



# The News of the People of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church October 2019

Seasons' transitional greetings!

... from the office of the "Transitional Pastor". Yep. The language of several forms of pastoral relations is now about "Transitional Ministry". That includes shorter term "bridge" arrangements, and longer "interims". For several decades, "Interim" ministry has gotten attention from General Assembly gatherings and changes in the Book of Order, and the attention of training sessions. The training sessions are presented in the form of one week gatherings, a first round and a second round. In some settings, participants can spend sequential weeks and cover both weeks in one trip, sometimes at a distance, perhaps in a seminary or conference setting. Not so far from Placitas, Transitional Ministry workshops are offered from time to time at Ghost Ranch.

In my own case, I have served in three identified "interim" relationships and have not ever participated in such a workshop. It's time! So in the coming days, from October 7-10, I am scheduled to attend some training for Transitional Ministry at the Menucha Conference Center alongside the Columbia River in Corbett, Oregon. That location provides a great opportunity for me to spend the weekend, 10/4-6 with my daughter, her husband, and two grandkids in Portland, before they provide my ground transportation to/from the workshop. What a deal! And this particular site offered the least expensive of the training

sessions currently on the horizon across the country. Win, win!

Meanwhile, back at the ranch at LPPC, the Pastor Nominating Committee is at work on the materials necessary to prepare for announcing to the world that LPPC is looking for the next pastor. The initial work will lead to getting the word out, leading to expressions of interest, leading to narrowing the list of interested parties, leading to identifying the candidate to whom the Holy Spirit is leading, to Calling the next Pastor and welcoming the next edition of pastoral relationships at LPPC! For us Presbyterians, with our "free agent" ways of being anti-bishop, the time-line can be 8 to 18 months, or more. That's transitional! Sometimes it just takes a while for us to discern the work of the Holy Spirit, and when we do, we're glad we did.

In the mean time, thank you for participating in the local work of the Holy Spirit in this ministry of Jesus Christ right where we live and work and worship!

All the best of season's greetings to you and yours! –Bill Humphreys

## Presbyterians and the Bible

**World Communion & PCUSA Peacemaking Offering** - October 6 will be the annual observance of World Communion Sunday. The observance began in 1933 under the leadership Rev. Hugh Thomson Kerr of Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA. In 1936 it was adopted denomination-wide in the Presbyterian Church, and in 1940 by the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches). Various churches around the world have also adopted it. The focus of the observance is to promote Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation.

Beginning on October 6, and throughout the month of October, we will also be receiving donations to the PCUSA Peace and Global Witness Offering.

**Special Guest Preacher at LPPC on Oct. 13 - Rev. Dori Hjalmarson:** Rev. Dori Hjalmarson grew up in northwest New Mexico and was ordained in Las Placitas Presbyterian Church in August 2017, when she was working as a hospice chaplain in Albuquerque. She is currently a mission co-worker and facilitator for theological education and leadership development for the Presbyterian Church in Honduras. She accompanies church leaders and pastors as they grow a small and young denomination, seeking to empower and develop a new generation of Presbyterians in a difficult context. Her work includes preparation and support of women for ministry in the PCH.



Rev. Hjalmarson will be doing a presentation for the Adult Forum at 9:15 a.m. in the Upper Room at LPPC. She will be preaching at the 10:30 service.

## Adult Forum

The Sunday morning Adult Forum continues with the series on Presbyterians and the Bible prepared and led by the Rev. Dr. Ken Cuthbertson. The series began with a look at historic Presbyterian beliefs concerning the Bible and its status as the written Word of God. The ongoing classes are examining the set of guidelines for reading scripture developed by the former United Presbyterian Church (UPCUSA) in 1982. The weekly studies focus on specific biblical texts that help illustrate using the various guidelines.

There will be a one week break in the series on October 13, when Rev. Dori Hjalmarson will be visiting LPPC to talk about her work in Honduras.

The Adult Forum meets on Sunday mornings, at approximately 9:20 a.m. following the early service, in the Upper Room.

October 6: “The Bible in Community” – Reading the Bible in light of the witness of other biblical authors and of the consensus of the Church across the ages. (Guidelines 7 & 4)

October 13: Presentation by the Rev. Dori Hjalmarson. (See separate announcement.)

