



The News of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

AUGUST 2009

Casa Rosa Celebrates Its First Anniversary!

The Casa Rosa Board invites you to help us celebrate the one year anniversary of the Food Bank and see how it has grown in its first year serving the community of Placitas. On Saturday, August 29, we will be open from 9:00-12:00 for our regular distribution. Then at 12:00 we will celebrate with food, music and volunteer service awards, recognizing those who have devoted countless volunteer hours to the success of Casa Rosa. We also want to thank those in the congregation and community who have contributed monetarily, as well as all those who have donated food that cannot readily be ordered from Roadrunner.



The Board would like to extend a special invitation to the members of the church to tour Casa Rosa, especially those who have not had the opportunity to volunteer on Friday for the off-loading and shelving of the delivered goods or on Saturday morning when the clients come for distribution. Come anytime between 9:00–12:00 and stay for a hamburger or hotdog or a slice of watermelon to help us celebrate. The volunteer service awards will be presented between 12:00 and 12:30.

One of the clients of Casa Rosa is a musician and has promised to write a song for the celebration and gather some of his musician buddies together to provide music for the festivities.

Special thanks go to Jardineros for their generous donation and ongoing support this past year, as well as the Kohl's Cares for Kids A-team for volunteering at one of the Mobile Food Pantries followed by a generous donation. The Merc has offered ongoing support by donating food on a weekly basis, and Walmart has donated broken bags of dog food and cans of cat food on a monthly basis through ARM. Flying Star also deserves kudos for donating day-old bread. The recently organized Civitan Group provided volunteers for the most recent Mobile Food Pantry, which was greatly appreciated. Individuals in the congregation, as

well as the community, have made commitments of regular monetary donations; others have donated food. These gifts have kept Casa Rosa sustainable over the past year.

Donations of hamburgers, hotdogs or buns for the celebration would be gratefully accepted before the big day. Mark your calendar for August 29 and come join in the fun as we celebrate the accomplishments, growth and success of Casa Rosa in tandem with the larger community. Onward, in service to the beautiful Village of Placitas!

Upcoming August Worship Highlights

Worship in the Mountains—Sunday, August 23rd at the Sandia Mountain Resort

This is our annual outdoor worship event. Bring chairs and a potluck dish to share. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. Hike the mountain or just sit and share the day with other members of Las Placitas. This is always a very fun worship experience. We will carpool from church at 9:15am.

Rally Day & Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, August 30



Come for worship and stay for a great pancake and waffle breakfast. Sign up for Sunday School and Adult Forum classes. Find out about the work of all of our committees. Support our mission work by buying great *SERRV* and *Just Coffee* products. The *2009 Members & Friends Directory* will be available.

Other August Events

Final Summer Silent Art Auction begins on Sunday, August 2nd

The first viewing and bidding is available that morning before and after the worship service. The show will run for two weeks until Sunday the 16th with the bidding tables promptly closing at noon after the worship service. Winners may immediately take their purchased items. This auction is open to the public. Invite your friends to come.

Capital Campaign Conversation: Wednesday, August 12th—9:30-11:30am

Marilee Blanchard, a church consultant specializing in stewardship programs and capital campaigns, will be here to discuss with elders, deacons and other interested church members what our upcoming stewardship and capital campaign may entail. Session approved a capital campaign, after reviewing the congregational surveys, at its last meeting. All are welcome.

Ice Cream Social and Star Gazing—August 14 at 7:30pm



Bring your family and friends. Come for another of our summer youth events, hosted by Lauren and Chas S. We will have telescopes set up for star gazing as soon as the sun goes down. Everyone is invited.

Santa Fe Presbytery Education and Leadership Day, August 22, 8:00am-3:00pm

This event takes place at St. Andrews in Albuquerque and is for members of all Presbyterian congregations. Some of the workshops are:

Being Faithful in our God-given Places: Congregations Connecting to Their Communities

What, Me Preach? Feeling confident taking your turn in the pulpit

Calvin—Five Hundred Years in Seventy-five Minutes!

Make a joyful noise—regardless of your level of expertise!

After lunch, the keynote address (*What is God Calling Us to Do?*) will be given by Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Professor of Biblical Interpretation from Austin Theological Seminary.

If you wish to know more, look for the flyer on the table near the sanctuary door. If you would like to carpool, let Pastor Elizabeth know. We will leave LPPC at 7:30am.

