



The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church October 2018

A Century + of Stewardship

The Presbyterian Church at Las Placitas was founded in February of 1894. The congregation of the faithful in this place has been gathering over the last 125 years. Over the coming five Sundays we will be looking back over our history in 25 years periods.

A review of our past at a time like this is an attempt to better understand our story. It is a celebration of the women, men, and children who have built up this congregation over decades. The intent is that we take a momentary pause to look back so that we might gather the inspiration necessary to move into the future God is already preparing for us.

To be stewards is to receive something that has been handed down to us from previous generations. Our task is to care for this living heritage and to pass it along so that future generations might also grow here in Christian community. Stewardship involves an understanding that all good gifts come to us from God, and our own acts of giving are a response of thanksgiving to the Creator of us all.

We are the recipients of the generosity of generations past. The home that served as the original mission school house here was remodeled in 1913 to better suit the needs of the growing church. In 1930 the congregation made a bold step to build the church building that still serves as our Upper Room. The larger sanctuary and fellowship hall were added only in 1983. The most recent addition including our classrooms, offices, and expanded kitchen was completed in 2005.

The gifts and contributions of our *antepasados* have made it possible for us to be here. Let our giving for 2019 be historic in gratitude for all the many gifts already given.

Peace,

Drew

October 2018
Worship Services

October 7 - World Communion Sunday — "A Century of Faith - 1894-1918" Exodus 14:15

October 14 - Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost — "A Century of Faith - 1919-1943" Psalm 149:1

October 21 - Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost — "A Century of Faith - 1944-1969" Deuteronomy 4:32

October 28 - Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost — "A Century of Faith - 1970-1994" Isaiah 43:19

November 4 - All Saints — "A Century of Faith - 1995-2019" Deuteronomy 30:19

Upcoming Adult Forums *God's Promise – "I Am With You"*

During October the Adult Forum continues its study of Amy Poling Sutherland's study, *God's Promise – "I Am With You"*, which looks at how God is present with us in life's many circumstances, including times of uncertainty, discouragement, and powerlessness.

The author is the co-pastor, with husband Joshua, of First Presbyterian Church in San Marcos Texas. She is a 7th-generation Presbyterian minister, having grown up in Las Cruces, NM.

The Adult Forum meets at approximately 9:15 a.m. (following the early service) in the Upper Room. A couple of copies of the study book are still available.

Upcoming Schedule:

Oct. 7 – “God With Us When We Seek God”

Oct. 14 – “God With Us When We Are Powerless”

Oct. 21 – “God With Us Through Our Trials”

Oct. 28 – “God With Us as Emmanuel”

Nov. 4 – “God With Us as the Holy Spirit”

Nov. 11 – “God With *US*”

Christian Education

Children’s Christian Education has started once again! The Pancake Breakfast was a hit! We want to thank Elizabeth and Jeff Dickson, Amy Daplito, Karen Martinez, Leslie O’ Hanlon, Dana Haworth, Diane Shepard, Sally and Ed Gosnell. The biggest thank you goes out to our children who served the pancakes and the congregation for their generous donations.

There will be a youth lock-in hosted by Shepard of the Valley on October 13-14.

As always, we are looking for more teachers and assistants. If you are interested, please call Chantel Tarin.

Fellowship

Fellowship will be making Pork tamales on October 22 and the 23 working in the kitchen, starting at 9:00 each morning. We will be serving Tamales at the Holiday Sale on November 17 and 18. We will also have them for sale by the dozen or half dozen during the Holiday Sale. Come by and have lunch during the Holiday Sale.

Joan Dennis, Fellowship Chair

Earth Care

The LPPC Earth Care Fellowship will hold a quarterly Highway 165 clean-up on our adopted mile on Saturday October 20 at 8:30 AM. We will meet near the west boundary of our mile, just west of the entrance to Ranchos de Placitas. Anyone interested in helping out is welcome to attend!

Calling all poets! The LPPC Earth Care Fellowship is sponsoring the 21st Annual Candlelight Winter Solstice Poetry Reading on the evening of Friday, December 21, 2018. The theme for this year is “Whispers of Winters Past”. In 2019 Las Placitas Presbyterian Church will be celebrating 125 years of community life and service in Placitas. Our theme for this year’s reading is an invitation to reflect on the memories and settings of all our lives and communities across the years... from the geologic “memory” of the Sandias, and the local flora and fauna, to the ancient Native and Hispanic communities, right down to our own lifetimes and personal reflections. Poems will be read in the Sanctuary by the authors using a single candle for light.

Follow your muse! Submit poems to:
LppcEarthcare@lasplacitaschurch.org by November 17.

Updates

La Vision de Nuestros Ante Pasados (The Vision of Our Ancestors) will be held at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church on October 13, 2018 from 4:00 to 9:00 pm. There will be live food demonstrations of how to make traditional foods [tortillas & sopapillas], story-telling from elders, traditional music, a silent auction, and a display honoring veterans. There will also be the results of three years of ancestry research displaying eight family trees tracing to Spain.”

At the Placitas Holiday Sale in November, we have the first space in the tent by the church. I have one person who said they would help me set

up. Please begin thinking about signing up to help sell them for a few hours at a time on both Saturday & Sunday. I will be getting the list asking for volunteers the middle of September. Questions contact Sue at 505-404-1705. Thanks much.

Help the Deacons provide meals to those in need: The deacons could still use help from church members to provide meals. There is a signup sheet on the cork board outside the sanctuary. Thanks so much. Sue E. Hoff, Moderator of Deacons, 505-404-1705.

