



# The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

## November 2019

Bill Humphreys, here, with greetings for this changing season! I hope that all is good and well with you and yours, near and far.

As I gave voice to it in worship last Sunday, I'm glad to repeat it here in print: I am quite impressed by and grateful for the variety of good activities going on around the church. I'm guessing that if I said "congregation", the list would be even longer, as LPPC folk are involved in other things, too: work, school, and community commitments.

Specifically, around the church building, we have early voting going on in the atrium and lots of activity refreshing the "lower room" below the 1930 sanctuary. There are new and much safer steps leading to the outdoors, carpeting and old floor tiles stuck tightly to the foundation have been removed, walls have been freshly painted, even a thermostat's wiring has been buried behind the wall; pretty soon there will be a new floor. This upgraded space will serve church and community groups very nicely; a local Girl Scout troop is meeting there each week.

There's been a pesky brick in the garden entrance; that's been leveled out so that tripping on it is less likely. The garden itself gets frequent attention, recently including some netting over the pond to catch falling leaves. And the acequia was cleaned out.

Back indoors in recent weeks dozens of Dignity kits were put together, as were dozens of tamales.

And on Sunday mornings we've been well served by liturgists in English and Spanish, acolytes, ushers, greeters, Communion servers, money counters, servers of refreshments (!), musicians, choir members, and Sunday School teachers!

The Deacons met, the Session met; Christian Ed, Worship, Finance and Stewardship Committees met. Some LPPC folk have gathered for weekly breakfast and conversation on Tuesday mornings at the Placitas Café; some have gathered for a book study and conversation on Monday evenings, and some have unloaded the truck on Friday morning in support of the Saturday morning Casa Rosa food distribution.

There's Placitas Art Series art work on the walls and concert music in the sanctuary, and local gardeners gather here to address the world's problems and local concerns.

Every weekday, the church is host site for a lively Mothers Day Out program! And a few more open events happen here for AA and to tighten or loosen a few muscles in stretch classes and yoga. Through it all, quite a few church members and friends have supported Sue and Louise in Louise's health struggles and Sue's care as Louise's life continued right up until Tuesday morning, 10/29/19.

I am glad to be catching on to the life of this congregation, and I'm happy to write about it, to let others know what's already happening and to suggest that there may be other ways to grow and show the love of God in our lives, in the ministry of Jesus Christ. May the peace of that same Christ be with you! -Bill Humphreys

## Adult Forum

### November – December Adult Forum

After wrapping up the series on interpreting scripture on November 3, the Adult forum in November features two sessions on Gratitude and Thanksgiving. Advent begins on December 1. The Advent study this year will be *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* by Dr. Cynthia Campbell (President Emerita of McCormick Seminary, and Pastor of Highland Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY): "How might a house look for Christmas, based on what each gospel says about it?" What kind of houses do Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John inhabit? What do they look like? What kind of decoration and holiday celebration occurs there? Who shows up? (Books will be available at \$9.00 each.) The Adult Forum meets in the Upper Room on Sunday mornings, at approximately 9:25, following the early service.

November 3 - "Yet More Light..." – How the Church changes its understandings of what the Bible says.

November 10 – "Gratitude as a Spiritual Discipline"

November 17 – "Turkey Day, or Thanksgiving Day?" – Rethinking gratitude.

November 24 – NO CLASS (Placitas Holiday Sale Weekend) Single Worship at 9:30

December 1 – "Christmas at Mark's House" (Advent 1)

December 8 – "Christmas at Matthew's House" (Advent 2)

December 15 – "Christmas at Luke's House" (Advent 3)

December 22 – "Christmas at John's House, and One Last Stop" (Advent 4)

December 29 – NO CLASS

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service in Albuquerque

There will be an interfaith Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 24, beginning at 3 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Albuquerque (1100 Indian School Rd. NE). Participants in the service will include speakers and Musicians from Albuquerque Islamic Center, Albuquerque Mennonite Church, Congregation Albert, Covenant Presbyterian Church, First Congregational United Church of Christ, First Unitarian Church, New Mexico Islamic Center, Monte Vista Christian Church, St. Luke Lutheran Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Timothy Lutheran Church, The Lighthouse. The offering will be for Hopeworks, which serves families with children experiencing homelessness in Albuquerque.

### Thanksgiving Baskets for Our Neighbors

#### Donations needed by Sunday Nov. 17

LPPC in conjunction with Casa Rosa provides baskets of food for local families for the holiday. Geri Escarcida and Roxie Westdyk are spearheading our drive this year and they need your donations by Sunday Nov. 17.

Money Donations go to LPPC - note on check for Thanksgiving Baskets.

Canned and packaged goods should be placed in the box on the fireplace in fellowship hall..

**Items** **Needed**

Canned sweet potatoes, canned green beans, canned corn, canned carrots, canned cranberries, canned pumpkin, canned or packet gravy, packaged mashed potatoes, packaged dressing

Thank you so much for helping our neighbors.

