

La Palabra

December 2014

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606



A Message from Lois

...Do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness... (Isaiah 43:18b – 20a)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

No, no, I'm not confused. I haven't lost track of time. It IS the new year of the liturgical calendar. That's just a fancy way of saying the church calendar. On the liturgical calendar the new year starts with the first Sunday in Advent. This year that was November 30th.

Advent is a great way to kick off a new year. Advent is when we prepare for the coming of Christ...that is the celebration of Jesus' birth 2015 or so years ago AND the return of Christ someday in the future. No one knows when that return will be, but we know the timing will be perfect because it will be in the fullness of God's time.

Advent is what we, at FPC, are about as well. On December 7th we'll be celebrating the birth, if you will, of the sanctuary 50 years ago. We'll enjoy a united service at 9:00 a.m. featuring wonderful music and snippets of sermons from that time. Please plan to attend!

Of course we're also preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We'll have Music Sunday on December 21st and Christmas Eve services at 5:30 for the family-oriented service and 8:30 for the traditional service. Please be sure to invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker to attend with you!

FPC is in an advent of its own as well. We are in a time of preparation for another one, who is to come. We are in the interim time. That is the time that we work to discern God's will for this congregation. We'll gather to discern our mission so we will eventually be able to call an installed pastor. The interim period is not quick, there is work to be done, and we must be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We will have a new pastor, however, "No one knows when that will be but we know the timing will be perfect because it will be in the fullness of God's time.

In the meantime...Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings...Lois

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WORSHIP

Dir. of Music (Chair) — Mark Ramsey
Worship (E) — Dan Reeves
Prayer Chain (D) — Bev Goff

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Karyn Weaver
Worship (D) — Carol Webster

Mark's Remarks

(480) 964-8606, EXT. 103; MUSIC@FPCMESA.ORG

“The final aim and reason of all music is nothing other than the glorification of God and the refreshment of the spirit.” - Johann Sebastian Bach

Announcements

The FPC Sanctuary was dedicated during a special worship service on Sunday, December 13, 1964. We have enjoyed a year-long series of concerts in our Sanctuary to commemorate the anniversary, and on Sunday, December 7th, the celebration will culminate with a 9:00 a.m. worship-recital featuring Dr. Dorothy Young Riess on our great organ and the sharing of hymns and readings drawn from the Sanctuary dedication service of December 13, 1964. Following worship, we will gather for a free catered brunch in Fellowship Hall, where we will share memories of the birth of our beautiful and unique Sanctuary. We hope that you will be able to join us! A limited number of free tickets may still be available in the Church Office.

This year's Music Sunday, “O Holy Night,” will be held on December 21st, during our 9:00 a.m. service and will feature each of our FPC choirs. The service will include choir solos, combined choirs, and congregational carols. There will be a special Music Sunday rehearsal on Wednesday, December 17th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Following rehearsal, the Sanctuary Choir will adjourn to the Choir Room, where they will rehearse for Christmas Eve, from 7:00-8:00. (There will not be a Wednesday WRAP dinner that evening.)

A Candlelight Communion Service of Lessons, Carols & Readings will be offered on Christmas Eve at both 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. The 5:30 p.m. service will feature a "Celebration of Gifts" prelude. All of our children and youth musicians are invited to offer an instrumental or vocal solo. Please contact me if you would like to share your gifts! If possible, prepare pieces based on Christmas carols.

Wind in the Willows, licensed through the Rodgers and Hammerstein Theatre Library, will be presented in April by our First Players under the leadership of Production Director Miki Newbry and Assistant Director Kate Buck. A national tour extension of *Beauty and the Beast* restricted the licensing of that show, but a full audition schedule has been completed for *Wind in the Willows*, and if you would like to be considered for a small role and/or as a stagehand, please contact the Church Office. The unforgettable characters from Kenneth Grahame's classic spring to life in this Broadway musical adaptation. Mole, a curious girl who leaves her underground life for one of adventure, meets the kindly Water Rat, who agrees to show her the world. That world includes the eccentric and wealthy Mr. Toad, whose outrageous enthusiasm for life, and especially for motor cars, brings trouble for everyone. In a fight with the belligerent Weasels to recapture Toad's ancestral home, the old boxing champion, Mr. Badger, leads them to victory. Much more than a show about animals with human characteristics, *Wind in the Willows* is about the delicate balance among all living things and the surpassing value of friendship.



