



The News of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

January 2010

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

On Sunday, January 31, immediately following worship, the Session of LPPC has set the date for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. At this meeting we will discuss the committee's work of the past year and look at the budget needed to carry on the mission of LPPC. This is an important event. Please plan to attend.

All committee annual reports are due in the office by Monday, January 18 at noon, so that they may be printed and published in the Annual Report and distributed on January 31.

Farewell to Rev. Jane Harmes

Dr. Ken Cuthbertson will lead a farewell to Jane before she moves to California later this month. This will take place during the 10:30 service on January 10. Come and wish Jane well in this new part of her life.

Membership

Membership meets on Jan 21 at 1pm. We will be planning our new member reception for February 14. If you would still like to know more about becoming a member of LPPC, please talk to Pastor Elizabeth.

Updates to the membership directory

Changes, additions & corrections will be distributed at the end of January. They will be emailed electronically and hard copies will be available in Fellowship Hall. This will give you an opportunity to update your personal copies.

Please send your changes to Cory in the office (867-5718 or email: lppcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org) by **Monday, January 25** so they can be included in the update. You may also add your changes to the correction sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Finance

The finance committee has been working diligently to put together all the pieces necessary to present

the 2010 budget to Session and to the congregation in January. It is a difficult process this

year. We are facing significant financial shortfalls that may mean painful cuts in all areas of the budget. Finance meets next week and more information will be coming to the congregation after that meeting. The finance committee has also been working on a new endowment policy that will also be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Fellowship

Thank you to everyone who helped make all the fellowship events in 2009 such a great success. Fellowship hosted a number of dinners; kept the fellowship hour after church a time of great food and good conversation; helped raise funds for the church through the Chili Pepper Café AND got the kitchen certified by the NM State Environment Department! We also now have a new refrigerator and freezer as a result of the ongoing efforts of the Fellowship committee and their indefatigable leader, Joan D, and financial contributions from many, many supporters.



Session

The Elders and Deacons meet for a combined meeting in December to reflect on the past year and to discuss the challenges we face in 2010. Vivian D D and Beth S were accepted as the new Deacons for 2010. Elders choose their leadership roles for 2010: Jerri F, Clerk of Session; Glenn I, Personnel; Nancy U, Mission; Ron D, Finance; Lauren Skinner, Membership and Evangelism; Geri E, Christian Education; Betty M, Worship. We are still in need of one more elder. If you feel called to this work, or know of any member who would be a good elder, please contact Pastor Elizabeth.

Mission

Mission met for a wonderful dinner at Nancy U's home in December. Disbursements to local charities were decided and planning was done for next year.





Christian Education

Starting January 10, our children will be studying from a wonderful new David C. Cook curriculum, *Lead the Way, Jesus*. This will focus

on ways our children can begin to follow in Jesus' footprints as they learn what it means to be a Christian. Please bring your children, your grandchildren and even your children's friends for this great study!

Many thanks to Meredith L, Bill L and Carolyn M and who are teaching the children as the new year begins.

The next Christian Education meeting is scheduled on the Fourth Tuesday—January 26 at 5:30pm.

First Sunday Youth meet at 5pm on Sunday, January 3

We have the information for the Ghost Ranch Youth Retreat in February, so we will need to make plans for that. Plus we will be planning the rest of the year's activities. Come and join us!

Adult Forum—*Living the Questions*

Adult Forum resumes on January 10 and continues every Sunday at 9:15am, with an expanded version of *Living the Questions*, an in-depth Biblically oriented study of Progressive Christianity. Pick up a schedule on the table outside the sanctuary. All are welcome, even if you haven't attended before.

Monday Night Adult Study resumes January 11 at 7pm

This winter, the group will be reading and discussing, *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*, by Phyllis Tickle.

Publishers Weekly (Oct. 08) says this about Tickle's book:

North American Christianity is presently undergoing a change every bit as radical as the Protestant Reformation, possibly even as monumental as its natal break with Judaism. And it's right on schedule. Tickle, ... observes that Christianity is holding its semi-millennial rummage sale of ideas. With an elegance of argument and economy of description, Tickle escorts readers through the centuries of church history leading to this moment and persuasively charts the character of and possibilities for the emerging church. ... Tickle issues a clear call to acknowledge the inevitability

of change, discern the church's new shape and participate responsibly in the transformation. ... this is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the face and future of Christianity.

Ken Cuthbertson continues to lead the forum and we are grateful for his leadership.

Women's Bible Study resumes

On January 27, we will continue discussing the book, *Back to the Well (Women's Encounters with Jesus in the Gospels)* by Frances Taylor Gench. This group is facilitated by Pastor Elizabeth and meets 10:00am to 11:30am. All welcome!



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC) Congregational Update

Members: Doug C, Chair, Linda B, Vice-Chair and Internet Communicator, Leah A-G, Secretary, John D, Anna H, Titus O, Glenn I, Gail M, Jerri F, Sue W, Debbie S, COM.

