

Seeing the Potter's hands at work

We met in college when he was throwing pots and she was interested in creative activities. Throughout life together our work has taken us to many places around the world where we have seen art and met artists. When we travel we invariably seek out museums, galleries, art shows, and concerts where we see and hear new things. We have collected art and have produced art works for those closest to us. Art has been a constant presence, and it has enriched us as Christians.



Les and Jeanne Wyatt

Shortly after we relocated our home to Dallas in 2010, we went to an exhibition and sale at the Creative Arts Center to see some original work produced by local artists. A large ceramic pot that had an inscription from the Psalms captured our interest. The potter told us that he had made the piece to be entered into a juried show based upon a biblical theme at PCPC. That really captured our interest to learn that a local church would invite participation by producing artists who were not necessarily members, but who sought to praise God through their work.

Later we saw an ad in the newspaper about the PCPC art exhibit and decided that we would come see the show on a Sunday morning. Quite by chance we arrived early enough to attend our first-ever worship service in a Presbyterian church. We saw the exhibit after the service and realized that the worship experience was continued through the images we saw and themes we recognized, which greatly impressed us. But we felt drawn to reenter the Sanctuary to repeat the earlier service: same hymns, same sermon, and same wonderful feeling to be where people gathered to exuberantly worship the Lord and to proudly (and loudly) praise Him. We had found *our* place for worship in addition to seeing the art exhibit.

Since then, we have continued our association with PCPC and have come to enjoy and appreciate the activities and events of the Art+Spirit Committee. We have happily experienced our introduction to the culture of Presbyterian worship and beliefs, we have found a very special Bible class, we have met some wonderful friends in the congregation, and we have brought our families to join the worship services which we have found to be so important in our lives. We have found a group of believers at PCPC we would like to include in our journey with the Lord.

In a real way, our lifelong experiences in the arts have heightened our awareness of the values of creativity and the human spirit. We acknowledge that these are gifts of God, originally given to us as creatures in His image. PCPC supports, conserves, and promotes



2013 PCPC ARTS FESTIVAL

All visual artists are encouraged to submit up to two works.

Rules and details are at www.pcpcartsfestival.com.

Registration begins August 1.

Show dates are November 8–17.

Themes are based on Micah 6:8:

1. Live justly
2. Love mercy
3. Walk humbly with your God.

Cash Awards are given for Best of Theme and Viewers' Choice.

If you would like to serve on the Visual Arts Committee or have questions about the Festival, contact lawan.glasscock@pcpc.org or 214-224-2739.

the intrinsic importance of the arts in our lives through the programs we share in music, visual arts, written materials, and frequent exchanges of creative thought and expression. PCPC is remarkable for its recognition of performance and exhibition of the arts as important ways to express our worship of the Lord.

When we came to Dallas we were not sure what brought us here. We have come to realize that we were led here because our faith would be built up in this place with these people who appreciate the arts. To reflect back on our introduction to PCPC through a piece of pottery for the annual art show, we recall Isaiah's observation that we are the clay, God is the Potter, and we are all the work of His hand.

—Jeanne and Les Wyatt



Visual artists: Finding our right place in a left-brain world

"The hearing ear and the seeing eye,
the LORD has made them both."
—Proverbs 20:12

Scientists have long known that a neurological Mason-Dixon Line cleaves our brains into two regions—the left and right hemispheres. Thanks to advances in medicine, researchers have begun to identify more precisely how the two sides divide responsibilities. It appears that the left hemisphere handles sequence,

literalness, and analysis. The right hemisphere takes care of context (the big picture), emotional expression, and synthesis. Of course, this is to simplify a very complex theory. It is not always so clear-cut. It is important to remember that in healthy people the two brain hemispheres are well-connected. It is also important to remember that Christ used the imagery of the body to visually explain the Church's relationship with Him. Finding a healthy balance of right-brain/left-brain is an essential task both in our own lives and in the church. In a culture where people prefer one type of thinking over the other, it is easy to dismiss the other hemisphere. This dismissal is the culture which visual artists struggle within the American Protestant church and seek to find their right place while being accepted by the left-brain crowd. Though right-brain thinking (non-verbal) is often regarded as more "creative," there is no right or wrong; it is merely two different ways of thinking and communicating. For it was Christ who addressed both our hemispheres when He said "Let those who have ears hear, and those that have eyes see." Christ did not say that one was better—only that understanding the message (verbal or visual) was the key.

