



The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

May 2018

The Gospel of Mark

Since early January we have been journeying together through the Gospel of Mark. For months now we have been reading each week in worship a whole chapter of the Gospel from Eugene Peterson's *The Message*. It was Peterson's invitation to a continual reimmersion into the stories of Jesus that got us started on this journey.

Over the coming weeks we will complete our reading of Mark (at least this time through). I want to thank you for your engagement with the Gospel. Many of you have shared with me your own experience of "getting the full view" of the stories of Jesus in this first of the Gospels written. I have never before preached the entirety of the Gospel in sequence like this. The exercise has been meaningful for me. I feel like I've gotten to know Jesus better through this experience.

My invitation to you now is to not just put the Gospel away for reference on a shelf when we finish this series. I do believe a continual reimmersion into the Gospel stories is essential if we are to follow Jesus in our lives. How can we do so if we do not know his story intimately? So keep reading, learning, and being transformed by the Living Word of God.

Remember that Gospel literally means Good News. I leave you with these words from Eugene Peterson's Intro to Mark: "The sooner we get the message, the better off we'll be, for the message is good, incredibly good: God is here, and God's on our side. The bare announcement that God exists doesn't particularly qualify as news... But that God is here right now, and on our side, actively seeking to help us in the way we most need help - *this* qualifies as news."

Jesus is the Good News.

Peace,

Drew

May 2018 Worship Services

May 6 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mark 12

Psalm 98 & Mark 12

May 13 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mark 13

Psalm 1 & Mark 13

May 20 - Pentecost

Spirit

Ezekiel 37:1-14 & The Gospel of Mark

May 27 - Trinity Sunday

Nicodemus

Psalm 29 & John 3:1-17

Upcoming Adult Forums

May Adult Forum – As the Easter Season moves to Pentecost, the Adult Forums will be concluding the series on "Other Christians" around the world. On May 6, Elder Virginia W. will share her experiences from her recent trip to Cuba with the Presbytery of Santa Fe group encountering the folks of the Cuban Presbyterian-Reformed Church. On May 13 we wrap up the DVD series "A History of Christianity" by Oxford University's Diarmaid MacCulloch, with a look at the state of Christianity in contemporary Europe and the U.S. The May 20, Pentecost, Adult Forum will be a presentation / discussion on "Being Church Now". May 27 will be the final Adult Forum prior to the summer break... featuring a look at some of the items to be

considered at the PCUSA General Assembly in June. The Adult Forum meets in the Upper Room on Sunday mornings, shortly after 9:15 a.m., following the early service.

May 6: Cuba Trip 2018 – Virginia W.

May 13: “God in the Dock” – Euro-American Christian Decline, and Future Hope....

May 20 (Pentecost): “Being Church Now”

May 27: “Meet Me in St. Louis!” – A Preview of the 223rd PCUSA General Assembly

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

Children’s Christian Ed

April is looking to be an exciting month for Christian Ed.

The Christian Ed Committee and the youth continue to work hard to reach their goal to fund this summer’s Ghost Ranch retreat and the Mission Trip. Fundraising will continue with a Cinco de Mayo dinner! The youth will be serving tacos and enchiladas. Tickets will go on sale on Easter.

We are also looking for adults interested in chaperoning the youth to Ghost Ranch this year. This adventure will take place June 24-June 30. The theme will be, *Signs of the Times*. The youth will be hearing from Tully Flecher an Associate Pastor, Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The Zehnder Brothers will also be performing!

We are recruiting a congregation member to lead this summer’s Vacation Bible School. We have many volunteers to help support this effort. We are just looking for a facilitator to lead the group. If you are interested please let a Christian Ed Committee member know.

Updates

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.

We could use **new members on the Mission Committee**. Some members are working with two or three of the groups we support. It would be nice to spread these out a bit. Some of the groups we support are: BeadforLife, Cuba Partners Network, Lutheran Family Services, Rocky Mountains [Refugee & Asylee Programs], Rebuilding Together Sandoval County, Menaul School, Young Adult Volunteer Program, Valerie’s Place. We sell bags, cut out by Mission Committee members & sewn by various church members, at the church and at the Holiday Sale in Placitas In November, to put toward one of the groups we support. We purchase coffee from Frontera De Cristo Coffee Project, & chocolate from Equal Exchange, then sell it the third Sunday of the month. Questions see: Sue E. Hoff, Mission Committee Chair, 505-404-1705.

The Mission Committee is selling gift bags. The Mission Committee will be selling gift bags on Mother’s Day, May 13, 2018 in the reception hall. We have mini bags for \$1.00; small bags for \$2.00; medium bags for \$3.00; large bags for \$4.00 and wine bags for \$4.00. The money collected will go to Dori Hjalmarson.

Placitas Garden Tour--May 19, 2018

I come to the garden alone...the beginning of a favorite hymn is also an invitation from the Memorial Garden Committee to the LPPC congregation. Please walk through alone, in twos or threes, however you'd like. The committee members have been working tirelessly to prepare the garden for the Placitas Garden Tour on May 19. The irrigation system has been upgraded, crusher fines were spread, and new perennials and roses are in bloom. Carl and Jackie Allen, Chris Baker, Mark Beam, Joan and Steve Chewning, Mike Edminster, Jacque Fletcher, Jill Hensley, Marilyn Knudsen, Russell

Mink, Manuel Macias, Diane Shepard, Don Turton, and David Walker, as well as Sandoval County Master Gardeners Karen Allen, Mickie Frazier-Koontz, and Chris Mink have dedicated many hours to preparing the garden for visitors to the Placitas Garden Tour. So, take a stroll. The dew might still be on the roses.

Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee will be providing the food for “The Garden Tour” on Saturday, May 19, 2018.

The menu will include a choice of the following reasonably priced items.

1. Cinnamon Rolls
2. Munchkins (Donut holes)
3. Coffee
4. Other beverages
5. Breakfast Burrito
6. Frito Pies

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Pat Thorpe will be chairing this committee through her new role as Elder of the church. Pat is currently searching for 2-3 church members to join her. This committee provides leadership and support to our paid church personnel and acts as a body to provide reviews and performance evaluations.

We are actively recruiting for this committee at this time. If interested, please contact Pat Thorpe at 505-867-5325 or 505-400-9046.

Pat Thorpe
Acting Personnel Committee Chair

Health Ministry Partnership

The Health Ministry Partnership Committee will meet for the last time on May 8th. The Committee will be taking what we hope is a temporary sabbatical until there is renewed interest to continue its mission and objectives. We have enjoyed bringing many activities and health-related information to this congregation over the last several years in the form of health-related lectures during Adult Forums, installation of an AED in the church, Life File training, Health Fairs and the creation of a Health Safety Checklist for the church.

We have enjoyed serving this church and sincerely hope this committee and its mission will be revived in the future.

Pat Thorpe & Anne Egan Hayes
Co-Chairs, Health Ministry Partnership.

Member Profile May 2018

BETTY CLOSSER

Betty was born in the southeast corner of Kentucky; a rural area called Egypt (always had fun with the name!). Her family moved to Cincinnati for employment opportunities and she grew up in Mt. Adams (Cincinnati, OH), an area close to Cincinnati and the Ohio River. She graduated from Central High School, a vocational school, and became a legal secretary, synonymous today with the term “paralegal”. Her working career was in the law department of corporate companies, one in Cincinnati, OH and another in Pleasanton, CA, where she was the Corporate Administrative Legal Assistant. She retired and moved to NM in 1997 where her husband, Bill relocated to build a semiconductor plant near Albuquerque.

Betty and Bill came to NM from CA. They looked in many areas around ABQ to settle, but never found the right spot until Bill remembered the area of Placitas. After driving there one morning, it struck just the right cord with both Betty and Bill and they said this is it! They built their house in 1997 and have enjoyed the area very much. It was exactly the welcoming and

friendly community they were looking for. Now, after 20 years of living in Placitas, and also the passing of Bill in 2010, Betty has decided to relocate to CA to be with family and begin a new adventure.

Between Betty and Bill, there are 7 children and 12 grandchildren. And with the eager anticipation of more grandchildren on the way, Betty has decided to move to CA to be a part of the lives of the younger little ones as they begin their life experiences. Betty and Bill were involved in each of their grandchildren's lives at young ages and now they are all grown and very successful in their lives. They have scattered to lots of wonderful places experiencing their own journeys.

For Betty's 15 minutes of fame, she feels blessed to have met a variety of people at different times that have shared their journeys as well as Betty sharing hers. Many remain in her life. Betty feels blessed to be able to be her warm and inviting self with friends and strangers. Many strangers along the way have become dear friends.

If Betty could meet anyone in history, it would be her ancestors. She would like to see how they survived coming to America, beginning her family's lineage, and continuing to survive throughout the years in America.

Even though there have been many amazing travel stories, the one that is the clear stand-out is the Alaska trip Bill and Betty took in 2001 where they house-sat for 4 months for a family that lived in Palmer, AK (40 minutes north of Anchorage). They drove from Placitas without a plan for traveling (which was very unusual) and arrived after 2 weeks of sightseeing along the way. They spent the time exploring (Denali); camping (on the Alcan highway to Prudhoe Bay; fishing (halibut - Betty caught a 165 lb. halibut and a 58 lb. king salmon!); hiking (Hatcher Pass-beautiful wildflowers); sightseeing (especially the pipeline areas); animals (moose in their house-sitting yard every morning plus seeing grizzly bears, black bears, caribou, elk and beautiful birds and plants at various places. Bill's cousin and husband homesteaded in Alaska in 1958 and it was so interesting to know them and share their experiences of being the only ones living on their

mountain (Lazy Mountain) and raising their family there. Bill's cousin was a weather person on top of the mountain and would radio down to town to let the pilots know the visibility each day! Her husband flew to Eskimo areas to serve the needs of the area. We attended their Presbyterian church on Sundays in Palmer and enjoyed the wonderful experience.

Betty's bucket list is not yet full as there are many things she would like to experience along the way, always open to try interesting things and meeting new people. Betty would like to try snow skiing, more fly-fishing and continue to enjoy her family. Betty's hobbies and passions currently are playing canasta, fly-fishing, and also keeping up with all her family and making sure they know how much she cares about each one's life!

Five things she prefers not to live without are: coffee, green chiles, a good bed, sightseeing new places, and laughter! Betty has been part of Placitas Community by serving on her HOA Board, Treasurer of Placitas Artists Series, and at LPPC on the Membership Committee, chair of the C&J Shawl Group and six years as a Deacon.

Attending LPPC has always been a positive experience – the service, the people that care for each other and appreciating each person's journey that got them there. Betty is happy that she has shared so many experiences with friends in the village and has been accepted into their homes, their festivities and their lives. She will continue to be grateful to LPPC and the congregation for their caring ways and for their love! Betty is happy that she has shared so many experiences with LPPC friends.

May 2018
Betty Closser
Wendy Ingram