



The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

September 2016

Contemplative Worship

My first experience with contemplative worship was at the Benedictine Monastery of Santa Maria de Los Toldos in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. I was living in the city, working in a pastoral ministry with men and women who were homeless, and going to seminary for my graduate theological studies.

I reached out to this monastic community at the time in search of a place for retreat. I needed to rest, to renew my spirit, and to recharge my batteries. The Benedictines of Los Toldos welcomed me in and were gracious in their hospitality. Worship was our key common denominator.

Since those days, I have participated in and led any number of contemplative worship experiences. Two modern expressions of contemplative communities are the Taizé Community in France and the Iona Community in Scotland. While we incorporate elements of contemplative worship in our services here, a number have asked if we could explore opening new spaces for contemplative worship here at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church.

Contemplative worship creates space where we can quiet ourselves and open our hearts, minds, and souls to the presence of God in our midst. Silence, scripture, song, prayer, and sacrament are common elements. In an often busy world, stillness invites our spirits into a quiet place. Peace permeates the noise. Listening leads the conversation.

If these elements speak to you, I would like to invite you to a gathering with others to explore contemplative opportunities here at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. We will gather for lunch on Sunday, Sept. 25th, at noon in the Upper Room. Bring something to share. We will break bread together. Prayer, discernment, and dialogue are the agenda for the day. In the meantime, hold this initiative in prayer. Active contemplation and contemplative action are the goal.

Peace, Drew



Sunday Worship Service

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

September 4: 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Onesimus

Psalm 1:1-3 & Philemon 1-9

September 11: 17th Sunday after Pentecost
From Grief

Exodus 32:7-14 & Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

September 18: 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Keep Searching

Psalm 113 & Luke 15:1-10

September 25: 19th Sunday after Pentecost
The One I Trust

1 Timothy 6:6-19 & Psalm 91



Adult Forum

The Adult Forum resumes on September 11 in the Upper Room, beginning at approximately 9:20 a.m., immediately after the first service. During September, we will be looking at various mission-related projects and groups.

September 11: *Considering the Christian Response to Terrorism*

Presented by the Health Ministries Partnership and led by Rev. Anne Hays Egan. Over the last fifteen years we've had so many tragic terrorist attacks and violent deaths in the U.S. and around the world, many people are reeling with the impact of it all. Christ has shown us ways that we can build bridges of love and hope. We can be sustained and carried by the healing and hope that God's word and that the church bring to us and our world. And, we can take a moment to reflect upon and honor the many ways, both large and small, by which our community reaches out to others in order to serve as God's "hands of help" in the world. The Adult Forum will provide a short presentation followed by a highly interactive session of large and small group discussions about ways that we can bring our Christian faith to bear on these difficult issues, and bring bridges of love and hope to our families and communities. The Adult Forum will meet on this date in the Sanctuary.

September 18: *Getting to Know Casa Rosa with Sally Curro.* In August, the Casa Rosa Food Bank, founded by LPPC members in cooperation with others in the community, celebrated its 8-year anniversary. Sally Curro will lead an Introduction to Casa Rosa and its ministry of service to the Placitas community, followed by a tour of the facility adjoining the church. Come and see!

September 25: *Menaul School* will be introduced by its current board president, our own Pastor Drew Henry. In 1896, Rev. James A. Menaul, a Presbyterian minister and cousin to LPPC's organizing minister John Menaul, sought and received Presbyterian mission funding for a boarding school that would serve the Spanish-speaking community who were primarily from

northern New Mexico. Now, 120 years later, this Presbyterian-related school continues to serve and minister to our community. Come and find out more!

October 2: *Café Justo & Fair Trade* at LPPC will conclude this series. 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 *Café 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 and learn more about our participation in these self-development projects.

The Session

It all belongs to God! Really? Yes, everything that we have, own, and are, is a gift from God. We are stewards of the many blessings God has bestowed upon us through His magnificent and loving grace.

That was one of many thought-provoking messages session members Trip Jennings, Steve Milstead, Rev. Drew Henry, and I considered during last week's three day stewardship conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Sponsored by The Synod of the Southwest*, "Nurturing Generous Hearts II," somewhat surprisingly, became an outstanding learning experience for me. This was due, in large-part, to national-level speakers, experts in the field of stewardship, and the sixteen excellent workshops that were presented. The game plan of our team representing LPPC was for each of us to attend a different workshop. With a choice four workshop presentations in each of the four sessions, we were able to attend every workshop.