October 20: “Wonderful Words” - Group members will be sharing favorite Bible passages and verses

October 27: “The Rule of Love” – All reading and interpretation is to be in accord with the commandment to love God and neighbor. (Guideline 5)

November 3: “Yet More Light...” – How the Church changes its mind. (This study will focus on the late Dr. Jack Rogers “model” from his studies on slavery and race, women, divorce, and homosexuality, etc.)

## Thanksgiving is Coming — There will be **Families in Need!**

LPPC in conjunction with Casa Rosa provides about 60 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. All donations needed by Sun. Nov 17.

### 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 in Placitas!

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### October Bible Study

Bible Study will take place on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am.

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### TucsonWeekly --- **Roasting Revolution - Could Just Coffee, a small Mexican co-op, offer a solution to the immigration problem?**

By Margaret Regan

By controlling their coffee business, from raising the beans to roasting and shipping them, the members of the **Just Coffee co-op** can earn up to 10 times more than they would selling to a big coffee company.

**Hugo Cifuentes**, a baby-faced 19-year-old from Chiapas, barely sweats as he leans over a coffee roaster in Agua Prieta, just across the border from Douglas. "It's hot but agreeable," he says cheerfully in Spanish. Hot is right. He's tipping 40 pounds of green coffee beans into a roaster that's been heated up to 466 degrees. But the warmth inside the small roasting room feels good on this late December day. Cifuentes is cooking up a batch of beans for **Just Coffee**, a 4-year-old cooperative of coffee-growing families from Chiapas--the state so far south in Mexico it's practically in Guatemala. For about 12 minutes, his coffee beans spin slowly--and noisily--around and around inside the *tostadora*. When they're roasted to a rich brown, the flame dies down, and cool air blows onto the beans to bring down their temperature. Cifuentes puts on big oven-proof gloves before reaching in to stir the beans around to make sure they're evenly cooked. Once they're cool enough, some of the beans will be ground up, and others will be poured whole into the shiny gold Just Coffee bags, depending on what the co-op's American customers have ordered. Each of the bags is labeled with the name of the Salvador Urbina grower who raised that particular batch of beans. He knows that the operation is keeping his extended family and neighbors at home on their own farms, earning a living wage. He's proud of the work they all do. "We're from Chiapas," he says. "We know coffee."

The other Chiapans who work at the business' roasting and bagging operation in Agua Prieta--Hugo's father, Noë, included--are about to pile into a van and drive home to their village of Salvador Urbina for a post-Christmas visit. Somebody's got to stay in Agua Prieta and mind

the fire, and that somebody is Hugo. Cifuentes laughs when he looks over the names: Manuel Cifuentes. Hernan Cifuentes. Reinaldo Cifuentes. "Mis tíos," he says. "My uncles." The name Juan Carlos Perez stands out from the sea of Cifuentes, but Perez is a cousin. "Thirty-five families from Chiapas are in the co-op," Cifuentes says. "They're not all my family, but many of them are."

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## MEMBER PROFILE

### LYNN COBURN

Lynn Coburn's earliest memories are of Bethlehem, PA where she, her sister Carol, and her mother lived while her father pursued his PhD. Here, they were surrounded by a support system of Moravian College faculty wives and children, full of happy times, lots of love and laughter, outdoor adventures with playmates, and trips to a New Hampshire lake. To this day she remains close to one of those "adopted aunties."

When she was 5, her father was hired as a physics professor at NMSU. She grew up in Las Cruces where her family now included a brother, James. After high school, Lynn earned a B.A. in Psychology from Maryville College south of Knoxville, TN. Part of her reason for choosing Maryville was to experience a different culture and gain an understanding of the traditional Southern outlook. Between her junior and senior years she was on College Staff at Ghost Ranch. There she became good

friends with Katherine (Sweeny) and Karl Gustafson. Additionally in that era and as a result of our NM Presbyterian connections, she became friends with Jackie (Bird) and Carl Allen. After graduating, she found work in NYC as secretary to the Dean at the Teachers College of Columbia University and she earned her M.A. in Special Ed from Teachers College.

