



The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

AUGUST 2011

Getting Wet

In a recent summer worship service we were graced with "Tuvan Praise" by a group of members from our congregation. When Michael introduced his friends and the music, he quipped with a grin, "If we do this right, we'll get some rain."



Sure enough, within the week, we began to get some of the first showers of the season. Good work Michael! I can't count the number of people who have said to me, "What a year to move to Placitas!" The intense cold, the gas outage, the unusually long windy season, the fires, the smoke, the drought. I find myself responding, "Surely it only gets better from here." And some rain has finally come.

While we were not here, I understand many enjoyed the annual tradition of getting wet at our Placitas 4th of July parade. July marked our first six months together as a pastor and a congregation. We are also now more than a quarter of the way into our designated time of ministry together. As a reminder, during this time we are to work together to strengthen the financial position of our congregation and to grapple with issues of faith and money in our lives as Christians. We'll continue to work in this direction as we move into the fall.

This summer has offered us a number of opportunities. I know many have enjoyed occasional vacations, trips, or respites. I have enjoyed getting to better know some of the members of our congregation through the sharing of their musical gifts in our weekly summer worship. In mid July we also dove right back into Vacation Bible School. It is so important to let our children know that they matter, and I am thankful to Anna H and all the volunteers who helped to bring Vacation Bible School back to LPPC.

I hope you enjoy what is left of the summer. I'll be seeing you around Placitas.

Peace, Drew

August Text & Topics

August 7th 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Ken Cuthbertson preaching

August 14th 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time—"Gifts and Calling" Psalm 133; Romans 11 1-2a, 29-32

August 21st 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time—"How to Live" Psalm 124; Romans 12: 1-8

August 28th 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time "How to Love" Psalm 105:1-6; Romans 12: 9-21

"LPPC's History is Placitas' History."

Curious how to research the history of Placitas back 100 years? Please join us at 4:00pm on Sunday, August 28 here at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church for this special presentation featuring the author of *Century of Faith*, Suzanne Sims Forrest. All are welcome to attend this event.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF LPPC?

If you would like to join Las Placitas Presbyterian Church or would like to learn more about us, please let either Pastor Drew or Wendy I know (Church Office-867-5718).

CHOIR RETURNS to active rehearsals on Thursday, August 18th at 7pm.

All are welcome, and I highly encourage anyone who has been thinking about joining to please do so! It is a wonderful way to express your worship and praise to our Lord, and we have a great deal of fun in the process! Bo Rogers will be returning with us this fall; his humble and genuine nature prohibits us from extolling his virtuous personality in this forum.



Yours truly, Bo

SESSION Highlights



New Members!

Yes, we continue to be blessed. Please join me in welcoming **five** new members to our church family who have all recently moved to Placitas. Bob & Susan H hail from the Chicago area and will soon be hosting a Saturday evening potluck. How's that for getting involved? Burke and Martha R are from the Newport News, Virginia area where they worshiped at the Hilton Baptist Church. Martha has already served as liturgist! We also are delighted to officially welcome Tamara H joining LPPC by letter of transfer from the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, Alabama. Many of us have come to also know Tamara as the wife of our Pastor, Drew!

“New” Parish Associate

It's official! Ken Cuthbertson was voted and approved by the Session as Parish Associate. His title also comes with a budget... in 2012. If you already thought Ken was a Parish Associate, please ask him to explain it all. That is, if you have the time—it's complicated.

A Clean Machine

Ever wonder who keeps the Placitas Library so sparkly clean? It's the same Guy that now keeps our church looking so good. Yes, we have a new contract custodian. Guy V began on July 1st and is doing a great job. If you're ever at LPPC late on a Thursday afternoon or early on a Friday morning you might want to make his acquaintance. He's a good Guy! Welcome!

~Bill L, Clerk of Session

CASA ROSA NEWS

Casa Rosa Makes a Difference!

Recently, the Casa Rosa Board has received thank you letters from clients that brought tears to our eyes and swelled our hearts with gladness. Actually we constantly receive thank you's, hugs, smiles, and laughter, but these letters were exceptional because the clients said that we had changed their lives. As we have grown as a community, we have included more clients as volunteers, empowering them as people who have something to give, as well as to receive. We find that everyone has something to give.



