

# The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

## Why "Yes"

### **Sunday Worship Services 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

May 1 - Ordination and  
Installation of  
Deacons and  
Ruling Elders  
*Leadership Requires Vision*  
Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10  
& 21:22-22:5

May 8 – Ascension of the  
Lord  
*You will be My Witnesses*  
Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-11

May 17 - Pentecost  
*Spirited*  
Romans 8:14-17; Acts 2:1-  
21

May 22 - Trinity Sunday  
*Whose on First?*  
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; John  
1:1-5

May 31 - Second Sunday  
after Pentecost *Declare  
God's Glory*  
1 Kings 8:22-23; Psalm  
96:1-9

The first Sunday in May, each year we ordain and install Deacons and Ruling Elders into the life of this congregation. As your pastor, I have the privilege of spending time with these individuals in preparation for their service to the church. At our April Session meeting, the penultimate step of this process is the examination of these new officers.

Just the thought of being examined stirs fear within us. Each year I am asked with trepidation about the nature of this examination. I say all you have to do is memorize the Bible, Book of Order, and Book of Confessions and be prepared to answer any questions on their contents. All of you could do that, right?

After a blank stare, I ease the questioner letting them in on a little secret. Under my watch, there is one primary question asked of those being examined. I will give you that question ahead of time, and you have a month to consider your answer. That question is... "Why did you say yes?" Why at this point in your life, when you were asked to serve, did you say yes?

The ensuing examination is always meaningful. Those being examined share their sense of call and the reasons they said yes. We learn more about each other and about our relationship to God and this church. I invite the elected to remember their answers because surely there will be times when they will ask themselves again that very question – "Why did I say yes?"

Why did you say yes the last time you were called upon to serve? Why did you say yes to being a part of this congregation? Where and to whom do you need to say "Yes" to now? Come find me if you want to talk about it.

Peace,  
Drew

**Sunday Adult Forum  
9:15 a.m.**

**May 1** - Jonah 1  
*Reluctant Prophets &  
Faithful Foreigners*

**May 8:** Jonah 4  
*God's Extravagant Grace*

**May 15** – Jonah  
*Jonah Through a Tomato's  
Eyes*

**May 22 & 29** - TBD

**The Session**

**Officers Meet**

The April Session meeting featured the attendance of new elders and deacons elected during our annual congregational meeting in January. These church leaders were examined and approved for ordination and installation on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Officer line-up for 2016**

Deacons: \*Ellen Baker, \*Sue Hoff, Anna Howarth, \*Joyce Hoses, Margene Martin, Ivona McCrary, Peggy Salazar, and Tom Thomas.

Elders: Drexel Douglas, \*Trip Jennings, Mickie Frazier-Koontz, \*Dan Lawrence, Bill Lumm, Christine Mink, Martha Ritchie, and Beth Sherwood.

Please note that Steve Milstead, also elected as an elder, is hopeful that his health challenges improve so he too can begin active service on session.

At the same time we said thanks and good bye to Class of 2015 officers completing their terms of service: Deacon Pat Thorpe, Elder Janice Langdale, and Elder Wayne Ullery.

\*Newly elected

**Committee Changes**

Retiring Elder Janice Langdale, as we all know, was our stewardship chair and Wayne Ullery, with an accounting background, chaired finance. Additionally we currently have a chair vacancy in the personnel committee. Stay tuned for an announcement of committee chair assignments for 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Lumm  
Clerk of Session

**Childrens' Christian Education**

May is the time of year I always look back and wonder how the year could have gone by so fast and how our children could have grown so much. It's a wonderful time to see all that's been accomplished and all the fun we have had. It has been a great year because of our wonderful children, our teachers, our assistants and our congregation. Thank you all!!

May is also a time for planning the summer and looking forward to the fun our children and youth are about to experience.

We are very excited that four of our high school youth have been accepted to attend the **PCUSA Triennium** this summer. Triennium is a gathering of high school age youth from the Presbyterian church and the Cumberland Presbyterian church that occurs every three years. The 2016 event takes place July 19-23 at Purdue University with the theme "**GO!**".

Our middle school youth are looking forward to attending **Youth Week at Ghost Ranch** once again. The theme this year, "**Bring it on: Be the Being You Were Meant to Be**". This event takes place the last week in June where they will experience activities involving service learning

and leadership development along with lots of fun on the beautiful Ghost Ranch campus.

Our youth are closing in on the monies needed for the Ghost Ranch Youth Week and the Senior High Triennium events this summer. One last fund raiser will be a **Father's Day Bake Sale, June 19<sup>th</sup>**. Anyone wishing to donate baked goods please contact Sally Gosnell or Carolyn Mann.

We are planning a fun week for our younger children, K-5<sup>th</sup> grade, with **Vacation Bible Study this summer, July 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>**. Our theme will be **Market Place 29 AD**, a five-day experience of reliving Biblical times to acquaint our children with their Christian heritage. We will be recruiting Weavers, Potters, Carpenters, Rope Makers, Basket Weavers, Kite Makers, Storytellers, Scribes and Kitchen Crew. If interested in joining us please call Sally Gosnell.

