



The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

May 2017

followingthefiddle.com

On May 15th, I will begin my sabbatical exploring the power of music in our lives. I will follow the fiddle and see where the music takes me. I will play with and learn from fiddlers here in New Mexico, back in Alabama, on the Isle of Skye in Scotland, in the Castilla y León region of northern Spain, and finally in the Appalachian mountains of North Carolina. I've prepared a sabbatical blog - www.followingthefiddle.com - where you can follow my fiddling. I'll post reflections, photos, and stories for you there from time to time.

The fiddle will be the needle of my compass these months. Eventually it will point me back home here. I will rejoin you the weekend of September 16th & 17th when guitar virtuoso Billy McLaughlin will be our Songlines guest. In addition to Billy's Saturday evening concert, he and I will work up some music to play together for you during Sunday morning worship.

Thanks to you, the congregation, for encouraging and supporting me on this journey. Thank you to the team of church members who have worked together on our renewal planning team. Thanks to our church staff and all they do. Deep gratitude to the National Clergy Renewal Program of the Lilly Endowment for their grant that made all of this possible. Finally, I am grateful to the Holy Spirit for the gifts of inspiration and creativity.

This fall when we reconnect, the following questions can lead us:

- What have these Songlines stirred in me/us?
- Where have I been in my life, and where am I now?
- Why is this church important to me at this point?
- What new births are we seeing?

Enjoy the Songlines of our Lives! I trust God will be our guide.

Peace and hasta la próxima,
Drew

Sunday Worship Services

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

May 7, Fourth Sunday of Easter
Ordination & Installation of New Officers

May 14, Fifth Sunday of Easter
Celebrating, Commissioning & Sending

May 21, Sixth Sunday of Easter
Songlines Guest Artist - Don Saliers

May 28, Seventh Sunday of Easter
Songlines Guest Artist - Elliot Smith

Adult Forum in May

"Sing, Sing a Song!": These final three adult forums for the season will help with help with the transition into Pastor Drew's sabbatical season. We will start with a look at the traditions of Presbyterian psalmody and hymnody, and then turn to the particular work of former LPPC minister Rev. George P. Simmonds in compiling and translating much of *El Himnario* for Spanish-speaking Protestants. This series will wrap up on May 21 with a presentation by our special guest, Rev. Don Saliers.

May 7 - Psalms, Hymns, and Presbyterians: a look at Presbyterian traditions of song.

May 14 - *El Himnario* & Placitas: The lifelong work of a former LPPC minister.

May 21 - "Prayers at the Table" with Rev. Dr. Don Saliers, a pastor, poet, musician, theologian, and liturgical scholar specializing in the relationship between theology and worship practices.

May 28 - NO Adult Forum (It will reconvene in September.)

The adult forum meets in the Upper Room at LPPC each Sunday, shortly after 9:15 a.m., following the early service.

~ Rev. Kenneth Cuthbertson

The Session

More New Members to Welcome!

Jacqueline (Jacque) Fletcher grew up in Kennett Square, PA, Mushroom Capital of the United States. Captivated by biology, both at Kennett High and in the fields and woodlands, she roamed near her home. She studied living things through her B.S. in biology at Emory University (Atlanta, GA), M.S. in botany at the University of Montana (Missoula), Ph.D. in plant pathology at Texas A&M (College Station) and postdoctoral research at the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana). She became the first woman faculty member in the Plant Pathology Department at Oklahoma State University, where for more than 30 years she taught Phytobacteriology and Career Skills, Professionalism & Ethics for graduate students. She and colleagues researched how insects such as leafhoppers, plant hoppers and squash bugs acquire and transmit plant pathogenic bacteria from plant to plant, seeking weak points in the disease cycle as targets for disease management strategies. Later, and continuing to the present, influenced by national needs for protecting critical infrastructures such as agriculture from newly recognized biosecurity threats, she became active in public policy, agricultural biosecurity and the newly emerging field of plant-related microbial forensics. Jacque is an avid gardener, swimmer, hiker and reader. She also enjoys cross-country skiing, even though she falls down a lot, and loves to cook.