Because we at PCPC believe that Christ was sent for both right-brain and left-brain people, a ministry was begun recently to embrace those visual thinkers in our community. Art+Spirit arose from PCPC's Arts Festival as a way of continuing a creative exploration of dialogue regarding our emotional, intellectual, and spiritual knowledge of the scriptures through which we deepen our artistic expressions in order to encourage God's Kingdom, to find our right place with other like-minded individuals. A life in the arts can be a difficult one that is filled with challenges and opportunity. How we handle them profoundly affects us. This group examines what it means to exist as an artist and a person of faith. Because artists look at the big picture, they serve society by mirroring and interpreting the world, possessing an ability to look at the familiar and discern the exquisite, observe the trag-



Sedrick Huckaby



ic and grasp the beauty. Art educates, compels thought, moves people to action, and challenges the mundane. We believers have an obligation to use our brains (no matter the preferred side) and realize that the responsibility of artists obliges them to hone their gifts, cultivating them to the fullest spiritual extent for the glory of God. All of God's gifts are precious no matter where they reside in our cranium. Our Art+Spirit meetings for 2013 were filled with fantastic opportunities to do such things.

January ~ Art+Spirit took a road trip to Baylor University for a one-day conference focused on T. S. Eliot's work, "Four Quartets," one of the greatest poems of the 20th century. A group of 25 right-brainers braved the snow-frosted road south to enjoy the specially commissioned paintings by artists Makoto Fujimura and Bruce Herman along with a premier work by composer Christopher Theofanidis.

February ~ Art+Spirit had an exceptional evening with visual artist **Sedrick Huckaby**, who has always sought to make paintings that have the ability to elevate one's thinking—art that holds a quiet dialogue to slowly reveal deeper understandings. Sedrick pointed out that the initial attraction for many people to art is a well-rendered image, which can be experienced at a moment's glance, but that is only the beginning. To be taken higher, one must climb. One way is to speak to the nonverbal side of the person with an intensive visual language. It is a strange thing to speak from one's heart without knowing the exact words to verbalize the experience. In visual art, a phenomenon happens by articulating the abstract and formal elements into something that verbal languages cannot explain. If paintings are successful, they will not only appeal to the viewer's intellect, but to the deeper being in us that lies beyond words. Artists' language is more closely in tune with their soul than the language of their tongue. For many, the act of painting is not just a means to a product; it is also a meditative process of communication. Thus, it is with the visual language that some choose to speak about the most pressing issues of life.



Lawan Glasscock and Roger Feldman

March ~ Art+Spirit welcomed sculptor **Roger Feldman** from **Seattle Pacific University**. Roger came to Christ at age 16 through his involvement with Young Life and even then began searching for ways to integrate his art into his strong faith. While pursuing a master's at Fuller Seminary, Roger's professors recognized his God-given artistic talent and encouraged him to "keep making art" in addition to his assignments. He did well academically but his heart wasn't in it. After being introduced to serious Christians who were also serious artists, Roger decided that he was called to do God's work through a visual-experiential language of sculpture. Roger looks through theological glasses to understand the world through a Christian worldview and creates work that speaks to our lives.

PCPC 2013 Logo Contest Winner: Artist Robert Opel designed our award-winning logo for the 2013 season (see page 3) based on Micah 6:8. Upon accepting the award, Robert stated "God has all kinds of ways of answering our prayers and our dreams and our hopes. I asked Him to use me to bless others with my talent. He knows us like no one else does. I can't play basketball or football well at all; I can't make music like others; but I can draw, so that is what I like to do most... I'm grateful and happy that PCPC gives us artists a forum to learn together, share together, and create."

—Lawan Glasscock