



The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

August 2019

Greeting, LPPC, from the pastor's office!

I, Bill Humphreys, am the new kid on this block as of Monday, July 1. I am happy to be here as the 3/4 time Transitional (Interim) Pastor! Ha! my first official day on the job was a day off; office closed on Mondays. Since then, I'm working out a weekly schedule to be at LPPC. I live in Santa Fe, a commute of just 50 minutes at right about the posted speed limit. Nearing the end of my first month, this is what seems to work: I plan to be in the office and/or around the community on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. breakfast at the Placitas Cafe for the LPPC gathering there to which you are all invited(!) until 2:00 p.m.; and most Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (I have another part-time gig with the Presbytery of Santa Fe that includes being present for the first-Friday meeting of the Commission on Ministry, COM.) **AND SUNDAYS! FOR WORSHIP AT 8:30 AM IN THE 1930 UPPER ROOM AND 10:30 AM IN THE 1984 SANCTUARY!** (Hmm: all caps means there's a place for YOU at those worship gatherings!)

This 3/4 time commitment also means that I'll be in place on Sunday mornings for worship leadership and preaching three out of four Sundays each month, and four out of five. The Rev. Ken Cuthbertson continues in a 1/4 time position as Parish Associate, so many of those other Sundays, he'll be the worship leader and preacher. He and I share the commitment to invite others to preach on occasion; we look forward to hearing "a word from the Lord" in at least a small variety of ways!

In this first month, I'm pleased to say that I'm enjoying the 8:00 a.m. Tuesday morning breakfast gathering at the Placitas Cafe: good conversation, food and service. I've had lunch a couple of times at the Placitas Sr. Center (\$2.00 requested donation for those of us at age 65 or

wiser). And related to the Sr. Center: I was pleased and informed to be on their "Placitas Historical Tour" last Friday, to see some of the surrounding area and hear more of the history of the community and of this congregation. I was proud to welcome that same tour to our church, where Wendy Ingram met the tour to tell us all more about the history of LPPC with picture boards and copies of the congregation's history: "A Century of Faith".

And just this morning, as I write, I stopped in to check out "The Merc" and, around the corner, to say a quick hello to Bunny and Leland at the art gallery.

Travelog? Yes. And more. I am glad to explore and appreciate life and work and ministry in Placitas! AND I hope to encourage LPPC locals to explore and expand our community connections. We might not know exactly which ones, but some of our neighbors will be glad to know what's up at LPPC. I'm convinced that what seem to be "off-hand" conversations where we meet and greet may just make someone's day. It might even turn out to be an invitation to explore and expand their (and our) expressions of spirituality and faith. I'm glad for this opportunity for me to explore and expand my own expressions of faith with you!

Blessings. Hope. Joy. Peace. -Bill Humphreys

So who IS this interim pastor guy?

In case you've missed it: the Rev. Bill Humphreys, who's happy to be referred to as "Bill", is the 3/4 time Transitional (Interim) Pastor at LPPC while the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is busy at work on the process of seeking a new pastor to recommend to the congregation.

Originally from Columbus Grove, OH, Bill went to Davis and Elkins College (WV), and then to "THE" Princeton Theological Seminary (NJ). He has served in pastoral positions in Sioux City, IA; Two Harbors, MN; Douglas County, WI; Minneapolis, MN; and Waukesha, WI, before spending 15 years as the Chaplain at Carroll University in Waukesha. Since moving to Santa Fe in 2016, he served as the "bridge" pastor at ABQ Immanuel, and has just completed 8 months of interim ministry in White Rock, NM. He's married to the Rev. Laura Loving, is parent to two sons in Wisconsin and a daughter and son-in-law in Oregon who live with their two grandchildren. He hangs out with a tuba in the Santa Fe Concert Band, and plays handbells at First Presbyterian Church in Santa Fe. He plays Zozobra with the SF Kiwanis club. During the school year he's been an AVID tutor in the SF public schools, and through the year is the "consultant" to Santa Fe Presbytery's Commission on Ministry. Bill invites your contacting him at the church interimpastor@lasplacitaschurch.org (505) 867-5718; or through his personal contacts: wwhumphreys@aol.com; (262) 853-4918.

What a great idea this was, to put some art work on the walls of the gathering space for the summer!!!

LPPC can be quite proud to host and post the work of area artists throughout much of the year. Then, in the recent past, the walls of the gathering space are bare over the summer, awaiting some more art work in the fall. Not this year! Thanks to a great suggestion and the quick responses of church folk, the walls are not at all bare. LPPC

members and friends have provided art work from their/our own homes to share for these summer months! Some of the items ARE the work of the artists themselves; most of it is someone else's art work from our own homes that is offered for viewing and appreciation. Thank you to all who have shared the art! ... including a collection from the children in the LPPC daily childcare/preschool program!