Don Turton was born and raised near Buffalo, New York in the beautiful snow belt near Lake Erie and enjoyed camping, boating and fishing in the Adirondacks with his family. After high school, he spent three years in the Army; two years of that in Germany. After discharge from the Army he worked at Republic Steel Company in Buffalo and studied nearby at the State University of New York (SUNY). Don graduated from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY and then worked with the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Conservationist in Brattleboro, VT. Don returned to school at the University of Washington, Seattle and graduated with a MS Degree in forest hydrology and soils. He left the

Pacific Northwest for a job as a Senior Research Specialist in forest hydrology in the Department of Forestry at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK. Don returned to school again and obtained a PhD in Agricultural Engineering and Water Resources from OSU. He worked as a professor in Forest and Wildland Hydrology in the OSU Department of Forestry for 23 years teaching and performing research on such diverse topics as acid rain effects on soil and water, forest management effects on water quality and quantity, forest and rural road erosion and control, stream health evaluation and the effects of juniper invasion on streamflow. Don enjoys gardening, yard work, home repair, cooking, running, hiking, strumming his guitar, XC skiing and many other things. Jacque and Don met in 1984, soon after both moved to Stillwater, OK, for positions at OSU, and were married in Santa Fe in 1985. Many wonderful experiences vacation camping and hiking, experiencing the people, the culture, the landscape and the food of New Mexico captured their hearts. Following retirement from OSU they, with their cats Perkins and Willow, moved to an adobe house near the Rio Grande River in Corrales.

Please be intentional to reach out, welcome and get to know Don and Jacque.

~Bill Lumm Clerk of Session

PS...stay tuned for the biography of our third new member in April, Matt Lewis. Matt will be profiled next month.

Children's Christian Education

We are always recruiting teachers and committee members. If you would like to experience the delight of working with Christian Ed let us know. I promise it will make you smile and your heart will melt just a little.

~ Sally Gosnell, Children's Christian Ed

**Music-Themed Art
Wanted for Summer Songlines Show**

We are inviting community members to share a piece or two of art for a summer exhibit in the Fellowship Hall. Perhaps you are an artist who has done some work with a musical theme, or perhaps you have a wonderful framed concert poster or a painting to share.

The show will be hung during the first week of June and will remain through August, with a reception in July.

Art may be offered for sale, with a 10% commission going to the church. If sold, art should remain in the show until the end of August. All art must be framed and/or ready to hang on the Placitas Artists Series hanging system. Unfortunately we do not have space for 3D pieces unless they can go on the wall. As with the Placitas Artists Series exhibits, the church does not accept responsibility for damage or loss.

If you would like to be a part of this celebration of art and music, please contact Bunny Bowen (bunny@db-bowen.com), Karl Gustafson, or Janice Langdale by May 20.

Mil Gracias!

Fellowship

Fellowship does not have any activities planned for the month of May.

In June on the 10th of the month, we will host La Mesa church officers for their meeting at our church.

~Joan Dennis, Chair of Fellowship

Health Ministry Partnership

Looking for information on spiritual, physical, emotional or intellectual health? Stay tuned! The HMP is currently working on gathering resources to place in our HMP section of the library and church website.

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.”

~Albert Einstein



Season of Renewal Contact

This summer will be a unique time in the life of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. From May 15 through September 15, our Pastor, the Rev. Drew Henry, will be away on sabbatical. Our Parish Associates, Deacons and Elders have signed up for a weekly on-call schedule that will be printed in each week's Sunday bulletin. Our Clerk of Session and Moderator of Deacons will also be available if the need arises. We want you to know who to call during this season and how to reach them if and when the need arises.

If you are not sure who to contact at any point, or for non-emergencies, please feel free to contact our Administrator, Delfina Hernandez by email or phone: administrator@lasplacitaschurch.org 505.867.5718.

Songlines Sabbatical

In a few weeks both our pastor Drew Henry and our congregation will enter a four-month Sabbatical. The two words, “Sabbatical” and “Sabbath” come from the Hebrew word “shabath,” meaning ‘to rest.’ Sabbath is the seventh day of the Jewish week, set aside for rest and worship. Sabbatical identified a seventh year, during which lands remained fallow and debtors were released. Now we describe a sabbatical year as time set aside for study, rest, or travel. Traditionally, this occurs every seven years.

