



# The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

## OCTOBER 2011

### A Practical Tool

During October our Stewardship Committee is going to be asking all of us to consider a financial commitment to support the mission and ministry of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church for the coming year. On the pledge cards, you'll be asked to note your annual commitment and how you plan to give - weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc. I'd like to share a practical tool with you that has helped our family in our giving to the church.



A few years ago a friend of mine in his twenties, James, shared with me how he and his wife had set up their giving to the church through the free online banking feature that came with their checking account. He said they had arranged for all of their other regular monthly financial commitments to be paid automatically through their bank. So they decided why not do the same with their tithe.

In the past I had experienced the need to catch up on my pledge to the church when I had gotten behind because I was traveling, juggling bills, or simply forgot to write a check. James said he knew it helped the church to be able to count on a regular gift. It was also his way of giving "first fruits" because he had their pledge scheduled to be regularly sent from their account at the beginning of each month.

So I went about setting up our giving online in similar fashion, and I have been doing it ever since. One complaint I have with the bank is that I don't consider my giving to the church to be a "bill pay," but I have found their online system to be an effective tool to help the church and our family at the same time. Check with your bank. In most cases this service is free!

Peace,  
Drew

### October Text & Topics

October 2 - World Communion Sunday "Feast"  
Philippians 3:4-14; Isaiah 25:6-9

October 9 - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
"Change your Mind" Philippians 4:1-9; Exodus 32:1-14

October 16 - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Steve Miller preaching

October 23 - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time "At the Edge" 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Deuteronomy 34:1-12

October 30 - 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
"Crossing Over" 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Joshua 3:7-17

### October Adult Forum begins a 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. Pastor Drew will kick the series off on October 2nd. Join us on Sundays!

### Monday Night Adult Study

We're reading the book, *Money Enough: Everyday Practices for Living Faithfully in the Global Economy*, by Douglas Hicks. All are welcome to

join the group in the Upper Room. Books are in and are available for approximately \$14. It is also available on *Kindle* through Amazon.

What follows is an excerpt from the Foreword:

"Not long ago, the global economy was shaken by the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.... Today many people have relinquished careless assumptions about the economy and their place in it... a new mood of thoughtfulness has taken hold. What is it that we truly need and desire? Many are asking. Have we pursued lifestyles of abundance when what we really long for is abundant life? And how do our economic desires and pursuits affect others, especially those who suffer most in the global economy in both "good" and "bad" times?"

~Doug C

## Fellowship Committee News

Activities for the past month included the pancake and waffle brunch on September 4th, to usher in the Fall Program; the successful sale of our homemade cinnamon rolls on September 11<sup>th</sup>; and the purchase of green chilis to prepare for sale this fall.

## Looking ahead to October:

The Fall Festival (Enchilada Dinner) on October 29th is a big fund raiser and includes the whole community. There will be good food, fellowship and entertainment. We have several activities planned so we need volunteers to help with the activities and to bake pies, cheese cakes, brownies and lots of cakes, as we are planning a bake sale and cake walk. There will be activities for the children.

A silent auction is planned so please contact Joan Dennis and bring your items to the kitchen or leave them with Cory in the office. Items that sell well are Native American jewelry and other jewelry items, baskets, scarves etc. Please the value of your item.

Tickets will be available Sunday October 16, from a member of Fellowship or from the office during the week. The price will be \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children age 12 & under. Tickets at the door will be \$10.00. Please purchase your tickets and bring your friends!

## Work Days before the Fall Festival

We will meet at 10:00am on both Thursday, October 27 and Friday, October 28 to prepare the

food. On Saturday, October 29, we'll meet at 10:00am to organize and set up for the event. If you would like to work, please contact Joan D through the church office (867-5718). "Many hands make light the work!"

The Fellowship Committee thanks all of you for helping with our activities as your work contributes to the fellowship with each other within the congregation and the community.

**Mark your calendar for November 19 & 20 for the Holiday Sale.**

~Joan D, Chair  
The Fellowship Committee



## SESSION Highlights

### Visitors are coming!

Every three years the Committee on Ministry (COM) visits each church in our Presbytery. The COM will be at LPPC for our next Session meeting on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. In preparation for this visit, the Elders and Rev. Henry have submitted questionnaires to COM representative and Clerk of Session, La Mesa Presbyterian Church, Judy Belvin. So, what's the purpose of the COM visit? In a broad sense: to discuss the mission and ministry of LPPC and our participation in the Presbytery and larger church. Additionally discussion will be focused on:

- Membership trends
- Financial patterns
- Demographic changes in our area
- Ministries to and with our community

Please stay tuned for a follow-up report on the COM visit next month.

