



The News of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

October 2009

Mission Study Approved – Pastor Nominating Committee to be formed

On Sept 19, the Session and Deacons of Las Placitas approved our Mission Study. It is an accurate representation of who Las Placitas is at this point in its life and is important reading for all members. The main document is posted on our website and there will be three printed copies with all background documentation in our library for your review. This document is the first step in the process of finding a new installed pastor. On October 11, we will dedicate this study and our new mission statement at both services. Thanks to the Mission Study Task Force for all their hard work this summer and for all of you who took the time to give us your thoughts about Las Placitas in our coffee and conversation meetings. We will be holding discussions in people's homes this fall to present the mission study, the pastor nominating process and the stewardship needs of LPPC as we move forward in this exciting time in our lives.

Who, me? A steward? God's work in our hands

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it." Psalm 24:1

What is stewardship?

Christian stewardship begins with the premise that everything in the world belongs to God. The resources we have and even our own selves belong to God. God had entrusted us with many gifts, and the appropriate response from us is to manage those gifts the best we can. Stewardship is about lifestyle - making choices in all aspects of our lives that enable us to live with a spirit of thanksgiving and gratitude for God's love and generosity.

Stewardship doesn't mean that all Christians will make the same choices about how to spend their time and money, about jobs and vocations, or about sharing their gifts and talents. Rather stewardship means that we all do our best with

what we're given, and God will make good use of a diversity of gifts from all kinds of people.

Stewardship is a way for us to participate in the work of Christ and experience the joy of sharing ourselves, our talents, and our resources with others.

What is the key to faithful stewardship?

Ultimately stewardship is about relationships - relationship with God, relationship with each other, and relationship with God's creation. As Christians we are people who have been called into relationship with God through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. This relationship transforms our understanding of ourselves and in turn is at the core of all our relationships. Our call to be stewards is understood within the context of these relationships. When the choices we make nurture and respect these relationships, then we know we are acting as faithful stewards of all that God has given us.



Who are we as stewards?

*We are stewards of our spiritual life, deepening our relationship with God through worship, prayer, meditation, reading and studying scripture.

*We are stewards of our minds and bodies, understanding that God's love for us requires us to take care of ourselves and see the beauty that God has placed in us.

*We are stewards of the time God has given us on this earth, striving to find healthful balance in work, rest, play, worship and service.

*We are stewards of the wealth that comes to us from God's abundance, tending to our own needs yet also trusting enough in God to return a portion of our wealth to support the work of the Church both near and far.

*We are stewards of our gifts and talents, identifying them and realistically assessing how we can best put them to work for our own growth as

Christians and at the same time to share God's love with others.

*We are stewards of one another, freely accepting the responsibility to relate to those around us in loving, open and compassionate ways, including our enemies.

*We are stewards of the Church, the community in which God placed us to grow together in faith and understanding, and to serve in ministry and mission.

*We are stewards of the earth, its natural resources and all living things. God placed us in relationship with all creation and entrusted us with its care and management.

*We are stewards of truth, embracing and living out the principles of the Kingdom as lifted up by Jesus Christ and standing always for justice, righteousness, peace and fidelity.

*We are stewards of the Peace of Christ, letting it rule our hearts and offering it to others in love and humility.

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gifts each of you has received." ~1 Peter 4:10

(This material is adopted from the LOPC stewardship site.)

Congregational Meeting called for October 25th

The Session has called for a congregational meeting following the 10:30 service on October 25 for the purpose of electing our new Elders, Deacon and Pastor Nominating Committee members. Please make sure you are at church on that Sunday for this important meeting. More details to follow.

Join us for the annual enchilada dinner on Saturday, October 31, from 5:00-7:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

Youth Christian Education

Youth News

Our senior high is starting the year with a lock-in on Friday, October 16. The youth will be leading worship on Sunday, October 18, so that Pastor Elizabeth can attend the weekend long Presbytery meeting at Ghost Ranch. Our youth are looking forward to additional mission opportunities this year, sending some of our youth to the Presbyterian Triennium this summer.



Sunday School this Fall

Our children are exploring the basics of our faith this Autumn season. We are using the Presbyterian curriculum entitled, "What is it we believe?" We are still in need of people to sign up to teach. Please talk to Lauren S if you can help.

Corn Maze in Corrales

Come join us for a fun afternoon at the corn maze. We will meet at Chas & Lauren S's home in Corrales on October 25 and walk from there. We will have pizza afterwards. All are welcome!