Lynn lived in Boston with her husband briefly before returning home to Las Cruces and ABQ, where she was hired by APS as an elementary school Special Ed teacher. After her 2 daughters were born, they moved out of their 1920s mission revival/craftsman house on Silver Ave into a larger home near Hidden Park. For 10 years Lynn and her husband Davy owned and operated The Famous Creamery ice cream store, with Lynn doing the books, payroll, and substitute scooping duties. She also worked as the Director at the Isleta Pueblo Head Start program. After her 20-year marriage ended, she spent 5 years at Zia Pueblo as the Special Ed teacher for students ranging from the profoundly impaired to the gifted students before being recruited by the NM School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She returned to school and earned her license to teach people who are blind or visually impaired. Lynn spent the next 25 years working at the ABQ pre-school campus teaching and mentoring other teachers. She loved the variety and challenge of working with the students with various abilities, creating an individual approach for each child, and learning about new developments in the vision field. She retired in 2017.

Before accepting the position with the School for the Blind, Lynn took a full month to drive cross-country from ABQ to Wash. DC and back with her pre-teen daughters, wandering

along scenic highways without any itinerary so her girls could appreciate the vastness of this country. All 3 of them enjoyed that freewheeling trip of female bonding. Lynn's own childhood summers were spent traveling the U.S. and visiting relatives via car, train, or bus and she wanted to share those kinds of experiences with her daughters. Oldest daughter Cecily now lives in Denver and recently earned her long-delayed college degree. She works as an Asst. Director for a Montessori Head Start program. Although she has a science degree, younger daughter Amelia works as a Manager of a Target store in VA while studying to become licensed as a high school teacher.

Lynn is now married to Michael Barrows. She and Michael knew each other in college, but travelled in different circles -- he was the star basketball player and she was a studious introvert. They re-connected 40 years later when Lynn's former college roommate persuaded her to attend their class reunion. That started 5 years of a long-distance relationship between NM and VA, and led to their wedding in the LPPC sanctuary in 2017.

Asked about her "15 minutes of fame," she says that her hand-sewn quilt in the Trip-Around-the-World pattern once won the top 3 awards at the New Mexico State Fair! It hangs in her bedroom and greets her every morning. She continues quilting as a hobby, as well as reading, walking, singing, being out in nature, and photography. She has recently reignited an interest in the historic and long-term effects of Southern slavery.

Lynn has traveled throughout the U.S., Mexico, Canada, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Barbados and most of Europe. Her most memorable family

trip was to a Guatemala refugee camp in Yucatan, Mexico for several days before continuing to Guatemala. They witnessed the plight of the displaced, stayed with impoverished local families, and saw the struggles of life in small Guatemalan towns. Travels on her "bucket list" include the Dakotas and Oregon (the only 3 states she hasn't been to), and perhaps South Africa or the Orient.

The things she would hate to do without are: clean running water, her treasured quilt, the last photo of her mother, her grandmother's rocking chair in which 4 generations of babies were rocked, and an antique clock that reminds her of her father who was always showing her and her siblings how things work-- what makes them run, and how to fix them.

For a long time Lynn was active in the New Life Church of ABQ, where she worked closely with Doug Calderwood and Ken Cuthbertson on the very active Worship Committee. After many years of struggle, she realized it was time to shift her focus and energies, so she began to explore other churches. Coming to LPPC was a natural progression because she knew Doug and Ken, Joyce Thompson, and her longtime friends Katherine and Karl Gustafson. Imagine her surprise when she first came to a Sunday service at LPPC and found herself sitting behind old friends Jackie and Carl Allen! She's been part of the Monday Night study group for over 7 years and joined as a member of the congregation in 2016. Because she and Michael spend much of the year in Virginia, Lynn isn't on any committees, but frequently fills short-term commitments and is always willing to step in as liturgist, usher, or offering counter. The things that attracted her to LPPC

and keep her coming back are the openness and energy of the people. The congregation reflects her values of kindness, compassion, caring for the earth and one another, helping those who are less fortunate, and being Christ's agents in the world.

Joan Chewning

Wendy Ingram