



# The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

## NOVEMBER 2011

### Giving Thanks

A friend of mine says that if we were to use one word to describe Presbyterians it should be grateful. Gratitude is at the heart of who we are as a people. As Presbyterians our opening response to life is to give thanks to God for the gifts of each day.



We don't believe that we chase after God seeking divine favor. In fact, if anything, it is God who chases after us. God through Jesus Christ gives us the gift of new life. Our response to this gift is to be grateful, to live out lives filled with gratitude.

I am grateful for my family. For the beauty and life my wife brings into the world. For the laughter and the love our children share. For our extended families and the support they offer us as we follow our calls and our dreams.

I am grateful to live in Placitas. For a place to call home here. For the beauty of creation that we get to experience daily. For the Sandias, the wildlife, the sunrises, the sunsets, and the starry nights.

I am grateful for the people of Placitas. For the longtime residents who have called this village home for generations. For their welcoming others like myself who have moved here more recently. For the diversity of this community, and all the characters who call it home.

I am grateful for Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. For your deep witness and rooted presence here. For the regular worship and welcome you provide to so many. For the honor of serving as your pastor. For your commitment and your generosity, I give thanks.

November is our month. What are you grateful for? For what things do you give thanks? Let others know. Thanksgiving should be shared more than one Thursday a year.

Peace, Drew

### November Text & Topics

November 6<sup>th</sup> All Saints' Day "Great Cloud"  
Revelation 7:9-17; 1 John 3:1-3

November 13<sup>th</sup> 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
"Building Up" 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 20<sup>th</sup> Christ the King "Sharing Thanks"  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Matthew 25:31-46

November 27<sup>th</sup> First Sunday of Advent "Waiting" 1  
Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

\*There will be **one worship service only on Sunday, November 20 at 9:30am in the sanctuary.** There will be no Adult Forum. The full schedule will resume on Sunday, November 27, the First Sunday in Advent.

**Mark your calendar for November 19 & 20 for the Holiday Sale 10am-5pm each day.**

The Chili Pepper Café will be open throughout the sale, serving wonderful food. Do stop by!



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6.** Be sure to set your clock **BACK** one hour before retiring Saturday night. Enjoy the extra hour of rest!



## Sunday Adult Forum continues new series

Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right and discarded by the Secular Left? Then join us

beginning in October for ***Saving Jesus Redux***, a DVD-based study from Living the Questions exploring what a credible Jesus looks like for the third millennium. Contributors include Brian McLaren, Diana Butler Bass, Robin Meyers, Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, John Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, and a host of other theologians, scholars, and pastors.

This class meets on Sunday mornings in the Upper Room from 9:15-10:15 a.m. However, on **Sunday, November 20, there will be no Adult Forum** due to the annual Placitas Holiday Sale.

## A Christmas Carol study on Monday Nights during Advent

Charles Dickens' ***A Christmas Carol*** will maintain the theme

of living faithfully in the economy, and honor the season. The three week study may include movie clips as well as the original Dickens text. In the Preface that has more to do with Halloween than Christmas, Dickens says,

"I have endeavoured in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it.

Their faithful Friend and Servant, C.D.

December, 1843."

Come join us for any or all of the three Monday nights after Thanksgiving (November 28, December 5 & 12) at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room.

~Doug Calderwood

## Sharing Christmas Eve

Our worship committee is looking for someone or someones who would like to prepare and provide light snacks following the Christmas Eve service. We normally have hot cider or hot chocolate and cookies to share that night. Are you planning to be here on December 24th and would you like to offer this gift to our church community? Please let Pastor Drew know if you are interested.



## DIRECT DONATIONS FROM AN IRA TO THE CHURCH EXTENDED THROUGH 2011

Please consider making charitable donations from your IRA to benefit LPPC or other mission or ministry. The tax relief act enacted in 2010 allows IRA owners age 70½ and older to direct gifts from IRA accounts straight to public charities through December 31, 2011. The qualified gifts count as required minimum distributions from an IRA and are excluded from taxpayer income.