LPPC YOUTH

Youth Triennium: Six of our LPPC youth and their apparently fearless leader, Dana Howarth, made it safely and happily to Purdue University and back for the 2019 PCUSA Youth Triennium over July 16-20. And they plan to tell us all about it on Sunday, August 11. We're anticipating an exciting report. Caution: it may be contagious.

Three-Congregation Worship and Picnic!

On Sunday September 1, the congregations of the Las Placitas, Rio Rancho, and Cuba Presbyterian Churches will be coming together for our first (annual?) joint worship and picnic at Rotary Park in Bernalillo. We will worship together and share Communion, and then share a potluck picnic as well. The service will be at 10:30 a.m. Rotary Park is a couple of blocks west of The Range in Bernalillo. From Camino del Pueblo / NM 313 (Bernalillo's main street) take W. Calle Don Franciso going west directly to the Park. Further details will be provided closer to the day.

Blessings!

Ken

**CASA ROSA FOOD PANTRY TO
CELEBRATE 11 YEARS
ON AUGUST 24, 2019**

Casa Rosa opened its doors on August 30, 2008 and will be holding its 11th anniversary celebration in August. This year's annual celebration will be on Saturday August 24—starting during client food distribution (which always takes place from 9-11am on Saturdays) and continuing after distribution is over. In the courtyard behind Casa Rosa, food will be plentiful—with a grill producing ribs, hamburgers, brats, and hot dogs to accompany the many side dishes and desserts. Serving of food will begin around 10:00 to 10:30 and continue to midday. As usual, there will be special activities for children.

Supporters of the Food Pantry are very welcome at the celebration, and **a special invitation is being extended to members and friends of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church.**

The volunteers and clients of Casa Rosa always enjoy this annual celebration, and we look forward to seeing you on August 24.

*Just so you know... Casa Rosa food pantry received a check for \$450.00 from the combined fund raising efforts of the Homestead Village Shopping Center and the Canyon Blues and Jazz Society, and their 2019 Sandia Chill Concerts. The 7:00 PM concerts are scheduled for the second Sunday of each month, in the shopping center parking lot; bring a chair, and picnic, too, if you wish. A portion of the proceeds, in part from a requested \$15.00 suggested donation, will be designated to a local charity. Casa Rosa was the first selected recipient of the funds! Please consider attending the concerts and shopping in support of the supportive merchants.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The PNC has begun the process for nominating

a new pastor for our congregation! A brief timeline is provided here to ensure that the congregation is informed of the process and timeline that will be guiding the PNC. Please note that we are hoping to have a nominee within a year and this is considered a typical time frame for this process, as it needs to unfold in a thorough and thoughtful manner. We are also planning to keep everyone informed by posting a graphic replica of the timeline, with our progress, in the Fellowship Hall – so stay tuned for that to be displayed soon.

Draft Timeline

July 2019- Update Mission Study

Aug- Sep-Obtain Congregational input and conduct analysis

Oct- Nov- Write Minister Information Form (MIF)

Dec- Break

Jan 2020-Submit MIF and establish evaluation/interview process

Feb-Mar- Screen candidates

May-June- Select candidates and conduct interview/reference checks

July 2020- Finalize and approve nominee

As part of the process, we will be identifying key descriptions of our church mission and other characteristics that make us unique. This will be used in the information form that will advertise the position and will be read by potential candidates to determine if this call speaks deeply to them. Because of the importance of this information, we want to include our congregation's feedback. Therefore, we are planning to offer opportunities to provide input through a survey as well as an informal gathering to be held sometime in September. Also, if

anyone wishes to provide feedback to any of the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee directly, please feel free to contact any of the members using their contact information below:

Jill Hensley (jill.hensley11@gmail.com; 301-518-8317)
Steve Chewning (slchewning@gmail.com; 505-404-8808)
Bunny Bowen (bunny@db-bowen.com; 505-867-1225)
Roberto Ibarra (ibarra14@gmail.com; 505-400-6573)
Judie Hendry (jhendry@unm.edu; 505-480-3126)
Yvonne Brown (brownylb17@hotmail.com; 505-263-4787)
Bill Stephenson
(bill.clara.stephenson@gmail.com; 505-980-1023)

The survey is ready for your input now! You may use this link to our on-line survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZF72ZRR>

You will need to copy this link into your browser's URL and it will take you to the survey to complete. The survey itself is very short and should not take more than 5-10 minutes to complete depending on the length of the open-ended answers you provide. If anyone prefers to complete the survey manually, please ask for a copy in the church office during office hours. We are asking that everyone try to provide their input no later than Sunday, August 18, 2019.

