



The News of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

JUNE/JULY 2011

*Summertime...
and the livin' is
easy...*

I can hear Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong's voices in my favorite recording of Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess*. Forget the lyrics. Simply the tempo of that tune sets the tone for a summer season.



I don't know if it's the heat, the school schedules, the possible trips, or a combination of multiple factors that seem to alter our rhythm over the coming months. I've been told things even slow down around here at the church in the summer season, in part already evidenced by our single worship service schedule and a reduced week at the office.

While there are obviously still things to be taken care of and few adults get three months off this time of the year (or at any time of the year for that matter), there is wisdom in summer. Our Hebrew ancestors dedicated a special time each week, a Sabbath, to live a different rhythm. Following God's own pattern of work and rest, our forefathers and mothers in the faith saw it wise to regularly stop and enjoy life in a different way.

While it might be argued that we here in Placitas live at a different rhythm much of the year – "village time" – there is still room for this season to remind us that play, nurturing relationships, and enjoyment for enjoyment's sake indeed have their place. For life was and is daily given to us as a gift from God. A gift to be cherished. A gift to be honored. A gift to be shared.

So let us welcome in this summer season together. Enjoy the longer days. Find a shady spot. Take a hike. Visit with a friend. Summertime is here.

Peace, Drew

June/July Text & Topics

June 5th Ascension **"Up"** Acts 1:6-14; John 17:1-11

June 12th Pentecost **"Spirit-Filled"** 1 Corinthians 12:4-13; Acts 2:1-21

June 19th Trinity Sunday **"Blessing"** 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

June 26th Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time **"Welcome"** Psalm 13:1-6; Matthew 10:40-42

July 3rd Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time **"Love Song"** Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 10th Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time **"The Sower"** Psalm 119:105-112; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 17th Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time **"What is the kingdom of heaven like?"** Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 24th Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time **"What is the kingdom of heaven like? Part 2"** Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

July 31st Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time **"Enough"** Psalm 17: 1-7, 15; Matthew 14:13-21



Vacation Bible School begins July 17!

On Sunday, July 17, at 4:00pm, LPPC welcomes children ages 5-10 and their parents to enjoy dinner, meet the teachers and learn about this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening,

parents are asked to drop off their children between 5 and 5:30pm for the evening's program and return to pick up the kids again at 7:30pm. A light snack will be served along with exciting opportunities each evening for our children to learn and play together.

If you have questions or to pre-register, contact the church office (867-5718).

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 Ingram know (Church Office-867-5718).



Session Highlights May 2011

New members! This is always the best of news. Please welcome Don and Ann Hoover from First Methodist Conroe, Texas and Ed and Sally Gosnell from Sandia Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. Both of these wonderful couples have been attending LPPC for several months now and enjoy the sincerity and friendliness of all us folks! Look for them in church and stick out a hand in congratulations!

We are currently evaluating well water chlorinating systems to correct the occasional contamination that occurs from soil bacteria. (This soil bacteria is NOT hazardous to our health.) However, this is an indicator that future issues may arise.

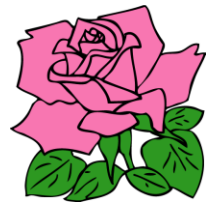
Summer talent show! As in previous summers, while our wonderful choir takes a well-deserved break, congregants are given the opportunity to perform during the Sunday's worship. Anyone who sings, plays a musical instrument, or both, is encouraged to sign-up in Fellowship Hall. Break a leg...figuratively of course!

On the road again! Rev. Drew Henry and Endowment Committee Chair, Doug Hendry, recently traveled to First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, Texas to participate in the The Lake Institute on Faith and Giving's training titled "Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity." I'll bet they came back with some great ideas...stay tuned.

~Bill Lumm , Clerk of Session

CASA ROSA NEWS

Have you ever heard the saying, "The more things change, the more they stay the same"? Well, that is our hope and our expectation for Casa Rosa.



Yes, we have new leadership, but we have been very well groomed for our jobs. During the two years that our past chair, Charlotte Lough, led us, she worked non-stop creating guidelines for everything that we do. Charlotte defined jobs and tasks, and created files and procedures, helping Casa Rosa to develop from a start-up organization to a mature system.

Recently, we had an on-site inspection by Joe Gatti, Agency Relations Manager for Roadrunner Foods. Joe checked all of our food areas making sure that our refrigerators and freezers were at appropriate temperatures, and that all of our food was stored according to requirements. He reviewed all of our documentation including RRFB Bills of Lading, and Weekly Sign-in Sheets for Clients, TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) client registration forms. Casa Rosa was given the highest level of review marks across all categories. In fact, Joe thinks so highly of Casa Rosa, that he brought a colleague/trainee along on the inspection to show her a model of how things should be.

Last week, Charlotte, Sherrill, and I met with an Anne Hays Egan (who sings in our choir) to discuss Casa Rosa. Anne is a consultant and an expert in organizational development. Here's what Anne had to say about us: "Casa Rosa is a very well run, mission-driven program that stretches every dollar to get the most possible value for clients in need. You're a little program with a big footprint, and a huge heart." We sure liked hearing Anne's assessment!