Please consult your attorney or advisor for financial and estate planning advice before you take any action. You may also contact Doug Hendry if he may be of assistance, in person or by e-mail at [endowment@lasplacitaschurch.org](mailto:endowment@lasplacitaschurch.org).

## LPPC Deacons Request Turkey Basket Donations

The Deacons of LPPC are requesting food donations from church members and friends for their annual turkey basket program. This program combines resources with the Casa Rosa Food Bank and others in the Placitas community to provide a full Thanksgiving meal to those who may not have the ability to provide for themselves or their families on this day.

To date, many food items have already been donated and provided by Casa Rosa and other Placitas citizens - including 100 Thanksgiving Turkeys!

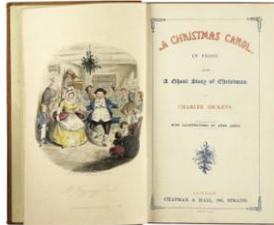
The following items are still needed:

- Cranberry Sauce (canned or bottled)
- Pumpkin (canned)
- Sweet Potatoes or Yams (canned)

Please bring your items and drop them off in the deacons' turkey basket collection box located in Fellowship Hall. Collection will continue until deacons organize and pack the baskets on the morning of Friday, November 18th. We will collect and distribute as many items as we receive to families on Saturday, November 19 from 8-10am in Fellowship Hall. Our target is for around 75+ cans of each but any extras will be distributed at a later date also.

Thanks to all!

Shannon Mann and Betty Closser  
Co-Moderators of the Deacons  
Shannon's email: [mannshannon@gmail.com](mailto:mannshannon@gmail.com)



## SESSION Highlights

Yep, another blessing!

Your Session (Rev. Drew Henry, and Elders Leah Army, Ron Dennis, Anna Howarth, Janice Langdale, Bill Lumm, Betty Milstead, Lauren Skinner and Nancy Ullery) meets twice every month; once for a “Stated” meeting and once for a “Special” meeting. Our Stated meeting, where the business of the church is conducted, is held second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Our “Special” meeting is the second Sunday of each month following the 10:30am service, about 11:45 a.m. Both meetings are held in the Upper Room.

The Special meeting is for congregants interested in joining the church, in meeting and sharing with Session members. To that end, comes our most recent blessing. On Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Weda Baldonado, by reaffirmation of faith, became the newest member of LPPC. Weda, a long-time volunteer at Casa Rosa, is often accompanied to church by her grandson, Cisco. Seek them out for welcome into our church family!

CNC... say what?

Also known as the **Church Nominating Committee**, the CNC was recently elected during our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Those elected to serve are: Ron Dennis, chair, Vicki Davis, Vivian D. DeLara, Drexel Douglas, and Jody Walker. This committee is tasked with identifying and nominating candidates to serve, beginning in 2012, as deacons or elders or endowment trustees. If you are a church member interested in serving, please inform one of these.

COM – we were not alone!

Session had visitors from the **Committee on Ministry** during our October meeting. We welcomed Rev. Karen Hill, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Albuquerque and Judy Belvin, Clerk of Session at La Mesa Presbyterian Church. The broad purpose of the visit was to discuss the mission and ministry here at LPPC and our participation in the Presbytery and larger church. Session members submitted COM questionnaires prior to the visit which assisted in facilitating a positive, meaningful and productive experience.



~Bill Lumm  
Clerk of Session

## Mission News

The Mission Committee is gearing up for the holiday activities!