It feels good to help others, so you should feel really good, your contributions mean so much. Contributions of money help us to buy food—remember the 9 to 1 principle. We are able to buy \$9 worth of food for each dollar contributed. Donations of clean, attractive, casual clothing are much appreciated also. “Thanks to your clothing bank I have been able to get much needed and beautiful clothing,” commented one individual. How nice it is to have attractive clothing. Household goods are always in demand as well. When you buy something new, think about giving away your still good appliances, dishes, or whatever, rather than storing them in the garage or closets.

We have made some recent repairs and improvements. Tom L and Matt G installed tile in our kitchen, replacing the soiled and worn out carpeting. The tile is easier to keep clean and so much nicer. We have upgraded our refrigerators and freezers when people have given us newer used appliances. This helps us to better serve our clients. We are constantly looking for ways to improve what we are doing. We welcome approximately 55 families each Saturday. A family might include one person, four or five, or even more. Nearly every week, we will sign up a new family or two; some people move away; old friends may return. The people who arrive on any given weekend are given a warm welcome, food and more.

Upcoming Casa Rosa Events:

August 20, Saturday from 9-11am, during Casa Rosa distribution, we will be having our Third Anniversary Celebration. You are invited to come and share barbecued chicken sandwiches, fresh fruits and vegetables, cake, and whatever else anybody brings. We will have music provided by the **Wild Chilis**. There will be laughter and fun. Come and join us!

August 28, Sunday from 1-4, La Puerta Real Estate Services, LLC (1 Ridge Court) will be sponsoring an Ice Cream Social to benefit Casa Rosa. Admission price for ice cream is a donation of non-perishable food items including top priority needs: canned beans (especially pinto), canned fruits, canned hearty soups, Chicken Helper, canned meats, potatoes, spinach and Tuna Helper; or top priority toiletry items including: lotion, mouthwash, shampoo, razors, shaving cream and toilet tissue. (Questions: 867-3388.)

Ongoing: Flower Power Fundraising. You can buy fall bulbs for yourself or for gifts, and Casa Rosa

will receive 50% of the order price. Search for www.flowerpowerfundraising.com. Once you are on the site, go to the top right corner and click on "Place an Order." On the opened page, type in "Casa Rosa Food Bank" for your preferred fundraising organization and "NM" for the state. Casa Rosa Food Bank, Placitas, NM should come up and you may place your order. Pamphlets describing and picturing the flowers are available at LPPC and Casa Rosa. If you have questions, please contact Sherrill Cloud (771-1125) or Karen Fischer (867-5749).

Hope to see you at our Third Anniversary Celebration on August 20th!

~Karen F, Co-Chair

MISSION News

The Mission Committee is working on fund raising projects for the upcoming fall season.

1. We will be doing a specialized booth at the Placitas Flea Market - September 24th. We will be selling our gift and wine bags as well as material that we have from years of making bags. There will be select pieces of other merchandise for sale. We don't want to have so much that it creates a hardship on the ones running the sale when it comes time to dispose of remaining items.

2. We are creating a scrap book of our church and its life for Cuba Partnership Ministry to take on the trip in November. Jeannine P is going with the group from the Presbytery and will spearhead this project.

3. We will be purchasing 'Fair Trade' products from Equal Exchange to present along with our coffee this fall at the Holiday Sale (November 19 & 20).

4. Joyce T and Nancy U are planning a quilted wall hanging for the Holiday season that will be auctioned off in December.

Don't forget the 'Peacemaking Offering' held annually in October. Part of this offering comes back to our local congregation to support 'Peace Making Projects.'

~Nancy U, Mission Coordinator

MEMBER PROFILE

JANICE L

Janice was born in Chicago and lived there until she went to Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana, where



she graduated with a degree in English and a minor in Theology. Janice spent one summer working at Ghost Ranch, and this was her introduction to New Mexico. After graduation she returned to New Mexico to teach at Madison Junior High in Albuquerque, where she taught 9th grade English for five years.

After marrying and spending a year in California, she returned to teach English at Del Norte for four years. When her husband earned his geology degree from the University of New Mexico, they moved to Houston for three years, where he worked for Texas Gulf Oil. Their two daughters, Morgan and Whitney, were born there. With moves to Midland, TX, back to Albuquerque, and back to Midland, the family finally re-settled in New Mexico in 1987.

