



The News of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

MAY 2011

May God Bless You

A number of you have asked me about the blessing I use at the end of our worship services. I learned that blessing from a friend and colleague the Rev. Eugenia Gamble. It has and continues to touch me, so I continue to share it with you and with others.

Not often do we think of discomfort, anger, tears, and foolishness as blessings. I sometimes wonder what we mean when we talk about blessings anyway. Are we trying to say that God looks upon us with favor sometimes and sometimes not, or upon some of us and others no?

Perhaps the blessing that we should be seeking is that we all be gifted or "blessed" with a faith that leads us to deeper living, deeper commitment, deeper compassion, deeper action.

In these, our first months together, I have experienced that kind of faith to be very much alive here at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. You are an incredible congregation.

Keep up the good work, and I'll keep praying...

May God bless you with discomfort – at half-truths, easy answers, and superficial relationships – so that you will live deeply and from the heart.

May God bless you with anger – at injustice, oppression, and the exploitation of people – so that you will work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed – for those who mourn – so that you will reach out your hand to them and turn their mourning into joy.

And may God bless you with just enough foolishness – to believe that you can make a difference in this old world – so that you will do those things that others say cannot be done.

Peace be with you in this Easter Season, Drew

Beginning May 1st, we will be moving to our one service worship format and will continue with that

schedule throughout the summer. Please join us on Sundays at **9:30am** for worship. Nursery is provided as well as Sunday School for children. Coffee and fellowship follows in Fellowship Hall.

May Text & Topics

May 1st Second Sunday of Easter "Blessed are Those Who Doubt" 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

May 8th Third Sunday of Easter "At the Table" 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

May 15th Fourth Sunday of Easter "Keys to Community" Acts 2:42-47; John 10:1-10

May 22nd Fifth Sunday of Easter "Stones" 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14

May 29th Sixth Sunday of Easter "God?" Acts 17:22-31; John 14:15-21



Monday Night Adult Study 7:00pm, Upper Room

We have begun a new study using a 2008 PBS DVD series called "The Wisdom of Faith" with Bill Moyers and Huston Smith, professor and authority on the history and philosophy of religion. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are the topics for each of the hour-long DVDs. As Huston Smith writes, "If we take the world's enduring religions at their best, we discover the distilled wisdom of the human race." All are welcome to come learn more about our own and these two other religious traditions.

Membership News

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

April 2011

You may wonder what goes on 'behind the scenes' of our Session meetings. I certainly did before I became an Elder. Now I know and so will you!



The warmest of welcomes to Peggy Salazar our newest LPPC member. Peggy joined our church by letter of transfer from Atoka Presbyterian Church in Tennessee.

Remember Bob Boughton, our choir director five years ago? He's back at LPPC....but just for one evening, Friday, April 29th at 7p.m., as he conducts Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria." Enjoy the combined talent of our Albuquerque Area Presbyterian Church's forty voice choir while supporting the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. The suggested donation is \$10.

We are investigating the merits of installing an automatic or semi-automatic water purification system at the church. Our well water steward and resident expert, Debby Brinkerhoff, currently monitors and maintains high purity standards manually. Hats off to Debby for her long term service commitment.

Ever visit our website? If so, you may notice a change in the near future. Session has approved the transfer of our website to the professional design platform, **Clover**, to support our growing ministry. This is especially good news for web manager Elizabeth Dickson, who's spent countless hours maintaining and updating the website. There's light at the end of the tunnel, Elizabeth!

~Bill Lumm

NEW LEADERSHIP INSTALLED FOR CASA ROSA

~Charlotte Lough, past Chair



At the Casa Rosa board meeting on April 19th the board voted in a new leadership team for Casa Rosa Food Bank. It is a wonderfully competent slate of officers with terrific board to back them.

Taking the lead position as Co-Chairs are Sherrill Cloud and Karen Fischer. Sherrill has been deeply involved in Casa Rosa since July of 2009 and a board member since February 2010, acting as Secretary since January 2010. Karen has been a

consistent volunteer at Casa Rosa almost since the beginning and served as a Member-at-large on the board since September 2009. She is trained to submit the weekly orders online to Roadrunner Food bank and rotates that duty with several other volunteers, and currently serves as a trainer for others. Karen has training in food preparation and has prepared food and created recipes for the clients.