Adult Christian Education

Adult Education Forum continues every Sunday at 9:15am, with an expanded version of "Living the Questions." Weekly topics in October include: *Stories of Creation; Lives of Jesus; A Passion for Christ – Paul the Apostle; and Challenges Facing Progressive Christians*. Pick up a pink schedule on the table outside the sanctuary. All are welcome, even if you haven't attended before.

Women's Bible Study continues the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. We are discussing the book, *"Back to the Well"* (*Women's Encounters with Jesus in the Gospels*) by Frances Taylor Gench. The books are available for \$16. This group is facilitated by Pastor Elizabeth and meets 10:00 to 11:30am Wednesday October 14 and 28. All women are welcome!

Monday Night Forum continues at 7pm. The forum is watching DVD's and discussing the emergent church movement. Ken C has agreed to lead the forum again this year. We are grateful for his leadership.

From the Deacons...

Autumn is a busy time for the deacons. This season the following events will be of particular note:



Sunday, November 1st: CPR training will be conducted by certified instructor and RN, Pat Q, in the Upper Room at 11:45am. This two hour class is open to all who are interested and attendees will receive the American Heart Association and AED certificates. The deacons will provide a hot,

nourishing lunch to be enjoyed during the course of study. Class size limited to fourteen.

November 1st - 25th: The annual Thanksgiving food basket drive is the Christian way to give thanks by remembering those less fortunate. All of the items that make for a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner will be collected, organized and distributed by the deacons to fellow families in Placitas.

Thursday, November 26th: Thanksgiving dinner at LPPC! Last year, our first year for this now annual event, a wonderful turkey dinner with all the trimmings (served on china!) was enjoyed by twenty-two happy, hungry and thankful attendees. The deacons provide the turkeys (and do the dishes!) YOU bring your favorite side dish or desert. Let's make this a real happening at our church!

Look for flyers and sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall for all three upcoming events

Mission News

Habitat for Humanity has started their house. Our first work day is October 17th.

We need workers and food. Contact Beth S if you can help in any way. We have another work day on December 12th.



Rebuilding Together Sandoval County still needs a house captain and site manager. They also need a board member and would like to have someone from our church.

Fontera de Cristo is celebrating their 25th Anniversary on October 17th. They would like any photos or stories you might have about the ministry in our church. If you have something you would like to share please contact Nancy U soon. The mission committee voted to send \$500 out of the Just Coffee Fund to help with this celebration.

The 2nd Sunday of the month at LPPC is the day the Mission and Outreach Committee presents their wares. We will have *Just Coffee* for sale, *SERRV* products for sale, and wine & Christmas bags for sale. Be sure and stop by and see what we have to offer. Look for our newsletter on the table as well.

The Peacemaking and Justice offering will be collected on October 4th. We have picked ***Jobs for America's Graduates at Bernalillo High School*** as the recipient of our portion of this offering.

Casa Rosa News



Mobile Food Pantries

The most recent Mobile Food Pantry sponsored by Casa Rosa Food Bank and funded by Sharon Masterson, a friend of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, was a big success with eligible families from Placitas and throughout Sandoval County participating in the event. It was held on September 30, 2009 in Fellowship Hall of the church, with distribution of food from 10:00am-12:00 noon. There were volunteers from the congregation, the community, Sandoval Civitan Club, and several consumers.

Roadrunner Food Bank started the Mobile Food Pantries over a year ago and offers this program to outlying and remote areas around the state. The Roadrunner truck brings 2500 pounds of food with approximately 50 pounds of food each for 50 households. Any leftovers may be taken to Casa Rosa for the regular Saturday morning food bank.

The Casa Rosa board decided to hold a Mobile Food Pantry every other month in addition to the regular Saturday morning food bank. The Mobile Food Pantries are open to any eligible Sandoval County resident, whereas the regular Saturday morning Casa Rosa Food Bank is open to eligible Placitas residents only.

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be held December 9, in the morning, funded by Sherrill C and Gordon Z, and the following one scheduled early in February, funded by Pastor Elizabeth in honor of two friends' birthdays.

If you are interested in sponsoring one of the Mobile Food Pantries in the future in honor of someone, in lieu of a gift to an individual, or "just because," please contact Charlotte L through the Las Placitas Church Office at 867-5718 or (lppcaa@lasplacitaschurch.org). Let her know that you want to fund a Mobile Food Pantry. Your name will be placed on an acknowledgement board at the event and appreciation expressed in the church newsletter and signpost with your permission.