Is it possible that seven years have gone by since Drew came as pastor of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church? Time certainly does fly. This summer both Drew and our congregation will participate in a sabbatical, a time of being apart for the purpose of rest and renewal.

During these four months, from May 15 to September 15, Drew will “follow the fiddle,” refreshing his spirit with the musical tones of his grandfather’s fiddle. During this time the members of our congregation will rejuvenate our spirit with the contributions of musical talent that grace our sabbath worship. Some of that talent will come from across the country for a weekend of song. Some of the talent will include local people who are part of our church or community, sharing their ‘songlines’ on Sunday morning or sharing art for an exhibit in Fellowship Hall.

Please continue to check the Songlines poster in Fellowship Hall, the church website, <http://www.lasplacitaschurch.org>, and each Sunday morning worship bulletin for information about guest musicians and events. Plan to attend our congregational programs to revive our spirit through the music that uplifts us all.

Summer Songlines

It may be windy and chilly now, but soon spring and summer will be here. Pastor Drew Henry will follow his Songlines on sabbatical, and our church will discover our collective and individual Songlines as well.

Each month, from May through September, a guest musician will share personal Songline in a weekend of musical activities. Local musicians will share their musical biographies on other Sundays. Placitas will be alive with the sound of music.

Tickets are for sale for a concert featuring our late-July guest, Carrie Newcomer. A nationally known songwriter and performing musician, Carrie Newcomer will present a concert on Saturday, July 29, at 7:00 p.m.. Tickets cost \$20, with sale to LPPC members offered before opening sales to the general community. Only 160 tickets will be available so that the entire audience can enjoy the concert inside the sanctuary.

Our first Songlines guest will be Dr. Don Saliers, who will be with us the weekend of **May 19-21**. Dr. Saliers is a musician, pastor, theologian, and professor emeritus at Emory University in Atlanta. Don Saliers and his daughter Emily Saliers co-authored the book *A Song to Sing, a Life to Live*. We have some copies in our church library. During his weekend with us, Dr. Saliers will host a free community hymn sing, “Singing Faith in a Difficult World,” on Friday, **May 19, at 6:00 p.m.** at LPPC. On Saturday morning, **May 20, at 9:00 a.m.**, Dr. Saliers will conduct a workshop, “Finding Your Songline” for the LPPC community. In addition, he will lead a workshop for church music directors. Dr. Saliers will share his own Songline on Sunday, **May 21** at the Adult Forum and worship service.

Our guest presenters throughout the summer will bring a variety of musical genres and presentation styles.

Introducing Edward Lewis



My name is Edward Lewis, and I am currently a second-year Master of Divinity student at Princeton Theological Seminary. My wife Caite and I live in nearby Wyncote, PA, where she is in her second year of residency in General Surgery.

I was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. Initially brought up Methodist, I started attending Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in 8th grade, and have been a devoted member there ever since. I attended a Jesuit high school in Dallas, going on to study Communication at Trinity University in San Antonio.

After graduating, I spent a year as a PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer in Belfast, Northern Ireland. While there, I split my time working at a Presbyterian church in North Belfast and a local community center, while living in an intentional community with six other YAVs.

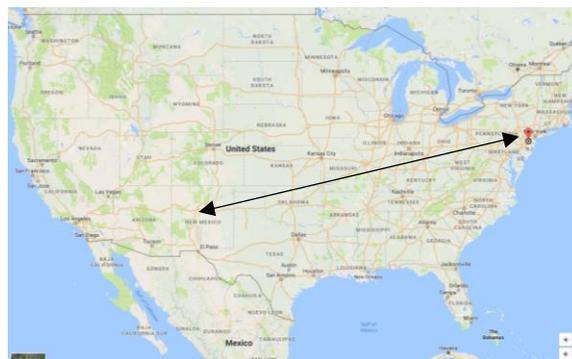
It was also during this year that I met Caite, who was serving as a YAV in Miami the same year. We reconnected at our re-entry retreat at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiú at the end of that year, and began dating long-distance shortly thereafter while she began medical school. After a few years of graphic design work in Dallas, I moved to South Florida to be closer to her while she finished med school, where I worked at a Chipotle Mexican Grill. There we made plans together for my pursuing seminary and her residency and wound up where we are now, finally marrying in the Princeton Seminary chapel last summer.

