Make your plans to be a part of this important event.

2011 Annual Reports will be distributed prior to and available at the meeting.

## **Attention: Committee Chairs!**

The dawning of the new year brings with it the production of LPPC's annual report. All committee chairs are responsible for submitting a report of their activities and accomplishments for the year 2011. If you have any questions call the office. The deadline for submitting an electronic copy of your annual report to Cory in the office is **Friday, January 13—a lucky day!** Email address is: [lppcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org](mailto:lppcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org).

If you have any questions, call the office for clarification. This deadline for submission is firm as the reports need to be formatted, proofed and then printed on Saturday, January 21.

**Volunteers are needed on Wednesday, January 25 at 10:00am** to collate and staple the pages of the annual report together. Please contact Cory in the office (867-5718) if you can assist in the process. Coffee and cake provided.

## **SESSION Highlights**

### **Blessings x 4**

Yes, we've had many blessings this year. The most recent occurred on Sunday December 11th, as our Session gathered in the Upper Room after the 10:30 a.m. service. Four new members were added to our ever-growing membership rolls.

Lisa H, a long time LPPC worshipper along with Maggie E of Rio Rancho, joined our church by reaffirmation of faith. Also, Shelly & Herman H, recent transplants from Chicago-land and Hope Lutheran Church, transferred their membership here to join our family.

Yes, we have been blessed and you are partly to blame! Every new member this year has bared witness to the fact that the warmth and friendliness of each and every one of you is a key component in their desire to join our church.

### **Welcome New and Returning Session Elders**

Mike P and Martha R will be joining the Session in 2012 as our newest ruling elders, along with Betty M and Lauren S, who both have volunteered to serve a second three-year term. We welcome both our new and returning elders to Session, and thank all of them for the gifts they bring and offer to share with the congregation.



## **What, Another Meeting?**

January has always been a challenging month in the life of the church. The New Year begins with a host of events:

**-Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**, special called Session meeting for conversation with prospective church members, 11:30 a.m.

**-Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**, officer training for elders and deacons at noon.

**-Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**, joint elder/deacon Session meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**-Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**, annual congregational meeting, after the 10:30 a.m. service.

## **Fence Me In!**

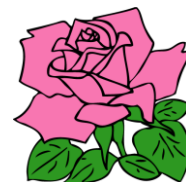
Consummate "do-gooder" and LPPC worshipper, Cosmos D was given Session approval in December to do what he does best...give! His latest project is to build a split-rail fence paralleling the north property line of Casa Rosa. Cosmos is donating all material costs and his labor (of love) in this fence construction. The word is, it's already completed!

~Bill L, Clerk of Session

## **CASA ROSA NEWS**

### ***Hunger Takes No Holiday***

Since Christmas Eve Day and New Year's Eve Day both fell on Saturdays this year, we decided to keep Casa Rosa open as usual to serve our clients. Not only does hunger take no holiday, but also the need to be with other people seems more important than ever in the dark, short days of winter. Casa Rosa has become a gathering place for clients, volunteers and friends.



On days when there is sunshine and it feels a bit warmer, people like to sit outside to visit and share stories, complaints, and celebrations. If it is blustery and cold, then people huddle in their cars or in the waiting room clustered around heaters, eating snacks, drinking coffee and passing time until it is their turn to shop. We offer wonderful snacks, actually hearty meals in crock-pots, and miscellaneous treats of varied sorts—whatever anyone donates to share.

Speaking of sharing, as the holidays approached, more and more people dropped by bringing donations of food, clothing, and checks. Our clients were delighted with warm sweaters and coats (We need more coats and clothing of all types for men.)

Many of our clients struggle to keep warm, often relying on wood for heat. Layers of warm clothing are a great help. Hands and fingers get very cold. We especially need more gloves, scarves and hats for our clients.

Thank you again for all of your donations, and for supporting our seed pot and gourd sales.

We send warm thoughts your way, with wishes for many blessings in the New Year.

~Karen F, Co-Chair  
Casa Rosa Board of Directors

## MEMBER PROFILE PAT T



Pat was born in Long Beach, CA. on VJ day (Victory over Japan at the end of WWII). Pat's aunt said there were crowds in the street celebrating the end of war while she was celebrating Pat's birth!