We will be selling our wine bags and gift bags—small, medium and large—at the annual Placitas Arts & Crafts Holiday Sale (Nov 19 & 20). We will also have our *Free Trade Products* for sale in Fellowship Hall during the Holiday Sale. Besides coffee we will have some selected teas and cocoa. *Peacecraft* from Albuquerque is bringing some items and will have a display plus a unique way to water your live Christmas tree. There will be a few handmade ornaments that a member of our committee has and they will be on display on a Christmas tree by the *Just Coffee* table. All the money we earn will go toward our contribution to various worthy organizations around Albuquerque and Placitas: Casa Rosa, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together Sandoval County, Menaul School plus more as our money allows. Stop by and see what we have and help the Mission projects of the church.

You can always find our bags in the gift shop at the Range Café in Bernalillo.

### !HELP!

We need assistance working the booth during the Holiday sale. Our sign-up sheet is on the Mission Committee bulletin board. Check it out! We also support the Council of Churches *Gifts of Hope* holiday alternative gift giving.

~Nancy Ullery, Mission coordinator

## CASA ROSA NEWS

### Fall Harvest!

Casa Rosa has received beautiful, bountiful produce through our partnership with **Seed 2 Need** in Corrales.



It is truly exciting to harvest produce including tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, green chili, green beans and melons and apples. The produce was planted by master gardeners in good soil, given plenty of water and it has had excellent care—looks a lot better than most of the gardens we have grown!! We pickers (Casa Rosa volunteers) were not just picking for Casa Rosa clients but also to help other food pantries in the area. The *Seed 2 Need* project yielded over 40,000 pounds of produce this growing season providing food for many local food pantries.

While we celebrate our bountiful produce, we are sobered by the reality that the season is at an end, and client needs are greater than ever. We are challenged by the reduction in amount and variety of food available to us through Roadrunner. This has necessitated an increase in our weekly food-spending budget, and a search for other reasonable sources of food.

This leads to our Fall Fundraising activities: This year Casa Rosa is selling various types and sizes of Peruvian ornamental gourds—large bowls, bird houses, lidded boxes, and hanging ornaments. The gourds come from Incan villages in Peru, where they are grown, hollowed out and dried, then carved with designs. Some are stained with vegetable dyes from local indigenous plants. We will also be selling some additional Mata Ortiz seed pots. All of these products are at Certified Fair Trade Value. You will have the *opportunity* to buy these amazing creations at: The Placitas Artists Series concerts, at the November 19-20 Placitas Holiday Sale, and possibly in Fellowship Hall following a church service.

La Puerta Realty's **Coats for Casa Rosa** drive is currently being collected. Donations are requested not only for coats but also for sweaters, hats, scarves, and gloves. Now and throughout the year, we especially need clothing for men, as we receive fewer clothing donations for men than for women and children. Donations may be dropped off at either La Puerta, or in the Casa Rosa bins at LPPC.

Casa Rosa is working with the LPPC Deacons to provide Thanksgiving Baskets to give to Casa Rosa clients and other individuals in the community who are in need of food for their Thanksgiving dinners.

In December Casa Rosa will again participate in the **Blessings Day** project. This 10-year-old project provides clothing, toys, and a box of food for families with school age (and younger) children in Algodones, Bernalillo, and Placitas.

We hope that you will continue to take advantage of *opportunities* to share.

~  
Karen Fischer, Co-Chair  
Casa Rosa Board of Directors

## DIRECTORY NEWS

Changes and additions have been made to the recently published LPPC Directory. If



you are receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter, then you will also receive an updated electronic copy of the directory with the changes (effective October 30). Please replace the previous file sent earlier this month. If you receive a hard copy of the newsletter by 'snail mail,' a correction sheet is enclosed with your newsletter from which you can make changes to your personal copy. There are also copies of the change sheet on the table outside the sanctuary in Fellowship Hall.

Please continue to send your corrections and changes to the church office so that we may keep our directory as up-to-date as possible. ~Cory

## MEMBER PROFILE MARY GURULE



Mary was born in her current house with the assistance of a mid wife. Mary's father, Juan Gurule, built the house that is now 140 years old. Matt Gurule, her oldest son, keeps the house in tip top condition. Mary went to elementary school in what is now the Catholic Church's community center and then she was bused to school in Bernalillo. She worked very hard helping her Dad build adobe buildings in Placitas, cutting and selling wood, keeping a garden, putting food up for winter and tending to many animals on the property such as goats and sheep.

