



The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

October 2016

Grateful

What happens every October depends on where you live. In New Mexico the first week of October is synonymous with Balloon Fiesta. In the Southeast, October means homecoming football games. In the southern hemisphere, October brings the beginning of Spring.

Unfortunately in churches, too often October is the only time we talk about Stewardship. This month rolls around and we anticipate (or dread) Stewardship Season. We grin and bear the announcements, the pleas, and the pledge cards, all the while thinking - *please* just end it.

If October is our only time of stewardship, we've missed its meaning. To be a steward means to have been entrusted with something that belongs to someone else. A steward's job is to care for that which has been entrusted to us. So we are stewards of or very lives. We are stewards of Creation. We are stewards of our families, our communities, and our congregations.

In August, Trip Jennings, Bill Lumm, Steve Milstead and I participated in a synod stewardship conference in Phoenix. One of the presenters was Grace Pomroy. She writes, "Stewardship does not center on the fall pledge drive or the offering time on Sunday morning. Instead it is about all of our life, all the time. Stewardship is the way in which we reflect our call to discipleship with our whole lives - our time, talents, resources, money, and so much more."

It is a gift to be stewards. Our Session is inviting us to ground ourselves in gratitude and generosity. For now I leave you with a question from Grace Pomroy. "What would it look like to live our lives as continually grateful for what we have received, both large and small, continually looking for ways to share God's abundant grace and love with our neighbors both near and far?"

Thanks and Peace, Drew



Sunday Worship Service

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

October 2: World Communion Sunday

The Gift of Faith

2 Timothy 1:1-5 & Luke 17:5-6

October 9: 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Grounded and Grateful

Jeremiah 29:4-7 & Luke 17:11-19

October 16: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Bless His Heart

Psalms 121 & Genesis 32:22-31

October 23: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Keeping the Faith

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 & Luke 18:9-14

October 30: 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Rescued

Psalms 32:1-7 & Luke 19:1-10



Adult Forum

This month we will wrap up our series on LPPC mission projects, and return to our ongoing series of studies using the book *The Bible for Dummies* as our basis. The Adult Forum meets shortly after 9:15 a.m., following the early service, in the Upper Room.

October 2: "**Cafe' Justo & Fair Trade at LPPC**" - For well over a decade, LPPC and many other congregations in Santa Fe Presbytery, The Synod of the Southwest, and across the PCUSA, have made *Cafe' Justo* ("Just Coffee") available. The coffee comes to us from a coffee growers' cooperative in Mexico, and was originally promoted to us through the *Frontera de Cristo* ministry supported by the PCUSA. In the last few years, the LPPC mission committee has added other "fair trade" items to our monthly sale at the coffee table, including wonderful organic chocolate. Come learn more about our participation in these self-development projects.

October 9: "**Paul's Life and Letters: The Traveling Salesman of Tarsus**" - Resuming our journey through the book *The Bible for Dummies*, we finally get to the New Testament. We will take a quick overview of the story of Paul, and of the letters he wrote to various early Christian Communities.

October 16: "**The Life of Apostle Paul**" - This 2004 video presents the life of St. Paul, as outlined in the Acts of the Apostles, visiting the locations of Paul's life and work. Narrated by PBS host Rick Steves, the video was produced for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

October 23: "**A Closer Look at Galatians and I Corinthians**" - These two early letters of Paul take us to the heart of his teaching and guidance to early Christians, and to us today.

October 30: "**The NT's General Letters: Wait a Minute, Mr. Postman**" - Besides Paul, the New Testament includes letters attributed to others, such as the anonymous letter to the Hebrews, the letters of James, Peter, I-III John, and Jude. Some are great, some are chatty, one is sort of strange.

~ Rev. Kenneth Cuthbertson

The Session

As previously mentioned, this year, Session will assume responsibilities for church stewardship. Over the past several months (June, August and September) significant meeting time has been dedicated to reading, learning, and discussing stewardship topics. In truth, we are just in the beginning stages of education into this very broad field of endeavor.

During our most recent session meeting on September 13th, one of our challenges was to "**think of our service work here at LPPC through the lens of stewardship.**" This exercise/thought process was helpful for each of us on session to consider. Session elders focused on the myriad of volunteer efforts each of us was engaged in: the clerk - recording our meetings as a permanent historical record; grounds workers - grooming the landscape and Memorial Garden; personnel committee - folks caring for our staff members through sit-down coaching and performance review sessions; building volunteers - maintaining, fixing, and improving our building interiors and HVAC systems; worship & music committee - helping to craft meaningful worship services, decorating our sanctuary for holiday occasions, cleaning and care of our worship service vestments; etc. etc.

It became clear these efforts were indeed gifts, devotions, and even expressions of gratitude and love we all have for this place. Our legacy may be that we have left this church a better place than when we found it. In fact, the definition of the word "stewardship" is: *the act of caring for something that does not belong to you.* Stewardship, then, is as much in the works as it is in giving monetarily.

~ Bill Lumm, Clerk of Session

Your monthly HMP health tip:



Exercise is a simple way to strengthen your immune system. It can also decrease stress and make you less likely to get osteoporosis, heart disease and some forms of cancer. You get the most benefit from about a half an hour of moderate activity a day. Any type of movement can help - whether you walk, do yoga, swim, etc. The key is to **keep your body moving!**

Childrens' Christian Education

We will have our next Christian Education Planning Meeting on October 2nd, immediately following the 10:30 service. Please plan to join us for this important meeting!

A very heartfelt thank you to Carmen Douglas for organizing our Youth Pancake Breakfast on the 18th of September! It was fantastic.

All of our Sunday School teachers and assistants have been officially cleared on the Presbytery background checks! We are 100% compliant!