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Please donate warm clothes and coats for the winter to Casa Rosa. Thank you for your contributions.

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## Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The PNC thanks all who have responded to its requests for feedback on desired characteristics of our next Pastor. We offered an online survey as well as informal discussion groups to facilitate collecting this information and appreciate everyone's involvement in this process. We are pleased to provide the top 10 leadership competencies that were identified with your valuable input:

- Compassionate
- Preaching and Worship Leadership
- Spiritual Maturity
- Communicator
- Organizational Agility
- Culturally Proficient
- Strategy and Vision
- Interpersonal Engagement
- Bridge Builder
- Flexibility

So what's next? The PNC is now working to complete the Minister Information Form (MIF). The MIF is used to make the formal call for a new

Pastor through the Church Leadership Connection's (CLC) online system. The MIF contains descriptive information on the church seeking to fill a Pastoral position, including desired skills and characteristics for the position. Once completed, the MIF is approved by the Session and the Presbytery before it is approved for distribution through the CLC. Your input and content from an updated Mission Study

(originally developed in 2009) have been instrumental in assisting the PNC with the completion of the various components of the MIF.

We are on target for completing the MIF by the end of November so that December can be used to obtain the necessary approvals in preparation for announcing the position through the CLC in early January. We are making good progress and hope you will continue to visit the visual timeline we have posted outside of the kitchen to keep track of our specific accomplishments over time!

As always, if you wish to speak to any of the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee directly, please feel free to contact any of the members below:

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## MEMBER PROFILE

### PAIGE DIAMOND

Paige was born in Denver, CO and graduated from high school there before earning her B.S. in Psychology from the Univ. of Colorado in Boulder. She moved to Austin, TX to earn her Master's degree in Clinical Social Work at the Univ. of Texas. Paige then started what would be her favorite job working with children and their families in pediatric oncology social work at Scott and White Hospital in Temple, TX for 6 years. This was followed by 3 years working at St. David's Hospital in Austin counseling spinal cord injury patients. Paige married her first husband while at U. of Colorado. They were married for 8 years, after which she moved to ABQ where her brother and grandparents lived. She is still very close to her ex-husband's family and her former in-laws. In ABQ she went into private practice counseling children, adolescents and their families for 4 years.

Paige met her "was-band" (ex but still great friends) when she stopped for lunch at Rudy's BBQ restaurant, since she missed authentic Texas barbecue. She thought he was a very friendly busboy but he was in fact the owner of the Rudy's restaurant chain in NM and TX. After dating for a year, Blake moved to Austin to open more restaurants there and Paige followed. For 2 years, she worked for the State of Texas Dept. of Mental Health, traveling the state visiting community health centers assessing, inspecting, advising and making sure they were upholding state standards. Paige then joined Blake's growing management team, organizing mentorship meetings, sharing the psychological aspects of leadership, and encouraging staff development. They returned to ABQ in 2000 and moved into their newly-built home in Placitas a year later. She and Blake continued to work together even after their marriage ended several years later. She had earned her real estate license to help Rudy's find land for their restaurants but now independently

sells residential properties part time. Her counseling expertise and patience is a great advantage when her real estate clients need someone who is willing to listen to them and give them the time they need to make major decisions. Paige has also reinstated her Social Work license and now works part-time for Presbyterian Healthcare as a PRN Counselor in palliative and hospice medicine.

Paige doesn't have children but is the coolest auntie to her nephew Dominic who is in college in Las Cruces and her 10 year old niece, Phoebe in AZ.

Paige has been to Europe twice but really prefers traveling in the U.S. She did travel to Nevis, West Indies for her wedding to Blake. She has been taking Spanish language classes at UNM and would like to travel to Spain sometime as well as play golf in Ireland and Scotland. Her hobbies include: golf, snow skiing, sewing clothes and projects, crocheting, reading novels, cooking and playing with her 2 wiener dogs: Lulu and Jacky (named after her parents). The person she would most like to have met is John F. Kennedy for being inspirational, caring for the under privileged and bringing people together.

The things she would grab in a fire would be her 2 dogs, photos, 2 sculptures her Mom made, a few pieces of jewelry and her daily journals. The one thing she regrets never having a chance to do was to have children and be a mother. The things she wouldn't want to have to live without are: good wine, coffee, her golf clubs, books and blank journals.

She was attracted to LPPC because of the people, “the warm community embrace,” and that the members “put their values into action through philanthropic ventures like Casa Rosa.” She likes that there is an eclectic mix of ages, cultures, politics, backgrounds and economic status but that “the congregation accepts each person as an individual.” Paige likes the use of Spanish in the service as recognition of LPPC’s history and heritage. She has taken part in the Monday Night Book group for some time, is hoping to contribute to the Prayer Shawl ministry in the future, and is interested in initiating grief counseling/bereavement support sessions for LPPC members at some point in the future.

Wendy Ingram

Joan Chewning