### Emergency Action Plan

Our Placitas Post Office has a plan in place, in the event of an emergency that prevents them from utilizing their facility, to temporarily relocate to LPPC. The mail must go out...and so it will, from our Upper Room! Thankfully, the odds of such an event occurring are very low, but it's always good to have a plan. This is another example of LPPC reaching out and being committed to our Placitas community.

### Your Session – What Have They Been Doing?

Ever wonder what Rev. Henry and the Elders actually do in a Session meeting? Well, the answer

is as close as Fellowship Hall! Every month, the Session Meeting Minutes are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. This posting is expressly for your information; consider reading it every month and stay informed.

~Bill L  
Clerk of Session

## **CASA ROSA NEWS**

### **Preparing our community for Success!**



Recently I was driving down Highway 165 into Placitas and noticed several cars parked on the side of the road. Did I miss a party? Is there an art sale? Is someone filming a movie? After driving a while I noticed about fifteen people on the side of the road picking up trash. They were prepared for the day with the correct equipment from gloves, pointed sticks, trash bags, and the most important fashion choice of all—safety vests. Those individuals were prepared for success. What organizations support our community and prepare it for success? The library, fire department, Jardineros de Placitas, and other non profits, including Casa Rosa, as well as many local businesses come together to make our community successful.

Casa Rosa, a non-profit organization comprised entirely of volunteers is an effort to give support to the community of Placitas by providing a basic necessity, food. While other items of use are also provided, the focus of Casa Rosa has been to supplement food needs in Placitas. Partnering with other groups has ensured Casa Rosa will continue to be successful. One of these partnerships has included 'Seed 2 Need,' a farm in Corrales founded to support food banks in New Mexico by providing free produce, which is being harvested by many volunteers, including Casa Rosa Board members and clients! As described in past articles, food costs have continued to increase while commodity supplies have decreased throughout the country. Despite these factors, groups such as Seed 2 Need allow food banks, like Casa Rosa, to be able to continue providing food to their clients.

Other organizations have also helped Casa Rosa in many different ways. Just this past August, La Puerta held an ice cream social, with donated food items for Casa Rosa as the suggested entrance fee. Several hundred dollars was contributed to Casa Rosa in addition to a significant amount of food collected as a result of community members gathering and spending time together while sharing

and enjoying a great summer treat—ice cream. Jardineros de Placitas organized a project to provide back-to-school shoes for the children of Casa Rosa clients by partnering with Shoe Box, who donated the shoes. There were many smiling faces as children tried on their new apparel.

Casa Rosa itself undertakes fundraising activities as a necessity to achieving success as a non-profit organization. One of its fundraising activities is Flower Power. This is a national organization that sells fall and spring flower bulbs through Internet sales, and 50% of the proceeds benefit Casa Rosa if those buying the bulbs signify Casa Rosa as the preferred fundraising organization. Since many community members purchase and plant flowers, the capability to support Casa Rosa, while obtaining beautiful plants, is doubly effective.

During the Placitas Holiday Sale on November 19 & 20, Casa Rosa will be selling handcrafted Peruvian gourds in various sizes (depending on the preferences of "Mother Nature") in the form of boxes with removable lids, holiday tree ornaments, and bird houses. These gourds are from Incan villages in Peru, where they are grown, hollowed out, dried, and carved with designs. The products sold are "Certified Fair Trade," meaning we're working with an importer who is paying (internationally recognized) living wages to the workers. Partnering with another village—this time in the mountains of Peru—has been a win-win situation: a food item being grown for decorative purposes with the income helping to feed the family farmers and artisans while also providing resources to support Placitas food needs.

Last year, Casa Rosa started working with the artisans from the village of Mata Ortiz, Mexico, whose seed pots are made from locally dug clay and mineral pigments. The unique shape, size and design of seed pots allow them to hold the crop seed while keeping them dry, dark and safe from mice from one harvest to another. Casa Rosa will continue to sell some seed pots again this year.

Celebrating the continued momentum of Casa Rosa and all the people and organizations that help support it is very important to us. At Casa Rosa's Third Annual Celebration this year in August, live music was provided by the Wild Chillies; a piñata was hung in the courtyard tree for children to pummel and scoop up every last smidgen of candy; a potluck extravaganza was available that still makes my mouth water; and people gathered

together to express their collective appreciation for one another.