Mary was the youngest of twelve children. They all lived in her current two bedroom house! Mary's father was very strict. He didn't believe in Christmas and didn't go to church because he did not like to be in crowds, but he did read the Bible every day and would hold family church in their living room where he would preach from the Bible verses he had memorized. Mary's Mom was Catholic and her Dad Presbyterian (LPPC).

Her Dad always insisted the children wear long pants and sleeves (the boys) and long sleeves and skirts (the girls) all year long. Her Dad was slow to accept modern conveniences and as a result the house only has one outlet in each room.

Mary developed polio at age three and spent a year at Tingley Hospital in Truth or Consequences in an iron lung. One of her sisters was severely burned on her leg while making jelly outside. These two medical needs led her Dad to sell off quite a bit of his property to pay the bills.

Mary took care of her parents at home until they died – her Dad in 1982 at age 89 and her Mom (Filimina Baldonado Gurule) in 1995 at age 93.

Mary was twenty-four years old when Matt was born, followed by Wilfred, Robert, and Joanne. Matt's Uncle Tony who lived next door was like a father figure to the children as they were growing up. The family lost Wilfred because of an auto accident. Matt's son, John, lives and works in Pena Blanca and is a fireman.

Until two years ago Mary cooked on a wood burning cook stove in her kitchen. She now has propane and can cook without heating up the whole house. Mary's loves to cook and according to her children, Mary makes the best and is famous for her tortillas, red chili and sopapillas! She often makes these treats for the Casa Rosa crowd on Saturdays. She also makes lots of tamales at Christmas time and sells them.

Mary's favorite thing to do now is to watch Westerns on TV. Matt rides his bike down to the library and brings back five videos at a time for her.

Mary's osteoarthritis prevents her from coming to church – hopefully she will feel better soon and come see us. It has not been an easy life for the family – past and present – but the wonderful feeling of love, caring and loyalty abound in this close family. It is to be admired and respected.

~Wendy Ingram & Betty Closser

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELDERS, DEACONS and Endowment Trustees 2012**

Autumn is the time to make your recommendations for next year's leadership. Each year we need replacements for those who have served their term and are rotating off. We ask members to only serve a single three year term and then take time off instead of serving two sequential terms.

We need four Elders, four Deacons and two Endowment Trustees. Many thanks to each of our retiring leaders for their service as they finish up their term: Elders—Ron Dennis, Betty Milstead, Lauren Skinner, Deacons—Betty Closser, Shannon Mann, Moreau Parsons; Endowment—Doug Hendry and Jack Ferrell.

As you consider a nominee, please be sure to ask those you are recommending. All nominees must be members of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church.

This year's Nominating Committee consists of: Ron Dennis; Vivian D DeLara, Deacon; Vicki Davis, Drexel Douglas and Jody Walker, members at large. They met on Sunday, October 30 at 11:30am. Soon, forms will be made available for you to make your formal nominations. A date will also be set for the congregational meeting to elect our new leaders.

## **New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light Fall Feast, Film and Fellowship Wednesday, November 2, 6:30—8:00**

New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light (NMIPL) welcomes everyone to ***Fall Feast, Film and Fellowship on Wednesday, November 2, 6:30-8:00 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1100 Indian School, ABQ.***

Everyone is welcome to bring a potluck dish prepared with as many local foods as possible. Prizes will be given for dishes with most local ingredients, youngest chef, most creative dish and people's choice. East Central Ministries will be awarded the Annual NMIPL SEED Award for a faith community that is exceptional in loving neighbor and Earth. Clips of films that can be used as resources will be shown and everyone will learn more about programs addressing faith, caring for earth and addressing climate change. Everyone will receive a placemat and Book of Table Graces. There will also be door prizes. For more information or to RSVP contact [info@nm-ipl.org](mailto:info@nm-ipl.org) or call 505-266-6966.