We also want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the work of the PNC is confidential. We want to be very transparent to the congregation about our process and timelines, but we will need to keep the content of our deliberations completely confidential until such time that we will present a nominee to you. We know this can be a challenging part of the process, but we are thankful for the trust you have

given to us and ask for your prayers and support as we move through the process.

Updates

*Looking ahead a few weeks: After enjoying the LPPC Isotopes outing on Sunday evening, August 11, Bill Humphreys plans to head for some grandparenting in Beaverton, Oregon, from August 14 to 20. The Rev. Anne Hays Egan is scheduled to preach on August 18. Thanks, Anne!

*IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, the "early service" for Sunday mornings at 8:30 has returned to the church schedule! This time together (45 minutes, no promises) is a bit less formal and more conversational than the 10:30 service, meets in the 1930 Upper Room, and includes music and singing if there's a willing accompanist present.

*The next regular meeting of the Session is scheduled for Monday, August 12th, at 7 pm.

*Isotopes tickets are here. You can pick up your tickets at the church T-F, 9:00-1:00, or after church on Aug. 4 or 11.

Game Night: Sunday, August 11.
Last Mariachi Night of the season.
Ballet Folklorico bobbleheads to the first 3,000 fans.
Doors open at 4:00. Game starts at 6:05.
Start practicing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame."

Member Profile

CLIFF DAHM

Cliff was born in Ontario, OR. His family moved to Boise, ID when he was age 2. He graduated from Boise High School and earned his BS degree in Chemistry from Boise State. He then moved to Corvallis, OR where he earned his MA in Chemical Oceanography from Oregon State and then his PhD in Oceanography and Aquatic Ecology also from Oregon State. Cliff and Rhea met as graduate students in the Oceanography department at Oregon State University. Cliff stayed at Oregon State to do postdoctoral research studying the effects of the eruption of Mount St. Helens on the lakes and hot springs near the volcano, understanding the phenomenal clarity of Crater Lake, and studying pristine streams and rivers flowing through old growth forests. The University of New Mexico offered him a faculty position in 1984, which he kept until he retired (although he still works half-time as a research scientist) in 2015. Interspersed were 2 years living in Vienna, VA, a seven-month sabbatical in Brisbane, Australia and 6 years in Sacramento, CA.

After 1 year living in ABQ, he and Rhea purchased their lot in Placitas. Rhea and the builder designed their passive solar home, and the house was built in the fall of 1985. They have 2 daughters. Katharine and her husband live in Golden, CO. She is a civil engineer and has 2 step daughters. Kristina and her husband live in Denver with their white German shepherd and buckskin horse. Kristina works in satellite image processing and marketing.

Cliff really enjoyed being a university professor. He has always loved teaching, research and sharing his knowledge with others. His hobbies include playing handball, which he has done since high school, hiking, attending various artistic performances, and reading both professional and pleasurable journals and books.

When asked if he had 15 minutes of fame, Cliff said he was fortunate that his fame lasted for 3 days. He was a diving scientist 3 times on the submersible ALVIN. He dove a mile and a half down into the Pacific Ocean to marine hydrothermal vents off the coast of Washington in 1988 and 1989. The ALVIN discovered the marine hydrothermal vents in 1977 and located the Titanic in 1986. Hydrothermal vents are spectacular ecosystems where life is supported by chemical energy rather than sunlight.

While in college Cliff had a wonderful literature teacher who hooked him on post-war Japanese literature. In addition, Cliff's advisor for his graduate degrees (Kilho Park) was born and raised in Japan of Korean parents. They shared many a discussion about Japanese literature that Kilho read in Japanese and Cliff read translated into English. Japan has a rich literary history, and his current favorite Japanese author is Haruki Murakami. He would love to meet him some day.

Cliff has been very fortunate that his research and professional meetings have allowed him to travel to every ocean except the Indian Ocean and to every continent except Africa. He would enjoy exploring those two areas of the world in the next few years. He isn't too much into physical possessions. In case of a fire he would first want to make sure his family is safe.

The 5 items Cliff wouldn't want to live without are: his handball gear, his favorite books, their kitchen, their pantry and wine cellar, and his computer. Both Cliff and Rhea enjoy cooking.

Cliff really enjoys the sermons at LPPC that make him contemplate how to be a better person. He also enjoys the sense of community that a local church provides. He has been an elder and was chair of the building and grounds committee when Charles Little and others helped design and build the Memorial Garden. Cliff enjoyed working with the visionaries and hard-working volunteers who made the garden a reality.

August 2019

Wendy Ingram