Perhaps the best summarization of Casa Rosa's role in the community was reflected in a recent "thank you" emailed to Casa Rosa from two former Casa Rosa clients who moved to Hawaii in May 2011. The message said, "*Because of the love and help from a place called Casa Rosa, we can never say thank you enough for everyone's help while we lived in beautiful Placitas. Wish we could have packed you all and brought you here; however, that could not happen. But the memories of our family and friends we will always carry. We are doing great but miss you kids. Please post this story so someone someday may read that going thru hard times is not always permanent. Casa Rosa gave us the help we needed, and forever the love and friendship will last a lifetime.*" The sentiment expressed in this message told me there are successes in Placitas and slowly but surely the community of Placitas is improving.

Someone asked me recently what characteristics I want to see reflected in my community and how I can support those ideas. At the very least I want to see a community where each member supports one another regardless of faith systems, socioeconomic status, relationships, or the hardships we currently face. Also, I want to help support my community in preparing for a future where food banks are unnecessary due to the need being filled, and our main source of debate are topics related to "which is better, red or green?"

Thank you for your support in continuing to ensure Placitas is a successful community.

~Jeff D  
Co-Vice Chair  
Casa Rosa Board of Directors

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Membership has been working hard behind the scenes and it's time we shared what we have been doing.



The Archiving Committee composed of Keith L, Sally C and Wendy I have been working for over a year sorting through years of church records to find what is worth archiving. We are about finished and will now set up standards for the future. Sally has the photo album that Emmet T created showing many of the gifts given to our church. She is writing

down the history of the gifts and seeking other member's remembrances on the gifts as well.

Bunny B, Don T and Wendy I have been working for months to republish Suzanne Forrest's book **Century of Faith**. Some photos are being replaced with better quality ones and a new section will be added with photos from our last seventeen years. Bunny has created an amazing new cover and endorsements have been added to the back cover. Drew is writing the *Afterward* sharing our last seventeen years. We are excited about this new version. If you haven't read *Century of Faith*, we hope you will be excited about purchasing a copy when it's available.

The ongoing work of Membership is trying to be everywhere on Sunday mornings welcoming our guests and visitors, organizing gatherings so members will have more time to get to know each other better, photographing church activities for archiving as well as for the website, profiling a member once a month for the newsletter and more.

Elizabeth D, our web manager, has been coordinating the transition of the LPPC website to Clover. You will be hearing more about this change soon. The Library committee, also under Membership, is chaired by Janice L. She is now the curator of the books donated to the library.

If you would like to help on any of these activities, please come see me.

~Wendy I

## MEMBER PROFILE

### LINDA B

Linda was born in Brooklyn, NY and spent most of her youth living in Nassau and Suffolk County, NY. Her one year in Poughkeepsie, NY at Dutchess Community College was unsuccessful partly because her parents wouldn't allow her to go to art school. She returned home and worked for the New York phone company for nine months before marrying her high school sweetheart. This didn't go well and led to a Mexican divorce in 1969. Linda met John through the band her brother managed. They married and lived in Brooklyn for three years, where their daughters, Kristina and Sandra, were born.



John worked at IBM during the week and played with his band on the weekends. In 1972 they moved to Brentwood, Long Island where they lived for twenty-one years. Linda worked for the Girl

Scout Council until that job required her to go camping! She returned to finish her college degree as an adult. She attended State University of New York (SUNY) in Brentwood from 1982-1986 and graduated with a degree in data processing (now computer science). There was a lot of buzz over the fact that Linda managed to earn a 4.0 grade point average. Linda held various programming jobs. One of her favorites was working for FONAR where she managed the software training department. She also worked at SUNY, Stonybrook, as a programmer for the transportation division.

As a child, Linda had seen pictures of New Mexico and dreamed of coming here. When their children were in college and her parents had passed on, Linda and John ventured west and traveled the state in 1992. The next year, they moved without jobs to Albuquerque and John got a job with IBM. They lived in Albuquerque for three months before moving to Placitas in the Trails area. Linda worked for Hospital Services Corp until 1999, where she ran the programming department. After that she built websites for a while before retiring for good.

Their daughter Kristina lives in Los Angeles with her family. She sings with her church choir which is massive. The choir was invited to England last year and sang at Westminster Abbey. She also sings professionally during the year. She is married with one child. Daughter Sandra lives near Allentown, PA. where she is Director of Audience Services at the Zoellner Art Center at Lehigh University. She is married with two sons.