In the Vice Chair position we have two people as well. They are Jeff Dickson and Tom Luley. Jeff is fulfilling a second term as Vice Chair and was one of the original members when the board was established in early April 2009. Jeff has experience in food safety issues and took the online training in food safety that Roadrunner requires. He then gave an in-service for the remainder of the board and other regular volunteers. Tom has been a consistent volunteer since moving permanently to New Mexico, spearheading numerous special projects like the mission group from Grosse Ile in September 2010, bringing mulch from the waste management site for the flower beds, securing estimates for installing the new carpet that was donated to Casa Rosa, and various other repairs. He has been a board member since October 2010.

The Secretary position has been assumed by Nats Lunde. She has been a regular volunteer for the past year and organizes all the donations that come into the food bank, especially clothing, small household items, and books. She tells us that volunteering at Casa Rosa gives her a real purpose. Nats has been a board member since February 2011 and will be taking and distributing minutes as well as acknowledging and sending thank you notes for donations that are made to Casa Rosa.

The job of Treasurer has been accepted by Gordon Ziemer. He has been a regular volunteer since July 2009 and a board member since February 2010. He was one of our painters extraordinaire when we renovated the waiting room in the spring/summer of 2010 and oversees the clothing distribution, takes discarded clothing to the donation bins, oversees clients on the shopping floor, and acts as a backup to refill the freezers from which the clients shop. One of his other talents is being great with numbers. He did a thorough examination of our financial status last fall, including recommendations, when we needed to re-evaluate our financial status. We are in good, stable financial shape due to his assessment and

recommendations, as well as receiving help from our fundraising chair, Betsy Model.

In spring of 2009, when the board was initially established, we had six board members with one who was not a member of LPPC. There are now fifteen members on the Casa Rosa Board, six of which are LPPC members, the remaining nine are members of the community. Two of our board members are from the Catholic mission, three are clients as well as volunteers, and others are from the greater community of Placitas. This tells me that the food bank has been embraced by the whole community and has truly become a community effort. Local businesses such as the Merc and La Puerta Realty and groups such as Jardineros de Placitas consistently support Casa Rosa, as well as private businesses and individuals. A number of our regular volunteers are clients and volunteer their time and effort to give back for the services they receive at Casa Rosa. Reverend Henry is our spiritual advisor.

At Casa Rosa we assure fair treatment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex or handicap.

It has been a great pleasure and highly rewarding to serve as Chair of Casa Rosa for the past two years. It is my fondest hope that the congregation and the community as a whole will continue to embrace and support Casa Rosa as has been done in the past, as the staff at Casa Rosa continues to offer a helping hand to Placitas.

MEMBER PROFILE CARMEN DOUGLAS

Carmen was born and grew up in Espanola, NM. She graduated from Espanola Valley High School, moving on to NM Highlands University where she graduated with a degree in accounting and business administration. She attended on a softball scholarship. After graduation Carmen moved to Walkersville, MD to try something different. She lived with a long-time family friend and worked at Curtis Mathis (a TV/entertainment business) in accounting for three years.

Carmen moved back to Espanola and worked in accounting again for a glass company. She realized accounting wasn't for her, so through a friend, she was hired as a driver for UPS. She loved working outside for four years but dealing with northern NM in the winter was taking its toll. Carmen's brother was working in a facility with group homes for

handicapped adults—Santa Maria El Mirador (SMEM). He helped Carmen secure a supervisory job there. (Carmen's Mom was a nurse tech. when Carmen was growing up so she was exposed to the health care system and was encouraged to get into nursing.) After several years, Carmen knew that she wanted to be a nurse. She moved back to Espanola from Santa Fe so she could attend Northern Community College. She earned her LPN degree as well as a degree in massage therapy. While at school, she worked at a residential treatment center for adolescents. After completing the LPN program she returned to working as a nurse with SMEM.