Some of the concepts I came away with are as follows:

*Any good thing we have comes from God.
Have a mindset of abundance not scarcity.
How much does my personal self-worth depend on how much I have?
You can't serve two masters, both God and wealth.
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Treat stewardship as a spiritual exercise.
Money makes a good steward but a lousy master.*

The truth that may be my biggest challenge in following God's path is *the love of "stuff" keeps us from fully living into God's image and experiencing His pleasure.*

Yes, it's the shiny stuff that boosts my ego (**Easing God Out**). But then, when I take time and reflect back, I realize how much my life has changed over the past twelve years at Las Placitas Church. I am both amazed and grateful. You good folks here really care about me and I am much the better for it.

Grace and peace, Bill Lumm

*The Synod of the Southwest is comprised of our presbytery, The Presbytery of Santa Fe, Sierra Blanca Presbytery in Southern New Mexico, plus Grand Canyon and de Cristo Presbyteries in Arizona.

Childrens' Christian Education

Our first Sunday School class will begin on September 11th. Our traditional Pancake Brunch takes place the following Sunday the 18th, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service. It's our way of saying **Thank You** to everyone in the congregation for your support so generously given to our children! The Youth will be showing a slide show on the 11th and a video montage on the 18th to showcase their summer trips to Ghost Ranch and Triennium.

This 2016 - 2017 year, we have seven High School youth, nine Middle School youth, seven 3rd -5th graders, and four K-2nd graders. As our

numbers continue to grow, we are looking for more teachers, assistants and youth group leaders. Currently, we need a Fund Raising Chairperson/Persons and a Chair/Co-Chair for our Christmas Program. If you might be interested, please call our Christian Education Coordinator, Charmaine Lawrence at 917-6508 or the church office at 867-5718.

The Middle School and Elementary School teachers will be using the SHINE curriculum, a very teaching-friendly curriculum! The teachers for the high school youth will get to enjoy the Echo curriculum they started last spring. It will be available for teachers and assistants to download from the church website.

We appreciate and want to say **Thank You** to our September and October teachers: Sally Gosnell, Chantel Tarin, Tom Thomas, Tamara Hudson, and Trip Jennings. Thank you to our assistants Erica Chambers, Amy Dapolito, Carmen Douglas, Dana Howarth, Mary Helen Jennings, Steve Chewning and Charmaine Lawrence.

We have some very fun and exciting plans for the coming year! Don't miss our Fabulous Frito Pie lunch on October 9th, after the main service! Come share our excitement and **join our team!**

~ Charmaine Lawrence

Your monthly HMP health tip:



The best six doctors anywhere
And no one can deny it
Are sunshine, water, rest, and air
Exercise and diet.
These six will gladly you attend
If only you are willing
Your mind they'll ease
Your will they'll mend
And charge you not a shilling.

~Nursery rhyme quoted by Wayne Fields,
What the River Knows, 1990

Earthcare Fellowship

The ECF has a highway cleaning planned for September 17th. Meet at the west end of the LPPC cleanup mile near the entrance to Ranchos de Placitas.

~ Leland Bowen

LPPC Library

Why yes, LPPC does have a library, located at the east end of the education wing in the alcove between the two classrooms.

As you would expect, our pride of place belongs to our extensive collection of Bibles. We are pleased to have available both Old and New Testaments in most translations, including Spanish, and in study, parallel, devotional, red letter, women's, men's, and children's editions as well as concordances, encyclopedias, individual chapter and topical books. Our Bibles are found in the bookshelves along the hall south wall.

Theology and devotion-related books are in the bookshelf at the entrance to the alcove perpendicular to the wall. Adjacent to the theology bookshelf are books of a more generally religious nature.

A very ingenious display frame on the west wall holds a series of collages of original pictures highlighting our Founding Families and their daily activities. We are very fortunate to have these rare and historic pictures to display and take great pride in them.

The north end of the library alcove will hold our taped collection of LPPC sermons, in cassette tape format and not-yet-cataloged. We have sermons from late 1990s available upon request. We plan to eventually add cds of all recorded sermons as space and time permit.