Linda works on one hobby at a time. Right now it's their family trees. Linda would like to travel to Sicily and Molochio, Italy to investigate her family tree and to Norway for John's.

Her most beloved personal possessions are her family albums. They are quite extensive and are in the process of being digitized.

The one thing Linda has always wanted to do but never did is to own/drive a '57 T- bird which is totally unrealistic because she can't drive a stick shift!

The five things she never wants to have to live without are: food, water, flush toilets and hot and cold running water. In other words she always wants to be comfortable.

At LPPC she is happy that she has the opportunity to explore her doubts, questions and ideas. She is allowed to believe how she wants to believe. She and John joined LPPC in 1996.

Linda has lived a blessed life. She had a crazy childhood that she now sees all served a purpose to lead her to her wonderful life now.

~Wendy Ingram

### **The Jim/Greer Duo to perform free recital at LPPC!**

On Friday evening, October 28 at 7:30pm, The Jim/Greer Duo will perform a recital for the community—*Colors of Autumn—Music for Flute and Piano.*



Each year the duo chooses a location at which to perform for free. What better place to perform than in our acoustically perfect sanctuary!

Born on the Navajo Reservation, Jerome Jim is a versatile musician with styles ranging from traditional Native American to the classical flute repertoire. He appeared with the Grand Canyon Music Festival in the world premiere of Guardians of the Grand Canyon by composer Brent Michael Davids, which was broadcasted on PBS in the spring of 2002. He was featured on the nationally syndicated National Public Radio program "Native America Calling" in October 2009. He has also performed at numerous University of New Mexico public events playing Native American works for the flute.

Amy Greer is an active performer, both as a soloist and in collaboration with singers and instrumentalists. She has worked as an accompanist at Dallas Baptist University, Texas Christian University, Texas Wesleyan University, and The Boston Conservatory, works regularly with faculty and students at University of New Mexico, and has performed with the Santa Fe Symphony and the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Greer received a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of Missouri – Kansas City Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of Missouri – Columbia. Her teachers have included Jane Allen, Joanne Baker and William Westney. She is currently working on a graduate degree in Educational Psychology from the University of New Mexico.

Since 2006, Jerome Jim and Amy Greer have worked collaboratively on numerous projects, including several recordings of rare and unknown works for flute and piano. The first time they rehearsed Jerome asked if he could bring his Chihuahua puppies. Amy said no. Today they perform together frequently. The Chihuahuas always stay home.

Mark your calendars so you don't miss this musical celebration at LPPC! Find out more about the duo at: <http://www.thejimgreerduo.com/home.php>.

### **October LPPC Calendar Highlights**

- Sun Oct 2 World Communion Sunday  
*Alternative service, 8:30am*  
*Adult Forum, 9:15am*  
*Worship service, Sanctuary,*  
10:30am (Nursery provided;  
Sunday School)  
*Fellowship follows this service*
- Wed Oct 5 Jardineros de Placitas, 9am-12noon
- Sun Oct 9 *Alternative service, 8:30am*  
*Adult Forum, 9:15am*  
*Worship service, Sanctuary,*  
10:30am (Nursery provided;  
Sunday School)  
*Fellowship follows this service*
- Mon, Oct 10 Columbus Day  
Church office is open
- Wed Oct 12 Placitas Mobile Food Pantry  
10am-12noon
- Sun Oct 16 Steve Miller will preach today  
*Alternative service, 8:30am*  
*Adult Forum, 9:15am*  
*Worship service, Sanctuary,*  
10:30am (Nursery provided;  
Sunday School)  
*Fellowship follows this service*  
  
PAS Reception & Concert, 2:00pm
- Sat, Oct 22 Placitas Trails Water Coop meeting,  
10am-12noon
- Sun Oct 23 *Alternative service, 8:30am*  
*Adult Forum, 9:30am*  
*Worship service, Sanctuary,*  
10:30am (Nursery provided;  
Sunday School)  
*Fellowship follows this service*
- Fri Oct 28 The Jim/Greer Duo Recital, 7:30pm,  
in the Sanctuary. All welcome!
- Sat Oct 29 Fall Festival and Enchilada Dinner,  
5:00-7:00pm
- Sun Oct 30 Stewardship Commitment Sunday  
*Alternative service, 8:30am*  
*Adult Forum, 9:30am*  
*Worship service, Sanctuary,*  
10:30am (Nursery provided;  
Sunday School)  
*Fellowship follows this service*

**NOVEMBER newsletter deadline:  
Wednesday, October 26th 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)