This is the first in a series of reports your PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) will issue on our progress. The PNC was elected on October 25, 2009 and began meeting on November 8. We have had three meetings so far. Like all of you, the members of the PNC are enthusiastic about the prospect of calling a new pastor and understand that we have a lot of meetings and work ahead of us. We would like to get our work done quickly but are also determined to do the very best job possible.

To keep you posted, the PNC will report progress on a regular basis and as important stages or tasks are implemented or completed, if at all possible.

A three-stage process has been defined by the PNC for completing the pastoral search. The three stages and the tasks required to complete each are summarized as follows:

Stage 1) Preliminary stage: Planning and establishing the requirements for the position of pastor

- a. Establish plan, budget, and scope
- b. Assemble basic information
- c. Document needs and wants

Stage 2) Main stage: Conducting a broad and thorough search; screen the responses to a final set of candidates

- a. Determine and contact sources
- b. Develop screening process
- c. Evaluate responses

Stage 3) Final stage: Evaluate the final candidates; interview and present the candidate of choice to the congregation for approval

- a. Interview the final set of candidates
- b. Evaluate, identify the candidate of choice
- c. Obtain Presbytery, Session and Congregational approval

Currently, the PNC is in the preliminary phase of Stage 1: electing officers, establishing an implementation plan for the work, the scope, and proposing a budget for the PNC process to Session for approval. Session will establish the terms of call. The PNC will next establish requirements and complete the Church Information Form (CIF). The CIF is a standard form required by the PC (USA) for describing a church, documenting the leadership qualifications of the pastor it is seeking, and outlining the job description and effective compensation range. The PNC will be using the Church Mission Statement for guidance along with prayerful consideration and much discussion. The CIF must be approved by Session and the Committee on Ministry (COM) of the Presbytery of Santa Fe before it can be sent out through various advertising venues for candidates' consideration.

CASA ROSA GIVES THANKS FOR 2009

As the New Year of 2010 comes in and we review 2009, there were many blessings that came to Casa Rosa over the year and many people to thank.



To members and friends of LPPC who contributed money and specific goods, a heartfelt thank you. To members of the community and local businesses that have supported Casa Rosa's mission we give ongoing thanks to you. To all those folks who have sponsored a Mobile Food Pantry in the past year a special thank you. To all the individuals who cleaned out their closets and donated coats, jackets, hat, gloves, and other cold weather clothing, Casa Rosa sends a warm thank you. For all those who have volunteered hours of their time we heartily thank you.

In further reviewing 2009 it was noted that in January 2009 Casa Rosa served an average of 25 households each week. At the end of the year the

food bank served an average of 55 households each week. This represents an increase of 120% in the number of families served. This indicates that the need continues to deepen as people realize that the economy is slower to recover than was thought, and that the lost jobs are not returning as quickly as was hoped.

Demand for emergency food assistance is higher than it has ever been in history. A study by **Feeding America** revealed that for 2008, 49 million people, including 17 million children were food insecure. Preliminary numbers indicate that for 2009 upwards to 80 million people will be found to be food insecure in our great nation.

So with this national information and the increase of consumers at Casa Rosa, we will need to be vigilant in continuing our mission of serving Placitas with the Saturday morning food bank, and in serving eligible Sandoval County residents with the Mobile Food Pantries.

A number of community members responded to the article in the December *Signpost* by offering monetary donations, sponsorship of a Mobile Food Pantry, non-perishable food, clothing donations, and volunteer hours. Several families held parties during the holiday season where guests brought non-perishable foods to be donated to Casa Rosa.

All of this generosity has assured that Casa Rosa will remain sustainable through the winter months. We ask, however, that you continue your generous support so that Casa Rosa may continue onward with its mission of offering a helping hand throughout the community.

NEEDS:

We have had a recent request from a Casa Rosa client in need of a wheelchair. She will be in a wheelchair for some time until she is able to have hip surgery. If you know of someone who has a chair they would be willing to donate or has a resource for a chair, please contact Cory at LPPC, or contact Charlotte L (867-5718).

Volunteers are needed to work the Mobile Food Pantry on Wednesday, January 20. Assistance is needed to unload the truck at 10:30am and help distribute the food from 11:00am – 1:00pm. Call the church (867-5718) or contact Charlotte if you can volunteer at this event.

A very happy New Year to all and much gratitude to all who have supported this important mission of

LPPC, Casa Rosa Food Bank. May we all live in harmony and peace in the coming year.

Meet our Members!

WILDA M



Wilda was born in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Her Mother was of Cherokee and Irish descent and her father of Scottish descent. Her grandparents (on her father's side) had homesteaded land on the east side of the Sandia Mountains where her father grew up.