Earth Care Fellowship co-sponsors, “Joining in Praise of the Universe: Rediscovering Creation

in the Psalms,” Saturday, Aug. 29, 9am-3:00pm at LPPC

This is a day-long creative experience focusing on a new understanding of the Psalms and spirituality in light of the emerging Universe Story. We will open ourselves to a fuller appreciation of science, the universe and spirituality so that our growing concern and care for the earth might be rooted and informed by an emerging spirituality coming from the Judeo-Christian tradition. Prayer celebrations, creative expressions of music, dance, drama, and painting as well as information on current research will highlight the day. Look for the flyer on the table near the sanctuary door.

Mission Study Task Force continues its work

Thank you to everyone who participated in our conversations and surveys. We feel we have heard the voices of so many of you that our work will be completed easily. The Mission Study Task Force will write up the mission study during August to present to the Elders and Deacons in September. The congregation will have a chance to review this document as well. Members of the Task force are Glenn I, Nancy U, Anna H, Shannon M, James M, Judie H, Sally C, Keith L, Doug C, and Deb A-R.

New Web Page Design coming soon!

Elizabeth D has been hard at work redesigning our webpage. Look for the new look, soon. In the meantime, continue to check it out and keep up on all the things happening at LPPC.



Session Notes & Highlights—July 14th

~Jeff D presented information on the continuing development of Casa Rosa.

~Thanks were expressed to Sally C for coordination and support of the Polyphony concert.

~Thanks were given to Lauren and Chas S for administering the Silent Art Auction. The auction raised nearly \$2300. Another auction is planned for August.

~The Mission committee has ordered merchandise from SERRV for sale during the Rally Day in August. Proceeds will support artisans throughout the world.

~Jerri F and Kent A presented a summary of the results of the survey regarding the congregation's support and involvement of a capital campaign. In line with the results, Session unanimously approved going forward with a capital campaign beginning in the Fall. Marilee Blanchard, supported

by the Synod, will be consulting with the development group in designing the process of the campaign.

Mission News

The Mission Committee has been very busy. We will be sponsoring a table of SERRV products at Rally Day on August 30th. SERRV is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide. Products and catalogues will be on display, so be sure and stop and check them out. *Just Coffee* and *Just Coffee* books will also be available for sale that day.

Habitat update

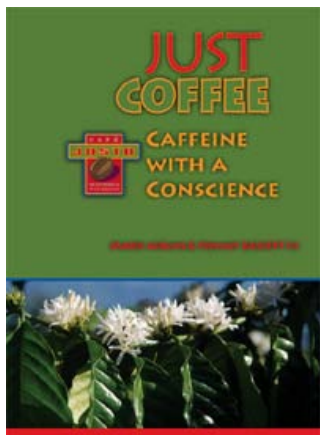
We're still waiting on the construction license so our start date is still in doubt. It's looking like the end of August now. Bob R, a long-time Habitat worker, has kindly volunteered to be our Job Captain. The very important need: Bob wants to lay out the slab before we start framing, of course, and has asked that we provide some experienced volunteers to help him. He needs a total of 6-8 persons. It would be done on a couple of half-day weekdays. If you are interested, please the business office so that Beth can forward more detailed information as soon as it comes in.

Rebuilding Together Sandoval County
Projects are scheduled in Rio Rancho for August 14 & 15. Rebuilding Together will provide coffee & donuts, water, soda and lunch. Projects include:

Mobile Home—Senior—TWO DAYS- 4 carpenters, 8 volunteers each day.

Mobile home—Couple with 5 small children—TWO DAYS- 2 carpenters, 1 electrician, 10 volunteers each day.

Contact Terry Smith, if you can be of assistance.



High Praise for *Just Coffee: Caffeine with a Conscience*.

This is the book published by Don and Nancy T that so many of you prayed into existence. The Mission Committee will have copies of it for sale on Rally Day.

"The US-Mexico border and unauthorized immigration are typically reduced to law-and-order and security concerns. *Just Coffee: Caffeine with a Conscience* exposes the moral and analytical poverty of such an approach. In focusing on a specific case study, this indispensable book powerfully illustrates the political-economic factors that drive much immigration while offering inspiring, instructive, and practical ideas for redressing the underlying poverty and injustices. This is a must-read for all those interested in building relationships between the peoples of the United States and Mexico and beyond, based on mutual respect and cooperation." ~-Joseph Nevins, author of *Dying to Live: A Story of U.S. Immigration in an Age of Global Apartheid* (San Francisco: City Lights Books, 2008).