As we move towards our 3rd anniversary celebration in August, we are pretty pleased with our Casa Rosa. So many wonderful people and organizations have helped, and continue to help! In April, La Puerta held their 2nd Annual Flea Market to Benefit Casa Rosa. This was a wonderful help to us, but what we count on most of all are the contributions from individuals. Please continue to keep us in mind with your contributions and your prayers. We have been fortunate to help our wonderful Placitas community. We have many people who continue to need our help, and there are always new people who need help as well.

If you are wondering how you can assist, there are many opportunities!! In addition to your \$\$, we would love to have your presence. Casa Rosa is the place to be for fellowship and friendship with fellow Placitans. We are at Casa Rosa every Friday from 8:30-10:30am receiving and sub-dividing food. We are there every Saturday from 9-11am distributing food (actually some clients show up at 7:30 or earlier). Many people come out and visit for hours, even if they don't need anything. We have excellent snacks, and great stories. An additional opportunity to help is our Mobile Food Pantry that is held on the second Wednesday of each month, delivered at 9:30 and distributed from 10am-12noon.

Come and join us any weekend or any 2nd Wednesday. I promise that you will leave with a smile on your face and in your heart.

~Karen Fischer, Co-Chair

Stewardship

The stewardship committee welcomes Judie Hendry as our newest member. It is not too late for more of you to join us in creating fascinating ways for Presbyterians to celebrate God's generosity this fall during our annual pledge drive.

Won't you consider becoming a member of the stewardship committee? In our work together we voice our conviction that God has been so generous to us and we want to grow in the ways we extend generosity in our lives to others. Won't you join us?

~Janice Langdale

Mission Committee to Raise Funds at Placitas Flea Market - June 11th

We are raising funds to support the various projects that the Mission Committee sponsors. This is our first fund raiser of the year. If you have any items you would like to donate please bring them to the Placitas Flea Market (at the MERC) on Saturday June 11th. If you would like to work that day let me know. Thanks!

Nancy Ullery 867-4712

Nancyj@heartlandnewmexico.com

MEMBER PROFILE BETTY MILSTEAD

Betty was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. She attended the University of Texas El Paso (UTEP) but transferred to Texas Tech in Lubbock where she earned a



degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Spanish. Betty and her husband, Frank, moved to Palo Alto where he completed his Master's degree at Stanford. He earned one of the first computer science degrees ever awarded. Betty taught first grade there for two and a half years.

After a short officer training stint in Red Bank, NJ they moved to White Sands Missile Range where Frank was responsible for the computer tracking of missile shots. Their son, Steve, was born while living in White Sands. He now lives in Austin and is a systems analyst for the Texas Department of Human Resources.

Frank left the service and the family moved to Phoenix. They became members of the Paradise Valley Presbyterian Church. Their daughter, Deborah, was born in Phoenix and now lives in Green Bay, Wisconsin where she does academic research at the University of Wisconsin.

The heat quickly became too much in Phoenix so the family moved to San Antonio where Betty taught in an Episcopal Day School for four years and first grade in a public school for one year. The family then moved to Austin where they lived for forty years. She taught in a child development center for five years until the family moved from northwest Austin to south Austin to be nearer Frank's work. They built their 4000 square foot dream house in West Lake Hills. When the upkeep became too much, Betty retired from teaching.

When daughter Deborah was eight years old she became a dedicated dance student at Ballet Austin. Betty also started getting involved with the dance company. She became the costume coordinator for the company and eventually served on the Ballet Austin Board. Once, while traveling to New Orleans with the ballet company to help with costumes, Betty had the opportunity to attend a training course in costume construction. One Christmas while inundated in white tulle and tutu makings while re-costuming the snow scene for Nutcracker, Betty said, "Enough is enough." She began looking for her next life direction.

She was introduced to the book "Dibs in Search of Self" by Virginia Axline, the story of a disturbed child who was helped with play therapy. Betty then started walking around the UT campus trying to find out how to be a child play therapist. She returned to school and earned her Master's of Science degree in Social Work. After talking to a friend in Austin who was a child physiologist she started using his

office in the mornings for her new practice. Eventually Betty started her own practice which lasted almost thirty years. Soon after starting her practice, Betty and her husband divorced. Betty and Bill met in 1994 through a dating service called Two's Company. They married in the lovely seminary chapel of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1994.

Betty is most proud of her international certification in sand play therapy. It was a rigorous course of study requiring attendance at many lectures and the writing of three extensive papers, the last being equivalent to a dissertation. The last years of her practice, she devoted herself to doing sand therapy with both children and adults.

Betty has fond memories of summers in the mountains of New Mexico. When she attended a sand play conference in Santa Fe and met other sand play therapists, one in particular from Placitas, she decided it was time for a change. With her brother's help, who lives in Estancia, Betty and Bill relocated to their home in Desert Mountain on November 2007.

Betty is certified to practice Sand Therapy in New Mexico but the process is so intense that Betty doesn't know if she is up to it anymore. Her hobbies are: dogs (currently a Yorkshire/shiatzu mix named Ziggy), reading, bird watching and being very active in the Community Center. Betty and Bill's best trip was their honeymoon in Italy in 1995. Other trips have taken them to England, Germany and Scotland. The things she wouldn't want to live without are: books, pets, cultural activities and singing in the choir.