Member Profile MATTHEW LEWIS

Matt was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Simi Valley, CA with his 2 younger sisters and brother. After graduating high school in 1987, he attended the US Military Academy at West Point NY, where he met his future wife Anne. She was a year behind him and they met when they were both being punished and had to walk with other cadets a certain number of hours in penalty without talking. Matt spent 200 hours “walking the area” over his 4 years at WP. They have discovered that cadets who misbehave but are very smart as Matt is, succeed in life. Matt and Anne married the day after graduation. He graduated in 1991 with a degree in Physics and the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and thus began his Army career. Over the course of the next 25+ years, he served in a series of positions of increasing responsibility and rank, starting with flight school in Ft Rucker, AL. After qualifying to fly the UH60 Blackhawk helicopter, he moved to Ft Drum, NY with the 10th Mountain Division in 1992. He deployed as a platoon leader to Somalia in 1993 and Haiti in 1994 where he led aerial assault missions as well as medical aid/health assessment missions.

From his next posting in Germany, he deployed to Bosnia in 1995 with NATO’s peacemaking Implementation Force (IFOR) to bring an end to

the civil war there and then returned as a company commander in 1997 with the Stabilization Force (SFOR.) After two of his three years overseas spent in Bosnia, he, his wife and 2 young sons came back to the States in 1998 where he earned his Master’s Degree in Nuclear Engineering in 2000 from M.I.T. in Boston. This was followed by two years of teaching advanced physics and the college core program at West Point, during which time he was promoted early to Major. In 2002, the Lewis family moved to Kansas, where Matt continued his education at Ft Leavenworth’s Command & General Staff College, earning a

Master’s degree in International Relations. He and his family were then sent to Seoul, South Korea in 2003 where he spent three years as Chief Operating Officer for US Aviation Brigade and Battalion-level organizations. Next came an assignment in Tampa, FL at US Central Command (CENTCOM,) where Matt was aide de camp to General John Abizaid from 2006-2007. Matt was the youngest aide de camp to a 4-star general. Following his promotion to Lt. Colonel, he became the Policy Officer for the Arabian Peninsula, Horn of Africa & Central Asian States. In 2008, Matt returned to Seoul as the Assault Helicopter Battalion Commander for the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade. In 2010, he and his family returned to the US to the 1st Infantry Division located at Ft Riley, KS. He immediately deployed to Iraq as Deputy Brigade Commander of the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade covering all four division zones in Iraq. After a year’s deployment, he returned home and in 2011 the family moved to Massachusetts where Matt was enrolled into Harvard’s JFK School of Government in Cambridge. He completed two years as a National Security Fellow and Military Advisor to Ambassador Nicholas Burns and the Future of Diplomacy Project.

In 2012, after his promotion to Colonel, he trained to fly the Army’s AH64 Apache and in

2013 took command of the 3,000 Soldiers of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade. A few months after assuming command, the Brigade deployed to Afghanistan where Matt led all of the combat and medical helicopter evacuation units in the southern part of the country – from Herat to Kandahar. The Brigade came home in 2014 and continued as the spearhead for the federal aviation contingency response force for a WMD attack. He changed command in 2015 and left Kansas for Ft Rucker, AL as Deputy Commander of the US Army Combat Readiness Center responsible for the Army Safety and Occupational Health policy, training, and accident investigations.

Upon his retirement from the Army in late 2016, Matt and Anne remembered their visits to New Mexico – he'd been an intern as a cadet in 1990 at Los Alamos Laboratory, and they had spent a couple of vacations in the state. The Land of Enchantment called to them, so they searched online and found a home in Placitas. Matt was hired by Sandia National Labs as the Research & Development Manager for Airborne and Space Radar ISR Technologies, which utilizes his leadership and extensive experience in aviation and his education in physics and nuclear engineering.

Matt and Anne have 2 sons: the eldest, Matt Jr, is studying Physics at Kansas State and younger son Daniel is currently at Georgia Tech with plans to enter the Army's Green Beret program. Matt's hobbies/passions are hiking, exploring the outdoors, reading and learning. He feels strongly that his purpose in all he has done and hopes to do is "helping, leading and protecting people." He says his "15 minutes of fame" probably describes his 2 years as Brigade Commander, when all eyes were upon him in the spotlight.

The person living or dead he would most like to meet is Abraham Lincoln for his ability to stay

steadfast during dark and disappointing times during the Civil War, and his ability to work with his rivals. Lincoln retained his simpleness and his humor, admirable traits considering the background he rose from. Matt doesn't really have a Bucket List of things he wants to do in the future: his attitude is one of gratitude for the many places God has taken him so far. "Wherever God takes me is where I am needed." However, he does have a couple of upcoming trips he is really looking forward to, including a hiking trip with Anne up Kilimanjaro this summer, and a planned trip to explore some family history in India next year.

In case of a fire, there are no special material items important enough to be rescued, as long as family and pets were safe. Five things he would hate to have to live without are coffee, chocolate, his cell phone for computer records/internet access, his passport and hiking boots.

What drew Matt to LPPC were the people who welcomed him so warmly, that Pastor Drew is genuine and real, and the inclusion of Spanish in the service to pay homage to the church heritage. Matt has been active with the Earth Care Fellowship team since joining the church, and is interested in working with the Youth Group. He coordinated the joint ECF & Youth hike for April's Earth Day. He also serves as one of the ruling elders, having started that 3-year term in spring of 2018.

Joan Chewning

Wendy Ingram