## **A New Presbytery in New Mexico?**

The primary business of the recent joint meeting of Presbytery of Santa Fe (44 congregations in northern NM) and the Presbytery of Sierra Blanca (17 congregations in southern NM) was to talk about merging to form a single presbytery\* for the whole state. For the last year and a half the two presbyteries have been sharing a single staff, headed up by Regional Presbyter Sallie Watson. That move was brought about by financial concerns, due in part to a decrease of mission funding coming to us from the national church. The new initiative comes after four congregations (with 30% of the total communicant membership) in

Sierra Blanca voted to leave the PCUSA because of the recently adopted change in ordination standards allowing congregations and presbyteries who so choose to ordain gay and lesbian persons as deacons, elders, and ministers in the church.

At the October 15-16 meeting at Ghost Ranch the two presbyteries voted to establish a joint committee which will create a plan for a new (merged) presbytery in New Mexico. The proposal is to be sent out to local churches by mid-January so that the Session of each church has a chance to consider it. The two presbyteries will meet together again in February, in Las Cruces to ponder the way forward. The national church will also have to approve the formation of the new presbytery, either through its current Commission on Middle Governing Councils, or by the General Assembly. Depending on a variety of factors the timeline for the merger could be as soon as this summer, or it might be spread out over the next two to three years.

Please hold the larger Presbyterian community in New Mexico in your prayers as we move toward forming this new "relational network" of congregations.

*\*Note: For any who may be new to the Presbyterian Church, presbyteries are our regional or district governing bodies. They are made up of equal numbers of ministers and elders representing all the churches in that area. Presbyteries oversee the ordination and calling of ministers, the establishing of new congregations, church property issues, and other concerns of the life and mission of the church beyond the local congregations.*

~Ken Cuthbertson, Parish Associate

**DECEMBER newsletter deadline:  
Wednesday, November 23rd at noon**

**Las Placitas Presbyterian Church**  
PO Box 768, Placitas, NM 87043

**Rev. Drew M. Henry, Pastor**  
E-mail: [pastor@lasplacitaschurch.org](mailto:pastor@lasplacitaschurch.org)

**Cory Franklin, Administrator**  
505-867-5718 ~ [lppcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org](mailto:lppcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org)

## NOVEMBER Calendar Highlights

- Wed Nov 2 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun Nov 6 Communion Sunday  
Daylight Savings Time Ends  
*Alternative service*, 8:30am  
*Adult Forum*, 9:15am  
*Worship service*, Sanctuary,  
10:30am (Nursery provided;  
Sunday School)  
*Fellowship* follows this service
- Wed Nov 9 Placitas Mobile Food Pantry  
10am-12noon
- Sun Nov 13 *Alternative service*, 8:30am  
*Adult Forum*, 9:15am  
*Worship service*, Sanctuary,  
10:30am (Nursery provided;  
Sunday School)  
*Fellowship* follows this service
- Wed Nov 16 Placitas Trails HOA, 6-9pm
- Sat Nov 19 Casa Rosa Thanksgiving  
Food distribution
- Placitas Holiday Sale  
10am-5pm  
Chili Pepper Café is open
- Sun Nov 20 One Worship Service Only, 9:30am
- Placitas Holiday Sale, 10am-5pm  
Chili Pepper Café is open
- PAS Reception & Concert, 6pm
- Thurs Nov 24 Thanksgiving
- Fri Nov 25 Church Office is closed
- Sun Nov 27 First Sunday of Advent  
*Alternative service*, 8:30am  
*Adult Forum*, 9:30am  
*Worship service*, Sanctuary,  
10:30am (Nursery provided;  
Sunday School)  
*Fellowship* follows this service