Betty has only ever been a Presbyterian. If Placitas hadn't had a Presbyterian Church they would not have moved to New Mexico. The attraction to Las Placitas are its' PEOPLE! She recalls coming to LPPC for the first time through the two doors near the Sanctuary entrance and being made so welcome by Bill Lumm and Elsie DeLara. It was difficult for Betty to change churches after forty years but LPPC made the transition pretty easy. She was very pleased to be asked to be an elder so early in their membership.

~Wendy Ingram & Betty Closser

"The Promise – To ALL Who God Calls"

You are invited to a service of thanksgiving and remembrance celebrating the recent constitutional change in the Presbyterian Church (USA) that will

allow the ordination of LGBT persons as deacons, elders, and ministers. The service will be held on Sunday Afternoon, June 5, 2011, at 4 p.m. at New Life Presbyterian Church, 5540 Eubank, NE, in Albuquerque. (See: <http://www.newlifepcusa.org/> for location, etc.) There will be a time of fellowship and light refreshments following the service.

~Ken Cuthbertson



WOMEN'S YOGA GROUP BEGINS at LPPC Join a gentle yoga class for stretching & relaxation.

Friendly, welcoming group led by experienced teacher, Fehrunissa Willett. We meet on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Classes began on Monday, May 30th. Join us either one or both days per week. Cost is \$7.50/class for all classes per month or \$10/class drop-in. Please bring your own yoga mat if you have one; other props are provided.

If you have questions or for more information, email Fehrunissa at fehrunissa@hotmail.com.

Celebrate the Summer Solstice with a hike to Sandstone Canyon.

Meet at 9:30 am at 4 Quail Meadow (Placitas) on Saturday, June 25 and join us for, **Solstice, Sun & Stone: A Celebration in the Red Stone**. Questions, contact Leland Bowen through the church office (867-5718).

Floating down the Rio Grande!

Imagine floating in your kayak (or canoe) on the river and through the bosque. No hard paddling, no rapids...just a serene adventure. LPPC is on the calendar at *Quiet Waters Paddling Adventures* (QWPA) for **Sunday, June 12th** and we are looking for up to 30 river floaters (adults and children, newbies or experienced) for an LPPC outing right after church. Here is the link to LPPC's event page with all the details: <http://www.quietwaterspaddling.com/events/las-placitas-presbyterian-church-floats-bosque>



Contact Vicki Davis vdavis321@comcast.net or put your name on the list at QWPA (771-1234). **Make reservations by Monday, June 6.** QWPA was featured in the May issue of *Sunset Magazine* and *NM Magazine*.

CENTURY OF FAITH BOOKS – If you have the book, *Century of Faith*, and you do not intend to read again, would you consider donating it to LPPC? The book is no longer in print and we have very few copies left. We would like to be able to give them to new members. ~Wendy Ingram

Be sure to sign up for Isotopes baseball!

Sunday, **July 10**, is All Faiths night at Isotope Park. We want a big group from LPPC to join in the festivities: fresh air, hot dogs, Orbit, the chicken dance, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," cheering as LPPC flashes on the marquee, and watching the Isotope players come up to the plate. We'll have a great time. Group price per ticket is just \$7 on the third baseline! **Game is at 6:05pm.**

Look for the sign-up sheet on the clip board in Fellowship Hall and plan to enjoy a fun family night of baseball. **Please place your order by Sunday, June 19th.** Questions, contact Janice Langdale or Vicki Davis (vdavis321@comast.net/ 867-9723).

INNOCENCE IS PRICELESS!

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?"

The pastor said, "Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "Which service, the 8:00 or the 10:30?"

~Contributed by Vivian G.

Calendar Highlights

JUNE

- Wed June 1 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sat June 4 Placitas Appreciation Day
- Sun June 5 Worship with Communion, 9:30am
- Wed June 8 Placitas Mobile Food Pantry 10am-12noon
- Sat June 11 Placitas Flea Market
- Sun June 12 Pentecost Worship with Communion 9:30am
Floating down the Rio Grande—right after church
- Sun June 19 Worship (Father's Day), 9:30am
- Sat June 25 Summer Solstice Event, 9:30am
- Sun June 26 Worship in the Mountains, 9:30am
- Wed June 29 Summer Serenade, 9:30-11:30am

JULY

- Sun, Jul 3 Worship with Communion, 9:30am
- Mon Jul 4 Independence Day
- Wed Jul 6 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun Jul 10 Worship, 9:30am
All Faiths Night Baseball, Isotopes Park, 6:05pm
- Wed Jul 13 Placitas Mobile Food Pantry 10am-12noon
- Sun Jul 17 Worship, 9:30am
Vacation Bible School Family Dinner 4:00pm
- Mon-Wed Jul 18-20 Vacation Bible School, 5:00-7:30pm
- Sun Jul 24 Worship, 9:30am
- Sun Jul 31 Worship, 9:30am

**August newsletter deadline:
Monday, July 25th at noon**

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