I feel blessed that my parents brought me up to have a deep appreciation for the rich and diverse cultural history of my native Texas as

well as that of the Southwest. My brother and I consequently spent part of most summers in New Mexico and southern Colorado as youngsters. In my spare time, I enjoy fly-fishing, hiking, reading, historical research, discovering new music, learning to cook new things, playing with animals, and exploring new places.

I grew up in large suburban church setting, and have tended to find myself worshipping with similar congregations while living elsewhere. So, I am grateful and delighted to have the chance to serve your community at Las Placitas and to grow as I learn what it means to be a good and decent pastor in a close-knit community of faith. Your hospitality and familiarity left a great impression upon me when I first visited in September. I am also very excited to be with y'all during this music-focused period of renewal, as music has always played a major part in my own experience of worship. Until I arrive in June, know that you will all be continually in my prayers.

Peace be with you,
Edward Lewis



Member Profile

Georgiana Kugle

Georgiana's grandparents were George and Anna Grant, and May and Chris Kugle hence her name. As she says "I am my walking grandparents."

Georgiana was born near Chicago and when she was 11 years old, her family moved to Bayfield, CO. She loved living in the mountains. She attended Ft Lewis College for 2 years and then graduated from Lewis and Clark majoring in Christian Ed. Georgiana earned her Masters of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis and earned her Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Seminary in Chicago.

Georgiana has two sons and four grandsons - Mark works at Intel in Rio Rancho and Edward lives in CO and works as an IT for a non-profit organization that supports developmentally disabled adults. After Georgiana moved to Rio Rancho, she met Ken Cuthbertson while serving on a Presbytery committee together. He introduced her to LPPC. Georgiana decided to attend worship services at LPPC because she wanted a closer place to worship, enjoyed the congregation, and liked the beautiful drive.

One of Georgiana's calls was her ministry in Tyndall and Scotland, SD. The towns were so diverse and interesting – one community was very serious and the other community was humorous – going back and forth to serve each was a challenge! The favorite part of her ministry was working with two inner-city congregations, one in St. Louis and the other in Omaha for 14 years. Through New Life, a refugee family from Sudan was sponsored. The family had a daughter born in the U.S. and she was named after Georgiana. Georgiana has recently been reconnected with the daughter who now lives in Alaska and hopes their communication continues.

Georgiana considers her 15 minutes of fame when she was serving in Kenya through Church World Service. She visited Kakuma Refugee Camp (Sudanese are migratory and visited there during their journeys). After being in Kakuma, some Sudanese who were refugees and attended the church where Georgiana ministered. She was

asked many times if she had been to Kakuma and since they had been there as well; it became a bond between her and the Sudanese. "Pastor has been to Kakuma."

If Georgiana could meet anyone in history it would be Archbishop Tutu because he is a man of deep faith and presence. He inspires her.

Her best travels were being able to travel through Kenya, Switzerland and Nicaragua, and how on each continent she met people of faith living in their own world!

Georgiana volunteers two days a week at Sandoval Regional Medical Center in the Surgery Waiting room. She is a liaison between the doctors and nurses to the patient's family and friends to keep them up to date on how the surgery is going.

Six things she could not live without are her faith, the Holy Spirit, books, Internet, continuous learning and a place to call home. Her bucket list includes traveling to places around the world as well as the U.S. She is planning a trip to Panama some time this year. Future travels are London, Great Britain, Ireland as well as a train ride through Europe. If there were a fire, Georgiana would grab her phone, her cat, Tabitha, and her passport!

Georgiana's favorite part about attending LPPC is the people and the worship service. Two of the congregations she has served were multicultural and she is drawn to diversity, which enriches her life.

What she would like people to know about her is that in each of her four calls of service, she has served and learned from the people, regardless of being in inner cities, the mountains, or on farms, and she finds people amazing!

~ Betty Closser & Wendy Ingram