At about two years of age, Wilda's family moved to a farm in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, east of the Sandia Mountains, where her parents raised cattle and various crops. Because her family lived on the border of Bernalillo County and Santa Fe County, one of the schools Wilda attended was a two-room school in Tijeras. After many children came down with typhoid fever, Wilda was sent to Stanley School north of Moriarty, which was a larger school, housed grades 1-12, and was located 17 miles away. The transportation to the school was by an old Army Red Cross ambulance (because it could handle the snow). The children rode in the back where the injured had been carried. Her Father had a Model A Ford 4-door, which her older brother (probably 10-12 years old) drove to a corner at Cedar Grove. They waited for the regular bus there.

At the end of the 3rd grade, Wilda's family moved south of Albuquerque. They moved to Belen when she was in the 7th grade because her family loved farming and wanted more land. Belen was the hub of the railroad and had lots of people there in the railroad industry.

Wilda was always involved in the 4-H Club. She and her friends attended many events with their animals. Through some mutual friends, Wilda met Bruce, married in 1955 and moved to the South Valley. Bruce worked for the phone company and his designated work area was north of Albuquerque, which also included Placitas. They moved to Placitas in 1969 when there were very few homes and hardly any available for sale or rent. They did find one they liked which they leased for a couple of years, purchased and still live in today. Wilda and Bruce have three children, two boys and one girl.

Wilda and family began attending Las Placitas Presbyterian Church in 1969. Wilda helped with

Bible School, Sunday school and many activities of the church. She loves LPPC for the feelings she gets there, especially in the Upper Room. It feels comfortable. Bruce and Ed D built the roof over the original door going down to the basement of the Upper Room so rain wouldn't pour on people entering.

INTERESTS & HISTORY

When Wilda and family moved to Placitas there were many interesting and colorful people living here. There were areas that were used by 'squatters' because they didn't feel comfortable living anywhere else in society. This area provided them what they needed. It has made for some colorful stories over the years. We have all been intrigued by the history of the small Village of Placitas and how it has evolved from the beginning by incorporating the land-grant history, art history, beauty of the area, the benevolence of the Village of Placitas and the surrounding area.

Wilda has enjoyed painting since a child. She began doing watercolors while in elementary school. When her boys were young, she received her first set of oil paints from Bruce and was 'hooked' on painting even more. She attended many classes with well-known artists and is inspired by scenery that she sketches or adding personal touches to photos she takes. To Wilda, she feels her mark of fame is having people want her paintings and enjoying them as much as she enjoyed painting them.

Her hobbies and interests now are sewing, painting, gardening, cooking, hiking, fishing, traveling (visiting National Parks, Presidential homes and battle fields), and country-western dancing. (They used to square dance.) She enjoys having big family get-togethers and sharing Holidays.

If Wilda could meet anyone in history or currently it would be Thomas Jefferson, or be able to talk to Barbara Bush.

Some of the things Wilda would not want to live without would be her faith, health, dancing and doing fun things.

Because of Wilda and Bruce's Scottish heritage, she would like to visit Scotland someday and see the castle that is still in Bruce's clan.

~Wendy Ingram & Betty Closser

Note from Sharon M

Don't know if anyone at church was told about Louise Evans death on

September 2. Her grandson wrote in answer to my Christmas card. He said her son Gary passed away suddenly in May and she seemed to lose the will to live. He said she was alert and passed without suffering. A memorial service will be held in the late spring in Rapid City SD. Her grandson said that his grandmother always spoke fondly about her church and Bernalillo friends.

Things are going well here. I went to Asbury Methodist with friends last Sunday. Liked the pastor but it is a huge church. I'm sure there are no churches the size of LPPC here. I've been with family a lot. Brooke and Blake will be twelve on Christmas Day but are celebrating with friends today and family later.

Give my best to everyone for a Merry Christmas and tell them I miss them.



January Calendar Highlights:

- 1-15 Pastor Elizabeth on study leave/vacation
- 3 One service only, 10:30am—guest preacher, Patricia Slentz
First Sunday Youth meets at 5:00pm*
- 10 Two services resume with communion
Ken Cuthbertson will lead worship
Farewell to Rev. Jane Harmes during 10:30 Service*
Adult Forum and Sunday School resumes*
- 11 Monday Night Forum resumes*
- 17 Ordination and Installation of Officers during 10:30 worship. We will be ordaining Beth S and Vivian D D as Deacons and installing Nancy U for a second term as Elder*
- 18 Annual reports due in office by noon*
- 19 Deacons meet at 5:30pm
Session meets at 7:00pm
(Note change in date from Second Tuesday)
- 20 Mobile Food Pantry, 11:00am-1:00pm
- 21 Membership meeting, 1:00pm*
- 26 Christian Education Meeting, 5:30pm*
- 27 Women's Bible Study, 10:00am at the church*
- 31 Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following 10:30 worship*

*Detailed information about this event is printed elsewhere in the newsletter.

**February newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, January 27th, noon**

Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

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