Every Sunday in October we are honored to offer you again, Cheryl Farrell's Famous Apple Crumb Pies! Thank you to Cheryl for donating her time and talents to benefit our youth groups summer activities! This year we will offer a small individual pie for \$5. as well as the family size for \$15. Stock up for the holidays early with these delicious pies! These pies can be frozen for up to four months!

Our Youth will be selling Fabulous Frito Pies for lunch on October 9th, after the main service! They will be \$5.00 and assist us to help us raise funds for the summer programs at Ghost Ranch.

Our Team is still needing a Fund Raising Chairperson/persons and also assistance with our Christmas Cookie Baking, so If you might be interested, please call our Christian Education Coordinator, Charmaine Lawrence at 917-6508 or the church office at 867-5718.

~ Charmaine Lawrence

LPPC Library

Come by and visit your library to sit and read, checkout a book or just relax. We are open whenever your church is.

Checkout is simple - on the form behind the two baskets on the table: write your name, the book's title, the checkout date, and leave the book data sheet (included inside each book) along with the form. Return the book to the basket when you are finished with it.

Fellowship

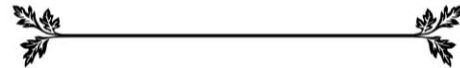
Fellowship will not have any activities during October, but we are preparing for the Holiday Sale in November.

We have made tamales which can be purchased by contacting Joan Dennis by phone (771-2529) or e-mail (radjdennis@comcast.net), They are exceptional in taste and size and can be purchased for \$12 a half dozen or \$24.00 a dozen.

We can also take orders for cinnamon rolls, which we will be selling for \$15.00 a round pan.

Remember all proceeds go to the yearly operating budget of the church.

~ Joan Dennis



Member Profile

Leland Bowen

Leland was born in Wichita, KS and lived there until age 3. The family moved to Albuquerque when his Dad was hired by Sandia Labs where he worked for 27 years. Leland graduated from Highland H.S. and from UNM receiving his Electrical Engineering degree in 1965, magna cum laude and with distinction. He attended AZ State University on a National Defense Education Act Fellowship where he received his Masters in EE. Leland was then drafted into the Army (even after having broken his leg within the prior year) and was stationed at Ft. Bliss in El Paso working in the telemetry area for weapons testing at the Dona Ana test site.

When the military doctor realized Leland should never have been drafted with his recently broken leg, he was released from the Army and returned to Albuquerque after 6 months in the service. He immediately returned to First Baptist Church and became active in the Single's Group. There were about 30 young people that attended this very active group. He met Bunny there after she had recently moved from Virginia to attend UNM.

They had their first date in March and on May 15th when she received news that she had passed her exams for her Masters and that the Museum of NM was offering her a job, Leland proposed! Because Bunny's job was the study of Spanish Colonial textiles all over the US, Leland became her driver and textile photographer. Her research was published in a book she co-authored for the Museum of NM. They were married on August 1, 1970.

Leland became involved in several different careers. One included a family jewelry business his sister wanted to start. He took courses in bookkeeping and after getting the business started; decided it was not for him. He saw an ad at the Vocational Skill Center at Bernalillo H.S. for someone to teach jewelry manufacturing. He applied and was there 2 years. From there, he went to a lost wax casting company in Albuquerque making sterling silver jewelry parts for use by jewelry artists. He was technical supervisor there about 8 years. He then decided he wanted to get a Professional Engineer License as a means of getting back into the EE profession. He began working for Electro Magnetic Applications (EMA) on a temporary basis and after six months was offered a bonus, raise, and full time status. He was there over 8 years. He liked this work because it involved the numerical modeling of EMP effects on electronic devices and involved actual underground testing at the Nevada Test Site. Leland later helped develop the Impulse Radiating Antenna (IRA) with Farr Research, Inc. (Have Leland explain what this is about!)

Leland and Bunny moved to Placitas in 1975 and built a house in Placitas West because they wanted some land and an area with mountains and beauty. They joined LPPC in 1980 and have been active ever since. A few months after joining LPPC, Leland was tapped to be an elder and then chair of the building committee which he led for many years. They joined when LPPC consisted of the Upper Room and basement which was used for the children and the pastor's office. He was part of the 1984 addition project and installed most of the heating system which

was designed by Bunny's Dad. For the last 18 years he has been active with the Earthcare Fellowship.

Leland's favorite and most challenging job was at Farr Research. His hobbies include photography, mountain biking, fabrication of wood and metal, and sound systems (he set up the PA systems at LPPC and has been working on PA systems since about age 12!).

Bunny and Leland have 2 children, Bryan and Karen, who both live in Boulder. Bryan was named the 2015 Architect of the Year by the AIA of Northern Colorado and is the architect for Placitas Sage Cohousing. He has 2 sons: Eli and Jesse.

Leland says some of his best travels have been when he went to India and Turkey for the antenna test range system that he helped develop. Other travels he has enjoyed have been to Japan, Alaska, Hawaii, Yellowstone, Banff and Oregon. He and Bunny most enjoy spending time at their cabin in Crystal, Colorado.

A bucket list item for Leland would be using his combination lathe mill to machine and assemble a steam engine that would run on the track where his Lionel trains currently run. If there were a fire, he would grab his computer. A few things he could not live without is "something to do", coffee, green chile and the breakfast burritos at the 'Café'.

Leland likes LPPC for the general acceptance of everyone, Monday night studies, Tuesday discussion group, maintaining and running the PA system for church and the PAS concerts. He would also like you to know that he really likes church, has always gone to church, and thinks one should go to church in your community as well as participate actively for both spiritual and social fulfillment.

~ Betty Closser & Wendy Ingram