Carmen met Drexel when he was the consulting pharmacist at the group home where Carmen worked. A couple of years later they decided to move to Placitas. They loved the energy and beauty in Placitas. Drexel's family lived in Albuquerque so they could easily travel between Espanola, Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Drexel and Carmen were married in 2002

Carmen transferred back to Santa Fe – SMEM, when they moved to Placitas. Then she started working at Desert Hills (Sequoia/Coors), which is an adolescent treatment center. During this time she took classes to complete her registered nurse (RN) degree. She took 2 years off to raise Dana. Now Carmen works Monday through Wednesday at Northside Presbyterian Pediatrics as a triage/lead primary nurse. Carmen's favorite job is her current one but she did love exploring parts of Northern NM that she wasn't familiar with while working with UPS.

Carmen's son Ben was born in Maryland. He was 6 months old when they moved back to Espanola and family could help while she worked and attended college. He was twelve when Drexel came into their lives and he has been a wonderful step father to Ben. One of her favorite memories is of Drexel and Ben fishing side by side at Glacier Park in Montana. Ben lives in Rio Rancho and is a supervisor at the Super Wal-Mart at Menaul and Wyoming. Dana (age nine) goes to Bernalillo elementary school so she can participate in the dual language program there. She is now improving her Mom's Spanish! Dana loves to sing, play volleyball and now is starting softball.

Carmen's passions and hobbies are: all Lobo sports, biking, swimming, running, hiking and photography. She was the Female Athlete of the



Year her senior year of high school in a graduating class of 400.

Her favorite trips taken were golfing in Hawaii, sailing the Chesapeake Bay while living in MD and touring/fishing in Glacier Park. Her bucket list includes going to see the Lobos play in a NCAA tournament, traveling to Niagara Falls and to Spain (her maternal grandfather's roots are there) and completing a century bike ride. The family is going to Switzerland this summer to visit an exchange student who the family has stayed in touch with for many years.

Carmen's most prized possession is her Mom's mother ring (with birthstones from all 6 children). Carmen has two older brothers and two older sisters. Her youngest sister has passed away.

The one thing that Carmen wishes she had done was to be a Physical Education teacher/coach. She has gotten close while coaching Ben in his younger years and now with Dana. Her favorite things are: exercising, sports and the outdoors. Carmen is proud of the fact that she finished the Dirty Triathlon at Academy High School in May of 2010 (swim 400 meters, bike 10k and run 5k).

The person she would have liked to have met or spend time with was her maternal great-grandmother who was a curandera and mid-wife. She delivered her mom at home in 1931.

Her attraction to LPPC is the people she has met. It feels like family. The diversity of culture is just the norm.

~Wendy Ingram & Betty Closser

Congratulations to our graduates:

Connor Gill, James Maduena and Titus Ortiz! We will recognize our students in May!



The Placitas Artists Studio Tour is on Mother's Day Weekend, May 7 & 8, from 10am to 5pm. Enjoy the tour and stop at the Chili Pepper Café for homemade rolls and coffee as well as pulled pork sandwiches with beans or slaw. The café will be open each day of the tour. Pass the word!

Mark your calendars for 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.

Watch for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall and plan to enjoy a fun family night of baseball on **July 10th**. Questions, contact Janice Langdale or Vicki Davis.

May Calendar Highlights:

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| Sun May 1
9:30am | Steve Miller preaching
Worship with Communion |
| Wed May 4 | Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon |
| Sun, May 8
9:30am | Mother's Day
Worship |
| Sat & Sun
May 7 & 8 | Placitas Artists Studio Tour
10am-5pm
Chili Pepper Café open daily |
| Wed May 11 | Placitas Mobile Food Pantry
10am-12noon |
| Sat May 14 | MDO Open House, 1-3pm |
| Sun May 22
9:30am | Honoring our Graduates
Worship

PAS Reception and Concert, 2-5pm |
| Sun May 29
9:30am | Worship |
| Mon May 30 | Memorial Day
Church office is closed |

**June/July newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, May 25th, noon**

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