While in Midland, Janice earned her Master's degree in Education and Reading at University of Texas, Permian Basin branch in Odessa, TX. After the family returned to New Mexico in 1987, Janice taught 11th grade English at Valley High School in Albuquerque from 1988-2000. She divorced in 1990, and in 2000, with her children grown, she decided she really wanted to be a librarian. So she went to library school in Denton, TX for two years, earning her second Master's degree.

She returned to teaching at Valley High School for two more years because there were no librarian positions in Albuquerque. However, the day after retiring from Albuquerque Public Schools in 2004, she saw an ad in the paper for a librarian position at Cuba High School. She interviewed and was hired on the spot. She commuted to Cuba from Placitas for five years and loved her position as a librarian. Janice retired for the final time in 2009.

Back in 1973, on one of their Sunday drives, Janice and her husband discovered Placitas and Ranchos de Placitas, which was just being developed. They bought property on a particularly attractive corner and in 1994 when Janice decided to move to Placitas she built her present house there.

Janice's daughter, Morgan, is an estimator/pre-construction manager for a commercial construction company in Phoenix. Whitney is a Captain in the Air Force currently living in Germany. Whitney and husband Jamie have Janice's adorable granddaughter, Olivia, who is 2 ½ years old.

Janice's favorite job was being a librarian. She enjoyed the different kinds of non-teaching interaction with students as well as not having to grade papers!

As an avid reader, one of Janice's hobbies is collecting signed first editions of mystery novels. She has all of Michael Connelly's novels and all but one of Thomas Perry's thrillers. She is currently taking a math class and has signed up for a French class this summer. Janice obviously has a love of learning. She spends time online keeping up with friends who are near and far. She enjoys sending terrible puns to Internet friends.

While teaching at Valley High School (VHS) Janice coached an academic decathlon team. There was one team per high school from many districts in New Mexico. The VHS team had placed next to last the previous year, but earned the 3rd place medal while Janice was their coach. Many of her students said that the experience of working with her changed their lives, and she was honored at the "Teachers Who Make a Difference" assembly.

Janice's best trip to date was the cruise she took this past January 2011 around the bottom of South America. She never expected to be in such an exotic place. She has planned a trip to Germany next spring to visit her daughter and family.

The five things she wouldn't want to live without are her cat Mojo, her toaster oven and microwave, her special quilt and coffee—lots of coffee.

A life-long Presbyterian, Janice has belonged to many churches. The people are what make LPPC special to Janice.

The one thing Janice has always wanted to be is a torch singer sitting on a piano bar.... She said it still might happen! At this point in life Betty White is her inspiration.

~Wendy I & Betty C



14th Annual Chili Festival to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

Hosted by Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 27th, 9am-4pm at 1801

Montano Rd, NW in Albuquerque. Free admission! Come and enjoy: chili roasting, a bake and used book sale, a kid's fiesta, a silent auction and live music. (www.chilefestival.com)

Summer Soiree—art serving the La Mesa community in Albuquerque. Saturday, August 27 from 6-9pm at La Mesa Presbyterian Church, 7401 Copper NE. Come enjoy art, music, food and wine. Admission—\$10 suggested donation. For more information, email: treyhammond@aol.com or call 505-255-8095.

LPPC Calendar Highlights AUGUST

- Wed Aug 3 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun Aug 7 Worship with Communion, 9:30am
Ken Cuthbertson preaching
- Tues Aug 9 Session meeting, 7pm
- Wed Aug 10 Placitas Mobile Food Pantry
10am-12noon
- Fri Aug 12 Member & Friends Potluck, 6pm
All welcome
- Sun Aug 14 Summer Worship, 9:30am
- Thurs Aug 18 Choir resumes rehearsal, 7pm
- Sat Aug 20 Casa Rosa 3rd Anniversary
Celebration, 9-11am
- Sun Aug 21 Summer Worship, 9:30am
- Sun Aug 28 Summer Worship, 9:30am
- Ice Cream Social, La Puerta Realty
(1 Ridge Court), 1-4pm
- Presentation: "LPPC's History is
Placitas' History." Suzanne Forrest,
4:00pm

**September newsletter deadline:
Friday, August 26th at noon**

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