Fundraising Activities

Fundraising continues this fall with *Designs by Lucinda* adobe house pins. After being homeless for two years, Lucinda Yates created a simple pin in the shape of a house as a fundraiser for the homeless. That was nineteen years ago. Now

Designs by Lucinda's imaginative style represents and communicates many diverse causes, with a major focus on benefiting nonprofit organizations. The adobe house pins are available in the church office during the week and after church on Sundays this fall. They will also be available at the holiday sale the weekend before Thanksgiving. The price is \$20.00 (pin only) and \$22.00 (pin with bail for wearing on a chain). All of the proceeds go directly to support Casa Rosa.

Coats for Casa Rosa

Help your fellow Placitans keep warm this winter!



La Puerta Real Estate Services, LLC, is collecting coats, gloves, hats and scarves! For every **coat** you bring in to La Puerta at 1 Ridge Court in Placitas, you will be able to place your name in a drawing for two free tickets to a Placitas Artists Series concert. You need not be present to win and the drawing will be held on October 8th. You must pick up the tickets by October 9th at 5:00pm or another name will be drawn for the tickets.

Casa Rosa is in need of all sizes of coats.

Thank you for all your support of Casa Rosa, an important mission of LPPC.



News from Comfort & Joy Prayer Shawl Circle

Since our last meeting in May, 12 shawls have been contributed and four additional shawls were brought to the September meeting. Since May, 11 shawl gifts were distributed. Two shawls have been requested and will be delivered this week. After these donations and gifts, we have the following available: thirteen shawls, three lap robes, and one baby blanket.

Thanks to Nancy Tubesing for giving the group two lovely books, "The Prayer Shawl Companion" by Janet Bristow and Victoria A. Cole-Galo, which contains lots of useful information, prayers and patterns for 38 shawls, and "Annie's Attic Quick-to-Stitch Prayer Shawls" of eight crochet patterns. These books, as well as Eda's library are available to all members.

Since the group was first proposed two years ago, the reception and interest in the shawls has exceeded our expectations. The small initial number of gifts to members who

experienced sudden losses of loved ones has expanded to include a variety of gifts to individuals and families touched by death, illness, loneliness, and the demands of care-giving, as well as the joy of significant life events such as birth, graduation or retirement. The small number of knitters and crocheters struggles at times to satisfy the requests for shawls, which continues to average one per week. To date, no request has been denied.

The members of C & J all participate because they enjoy the meditative and creative aspect of their craft and they are happy to produce useful items that touch the lives of others in many ways. Gifts to people outside the congregation are also viewed as part of the mission and outreach of LPPC.

Since the members have busy lives and limits on their time and financial resources, the following guidelines for making gifts in the event the demand for shawls exceeds the supply are as follows:

1. Requests for shawls will be satisfied as items are available: (1) to members and participants in the congregation; (2) needy individuals and families in the local community known to the congregation; (3) immediate family or close "significant others" of members and participants in the congregation.
2. Gifts will be prioritized for persons who experience (1) loss of a loved one; (2) serious illness or related needs; (3) other issues of concern.
3. "Joy" gifts for known future events will be planned with members volunteering to make certain items to be completed by the event date.



We welcome new members at any time and schedule Saturday meetings on occasion.

Upcoming Events

On **Sunday, October 4**, please welcome our new accompanist, **Mindy Sampson**, at a reception during the fellowship hour, hosted by the chancel choir.



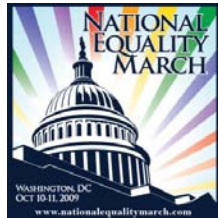
On **Sunday, October 11th** there will be a special concert to benefit the **Placitas Artists Series**. Davide Cabassi, the 2005 International Van Cliburn Piano Competition Finalist, is the featured artist and will play virtuoso piano pieces. Concert begins at 3:00 pm and tickets are \$30.

Join us on **Saturday, October 31**, from 5:00-7:30pm in Fellowship Hall for the **Annual Fall Festival**: Red or Green Enchilada Dinner, Entertainment, Bake Sale, Cake Walk and Face-painting. Ticket presale—\$8; \$10 at the door; under age 5, no charge.

Candlelight Vigil

As you may know, October 11th has for many years been "National Coming Out Day."

This year the National Equality March will be occurring in Washington D.C., on that day, promoting marriage equality. Here in Albuquerque there is going to be a candlelight vigil sponsored by St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, First Congregational Church, and First Unitarian Church.



We hope that you will join us for this candlelight vigil, and that you will share this invitation with all who may be interested in supporting our efforts for marriage equality.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
"Equal Marriage for All"
Sunday, October 11, 2009
6:30 to 7:15pm
First Unitarian Patio
3701 Carlisle Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM

Please contact Rev. Ronald A. Hersom or Carmen Emerson in the First Unitarian Church Office 505-884-1801.

*November newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, October 28th, noon*

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