Baskets in which to place donated and returned books are found on the table along the north wall.

Moving on around the alcove, we have two tall bookcases devoted to more general topics, including medicine, history, cultural affairs, environment, fiction, art, and much more.

As a church library, we naturally receive with joy a great many books of a religious nature. We do, however, service a diverse and well educated population and welcome all appropriate books on any topic, most especially any volumes covering New Mexico past, present and future. General tax receipts are available, although we do not appraise collections or individual books.

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.

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

~ Steve Chewning & Wendy Ingram

Member Profile

Dave Plante

Dave was born in Denver, CO and grew up in Albuquerque. He graduated from UNM with a degree in Natural Resource Recreation. He learned how to design and plan parks and National Parks. He worked in D.C. on the National Capital Mall from 1977-1981. He talked to visitors at the various monuments as well as while they were riding up the elevator to the top of the Washington Monument. His next assignment was at El Morro, NM. During this time he was earning his Masters in Public Administration at UNM. He left the National Parks to work for the EPA in Dallas. He met Leigh in Dallas at a bar (he, after playing softball and she, while celebrating St. Patrick's Day with her brother and friends). They married in 1987 in Nashville. Leigh decided to earn her nursing

degree and was accepted at Vanderbilt in Nashville. Dave left the EPA and started a series of consulting jobs centered on helping companies comply with environmental regulations. They moved to Albuquerque in the mid-90s. From 1997 – 2007 Dave lived in Rio Rancho and commuted to Los Alamos. Since then he has worked in Albuquerque currently working for X8E – an environmental company and hopes to stay there until retirement.

Dave and Leigh have 2 daughters. Katie just graduated from UNM with a degree in exercise science and coaches Gymnastics for Gold Cup. Lorah is attending UNM majoring in Psychology.

In spite of Dave's career in the EPA compliance areas and National Parks, his favorite job was working as a delivery person and printer/bindery helper at the UNM press when he was in school. His hobbies now are: golf, hiking with Leigh (Sandias, Jemez and Pecos), traveling, golf (listed twice on purpose!), and attending Lobos games.

While working at the Washington Monument, his 15 minutes of fame was saving the monument from a takeover by the Revolutionary Communist Party! Days prior, the phone lines had been cut at the monument. Dave was the only Park service person at the top of the monument close to closing time. All of a sudden 2 guys started causing a raucous hoping to take over the monument. Dave called down to the park police to have someone come up to help - (the protesters assumed the phones were still down and they had control for some time). Everyone got down safely and the protestors arrested.

The person he would most like to meet is Leonardo Da Vinci because he was such a great inventor and artist. While traveling after graduate school for 2 months, he considers the most amazing places to be the Poseidon Temple on the coast of Greece and the Virgin and Child in St. Peters. He hopes to show Europe to Leigh soon.

In case of a fire, he would grab his dog, Radar. The 2 things he wanted to do but never did are: to play the drums in school instead of the trumpet as

his Mom advised and to major in athletic training or attend umpire school.

The 5 things he couldn't live without are: Costco muffins, beer, coffee, his grill and Radar. His favorite part about attending LPPC is the open and accepting nature of the church to all who attend and listening to Mindy play the piano.

Dave has an interesting story about the people of Placitas. Just after they had adopted Radar from the pound, they decided to take him for a walk in the foothills south of Placitas. They had just started up the trail when a large unleashed dog came along and before they knew it, the big dog had Radar (a small terrier), on the ground in the grasp of his jaws. Radar got loose and took off. They spent the day looking for Radar until dark. They spent the next 10 days looking for Radar *in the middle of February*. Leigh put out flyers all over Placitas. They received a couple of phone calls from people who had spotted him so they kept looking. Just as they were about to give up, they received a call from a man who lived a couple of miles north of 165 saying a dog like theirs had been coming to his patio for water that he had put out for the birds. He was able to lure Radar to his house. Radar was skinny, dehydrated, starved, with sap on his fur, cactus spines on his legs, but was alive and had survived in the foothills of Placitas for 10 days. Dave and Leigh were so impressed with how kind and caring the people of Placitas were in keeping a lookout for Radar and helping to get him back. This is one of the main reasons they chose to start attending Las Placitas Church. That, and the Leigh-Drew-Alabama Connection.

~ Betty Closser & Wendy Ingram