We thank our congregation for all the love and support you continually give us! Without you none of this would be possible.

~Sally Gosnell & Elizabeth Dickson,  
Children's Christian Ed Co-directors

### Membership

We are looking forward to seeing what gifts you have offered on your Time and Talent form. If you do not have a form, there are more in the Membership box in the office. If you have a form but haven't filled it out yet, please do so by May 8<sup>th</sup> so I can collate and send them to the committee chairs.

Thanks so much!

Wendy Ingram

### Library

Have a topic you want to learn more about? Need a quiet nook to sit in and read, or talk with a friend? Have some books for which you'd like to find a new home? Come by the LPPC self-service library, available whenever the church is open, for our wide selection and simple, easy and quick checkout.

### Health Ministry Partnership

Your monthly health tip:

Love your heart. Eat non-processed foods.



### Honorable Mentions & Upcoming Events

**Spring is here.** That means:

- ☞ NO single combined service on Mother's Day. Services as usual, 8:30am and 10:30am, Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ☞ Placitas Studio Tour, Saturday & Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ☞ Chile Pepper Café will **not** be open Mother's Day weekend this year.
- ☞ Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> kicks off the summer office schedule through Labor Day:
  - Tue - Fri, 9am – 1pm.
- ☞ Worship in the Mountains & Potluck Picnic will be on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am.
- ☞ LPPC will be a polling location for the General Election during May, June & November 2016. Watch the calendar!

### Casa Rosa

Now taking pre-orders for beautiful birdhouses to benefit Casa Rosa. They're handmade and perfect for the local screech owls, flickers, and bluebirds of Placitas. They make a thoughtful gift, too! Call or email the church office for more information. Priced as marked: Small - \$40, Large - \$60. Installation available. Call or email if you have questions, 867-5718, and administrator@lasplacitaschurch.org.

## Member Profile

### **Carl Allen**

Carl and his wife Jackie recently moved to New Mexico and have been looking forward to the move for many years. They met and lived here earlier, and they are thrilled to be back.

Carl was born in San Antonio, TX where his dad was Chaplain at Trinity University, When Carl was 4 the family moved to Bound Brook, NJ, where his dad became pastor of the Presbyterian Church. The family later moved to Rochester, NY and finally to Albuquerque where Carl's dad was pastor at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church. Carl earned his Bachelor's degree in Chemical Physics at Rice University, and that summer met Jackie. They were married the following year and headed to Tucson where Carl completed his Masters in Astronomy at the University of Arizona. Following 3 years of active duty in the Navy, he returned to Arizona to earn his PhD in Planetary Science. His education continued with a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Geology department at UNM from 1979 to 1982.

Around that time, the federal budget for planetary research was severely cut, so after all those years of studying Carl had to re-career. The family, now including daughters Ruth and Joan, moved to Richland, WA where Carl worked in nuclear waste disposal and environmental science. In 1992 Carl returned to planetary science at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. He studied the resources available on the Moon, the geology of Mars, and microbial life in extreme environments. In 2000, he became curator of all of NASA's moon rocks and meteorites, samples of comets, and gases from the sun. His team took special care to preserve the samples and sent them to scientists all over the world to study. Carl was an active volunteer with church mission and youth groups, Girl Scouts, and Habitat for Humanity. He served 19 years in the Navy Reserve, retiring with the rank of Commander.

Carl and Jackie retired from NASA at the end of 2014 and moved to Placitas last April. New Mexico has been their destination throughout their marriage, and they had been visiting for over 5 years before settling on their current home. They "discovered" LPPC several years ago, and were happy to have a church home on their arrival.

Carl and Jackie met in New Mexico on a church youth group camping trip. They married in 1971. Their daughter Ruth lives in Somerville, MA and works in international development. Granddaughter Elizabeth is the delight of Carl and Jackie's life. Their daughter Joan lives in San Francisco and works for SEIU (Service Employee International Union) where she leads a research team that supports union negotiations in the field of health care. Rob, her long-term boyfriend, works as an electrical engineer.

Carl's most memorable trip was to Antarctica in 2002, on an expedition for NASA to collect meteorites. They camped on the ice for 6 weeks and collected over 900 rocks from space! In 2011 Carl and Jackie celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary by trekking in Nepal, exploring Bhutan, and visiting India where Carl's dad had worked as a missionary. Carl and Jackie's bucket list includes trips to the Silk Road, and Africa, as well as exploration in the Four Corners area.

Carl and Jackie are devoting their time in retirement to travel, serving the church and turning their house into their home.

The person Carl would most like to meet is science fiction writer and futurist Arthur C. Clarke. Carl admires people who attempt to see into the future. The possession Carl would grab in a fire is the video his parents made of their family history. When asked what his 5 favorite things are he didn't choose any – it's all stuff and he can start over.

Carl and Jackie's favorite parts about LPPC are the inclusiveness and inspiring services.

~ Betty Closser & Wendy Ingram

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