She grew up in Ventura, CA. During her first marriage to a career officer in the US Army, she was fortunate to be able to live in Panama (3 years), Nicaragua (1 year), Belgium (3 years) and Spain (5 years). This is why she speaks Spanish so well! Stateside she has lived in Colorado, California, Arkansas, Kansas, North Carolina and Virginia. Pat was an Army wife for 22 years. She met Emmet while Pat was working as a Physical Therapist in an Occupational Medicine department in Albuquerque. They were married for 14 years.

Emmet knew about Placitas and after Pat saw it, she fell in love with it as well. Pat has two daughters. Heather lives with her husband and 4-year-old son in Las Vegas, NV. She is a Diabetes Educator and owns a business there. Emily lives with her husband in Phoenix, AZ where she is a nurse practitioner.

Pat's career is Physical Therapy. She has worked in the fields of in-patient, transitional care, spinal cord rehabilitation, pediatrics, homecare and out-patient. She is currently working for Presbyterian in an out-patient orthopedic department in Rio Rancho.

During her time living abroad, she worked as a residential manager in the Ambassador's Residence at the embassy in Madrid, managed the

Spanish speaking staff and arranged all activities in the residence. She also had the personal responsibility of entertaining both Spanish nationals as well as military couples from other countries. She was able to meet the King and Queen of Spain on several occasions while living in the world of a military attaché at the embassy. She met many other dignitaries as well.

Pat has traveled extensively. She especially remembers a trip to San Blas Islands off the coast of Panama. Three trips through the Panama Canal; an amazing trip to the village of indigenous Embera Indians in the interior jungle of the Darien forest in Panama; trips to Russia, Turkey, Ireland; several Mayan ruins, driving to Tikal in a jeep two days through the jungle; and the Guatemalan markets are a few that stand out to her. Pat would still like to travel to Australia and New Zealand to see relatives she has never met. She would also like to return to Northern Ireland to see family there again. In the United States, she would like to visit more National Parks.

Pat's mother was from Belfast, Northern Ireland. She came to the US on a convoy at the end of WWII. Pat loves her Irish heritage and has been to Ireland on numerous occasions to visit her aunt, three cousins and numerous second cousins.

In spite of all Pat's travels, the one thing she has always wanted to do but hasn't is to take a cruise. She looks forward to that in retirement. She would also like to attend a summer Olympics.

Pat loves to exercise and stay as fit as possible. She has a small gym at home but also enjoys outdoor cycling and hiking. Her passion is camping in her small chalet trailer. She loves nature, the outdoors and gardening. As a Physical Therapist, she really enjoys helping others as much as possible.

Pat admires any woman who has excelled in her chosen field or endeavor, especially those that became successful through their personal challenges or adversity – such as Helen Keller or Mother Theresa.

In case of a fire, Pat would grab her photos, computer and her dog. The five things she wouldn't want to live without are: freedom, church, exercise, work (to pursue some type of endeavor that provides a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment) and chili (green and red!).

Her favorite part about attending LPPC first and foremost has to be the people who attend. The congregation is made up of an amazing group of individuals. She likes the services, music and the opportunities the church provides to educate and deepen her faith.

~Wendy Ingram

## JANUARY Calendar Highlights

- Sun Jan 1     **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**  
One Worship service, 9:30am  
Communion is served  
Nursery provided  
Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Jan 2     Church Office is closed
- Sun Jan 8     **Epiphany**  
Alternative service, 8:30am  
Family Worship service, 10:30am  
Nursery provided; Sunday School  
Fellowship follows this service  
Officer Training Luncheon, 12:00pm
- Mon Jan 9     Monday Adult Study resumes  
7:00pm
- Wed Jan 11    Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun Jan 15    **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
Alternative service, 8:30am  
Adult Forum resumes, 9:15am  
Family Worship service, 10:30am  
Nursery provided; Sunday School  
Fellowship follows this service
- Mon Jan 16    Church Office is closed for MLK Day
- Tues Jan 17   Placitas Mobile Food Pantry  
10am-12noon
- Sun Jan 22    **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
Alternative service, 8:30am  
Adult Forum, 9:15am  
Family Worship service, 10:30am  
Nursery provided; Sunday School  
Fellowship follows this service
- PAS Reception and Concert, 2-5pm
- Sun Jan 29    **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
Alternative service, 8:30am  
Adult Forum, 9:15am  
Family Worship service, 10:30am  
Nursery provided; Sunday School
- Annual Congregational Meeting  
immediately follows this service with  
Annual Report distribution
- A Potluck follows in Fellowship Hall

**FEBRUARY newsletter deadline:**  
***Wednesday, January 25th at noon***

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