"Mark Adams and Tommy Bassett, along with their Café Justo colleagues from Mexico, tell a compelling story about forging a global community to match the global economy. This book is a fascinating primer in how to respond proactively to global economic forces that leave most of us feeling totally powerless. This book is for those who know that Jesus calls us to create the reign of God right here on earth, right now."

"Tommy Bassett's description of the way that the community of Salvador Urbina offers the real hope that Jesus' are not a distant dream but instead an achievable possibility."

"If, like me, you are not a coffee drinker, this may just be enough to make you start now."

"I've visited the Café Justo office and coffee roaster in Agua Prieta, Sonora dozens of time. Still, this book tells parts of the story I didn't know. When I arrived at the end, I felt as if I had a relationship with the people of Salvador Urbina, Chiapas."

"Following Jesus in a time of empire building and globalization is as hard as anything I can imagine. This book presents a case study for how to go about it." ~Rick Ufford-Chase, Moderator - 216th General Assembly, PC(USA).

Per Capita Apportionment—Our connection to the greater church

The Per Capita Apportionment is part of the glue that connects our congregation to Santa Fe Presbytery, the Synod of the Southwest, and the General Assembly. Per capita is distinguished from mission giving in that it is operational money needed to keep the three governing bodies of our

church functional. However, Per Capita does undergird our mission outreach. Your mission dollars go directly to the mission work of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly and is clearly defined as mission giving.

It helps to cover the cost of operations to discern the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ in the world through our Presbyterian family. The Per Capita Apportionment payment keeps all the governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in operation for a full year. This pays the cost of assembly and synod meetings at which commissioners chosen by presbyteries give direction for our work and witness at those levels.

In our Presbytery, the apportionment covers the salary and expenses of our staff and provides for the Presbytery office. It also pays for costs of Presbytery meetings in which commissioners elected by sessions give direction for the work of the presbytery. Per Capita supports the work of our Committee on Ministry and Council. Finally, the apportionment covers the costs of our Moderator during the year of service.

Locally, it enables your pastor and elders to utilize the resources of the entire church for local issues and questions. It also covers the cost of the mechanism for churches to search for new pastors.

This year the cost per member is \$35.00. We are asking every member, for whom it would not be a hardship, to make an additional donation of that amount to LPPC to offset this investment in the greater church. Any funds not collected will need to come out of our general budget. Please make this important contribution possible. Make your contributions out to LPPC and mark your checks 'per capita'.

September Events

Two Worship Services Resume

On Sunday, September 13, we will go back to our fall schedule. The informal 8:15am service is held in the Upper Room. The more traditional 10:30am service is in the sanctuary. Christian Education programs begin at the same time.

Women's Bible Study begins

On September 9 at 10:00am, we will hold an organizing meeting and brunch of the Women's Bible Study. We will look at the study material and plan out our year. We will be starting the year

using the wonderful study of New Testament women, entitled, *Back to the Well: Women's Encounters with Jesus in the Gospels*, by Frances Taylor Gench, Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. The Women's Bible Study meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 10:00-11:30 am. All women are invited.

Monday Evening Book Discussion Group Organizational Meeting

The Monday night group will meet on Monday, September 28 at 7:00pm to discuss what should be used as material for the fall. All who are interested are invited to attend.

Elder and Deacon Mission Study Review on Saturday, September 19 from 9:00am to noon at NM Council of Churches, Bernalillo

The Mission Study Task Force will be writing the LPPC mission study during the month of August. Then it must be approved by Session before it goes to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry for approval. Once that task is done, LPPC can begin to look for a new pastor. This mission study is important, not only for its guidance as LPPC moves forward in its pastoral search, but also as a strategic plan for the church during the next few years. All Elders and Deacons are urged to attend.

Earth Care Fellowship presents, "Meatless Monday" as the Fall Equinox Celebration.

There is a growing movement across the nation to ask everyone to refrain from eating any meat or meat products every Monday to reduce the extraordinary carbon footprint that meat production requires. To help with this process, the Earth Care Fellowship is planning a special gourmet 'meatless' meal and celebration on Monday, September 21. Look for more details to follow



September newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, August 26th, noon

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