It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas. If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one to be used in the Sanctuary during the Advent season, order forms are available at the kiosk or in the Church Office. The poinsettias are \$10 apiece. Please return the form, with payment attached, to the church office. There will be a sign-up table during coffee time. Deadline for response is December 15th.

Humoresque

"The One whose throne is in heaven sits laughing." - Psalm 2:4

A man and woman were married for many years. Whenever there was a confrontation, yelling could be heard deep into the night. The old man would shout, "When I die, I will dig my way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life!" Neighbors feared him. The old man liked the fact that he was feared. Then one evening, he died. After the burial, her neighbors asked, "Aren't you afraid that he may indeed be able to dig his way out of the grave and haunt you for the rest of your life?" The wife said, "Let him dig. I had him buried upside down...and I know he won't ask for directions." [from Barb Walker]

DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. — Jasmine Couillard
Adult (E) — Martha Bienert

Children's Ministries (E) — Carol Anderson
Family Ministries (E) — Alice Schlak

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Jennifer Martin
Youth Elder — Kyle Posthumus

WRAP Report

Wednesday WRAP on December 3rd will be a Christmas themed celebration. Join us from 5:00—7:00 p.m. for worship skills, recreation, fellowship, dinner, games and Bible study!

Merry Christmas to all the Sunday School teachers! Thank you for your dedication in planning and teaching every single week!

Preschool/Kindergarten – Lanai Mills & Kathy Bilko

First & Second Grade – Miki & Brooks Newbry

Third & Fourth Grade – Anita Ramsey & John Couillard

Fifth & Sixth Grade – Ruth Letizia & Deborah Rosen



The preschool is bustling with exciting things going on. What a wonderful time of year it is as we look forward to the cool weather, long winter days off and the warmth of being surrounded by our loved ones. We just celebrated our annual Thanksgiving Feast with our families. We want to encourage you to stop by sometime in December to see what the kids are up to. They will be making special gifts for their families, too!

Christmas time has a magical spirit that the children love to be a part of. Christ, our Savior is born and we are looking forward to showcasing our young stars for the Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 10th, at 9:00 a.m. Please join us. You won't want to miss it! The Preschool will be closed for the Christmas holiday and New Years from December 22nd - January 2nd. School will resume on Monday, January 5, 2015.

Christmas Wishlist for the Preschool: old newspaper, large bottles of bubbles, little boys & little girls underwear (size 2T, 3T or 4T), Christmas stickers, pretzels, fish crackers, cheese sticks, peanut butter or yogurt sticks. Thank you for your support and prayers for our little school!

Shiloh Murillo
Director

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dan Davenport
Parish Visitor (Staff) — Lois Hildenbrand
Cards (D) — Gretchen Frederick
Older Adult (E) — Steve Muth

Transportation (D) — Doug McInelly
Parish Deacon 1 — Mark Waters
Parish Deacon 2 — Denise Worden
Parish Deacon 3 — Dale Gibson

Parish Deacon 4 — Erin Skarphol
Parish Deacon 5 — Heidi Blincoe
Presbyterian Women — Jeannette Laurie



Circles Meet in December:

Lydia Circle December 2nd, 12:00 noon, parlor
Rachel Circle meets December 2nd, 1:00 p.m., library
Eve Circle meets December 8th, 7:00 p.m., parlor
Deborah Circle meets December 16th, 9:30 a.m., Laura Bruening's home,
3006 E. Lockwood

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FPC

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 9th
11:30 meet & greet
12:00 lunch
Fellowship Hall



All women of the congregation are invited to the PW Holiday luncheon. Eve and Lydia Circle are hostesses. Bring a festive salad or dessert to share. Program: The Red Cross, Always There in Times of Need

MISSION

Pastor (Chair) —
Mission (E) — Phillip Pagels
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

Assimilation (D) — Scot Logan
Evangelism (E) — Bill Anderson

Seasonal Ministries (D) — Sue Eisenklam
Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (D) — Jane Potyka



The time is here for our annual opportunity to be angels! The tree with angels will be up on Sunday, November 30th. We are sponsoring three needy neighborhood families this year. We will provide gifts, household and personal care items as well as a holiday meal for each family. We invite you to participate in this mission by taking an angel from the tree at the back of the Sanctuary.

Purchase the designated gift, wrap it in holiday paper, attach the angel to the outside of the gift and return the gift to the tree by Sunday, December 21st. Gifts and food will be delivered on that day. Household and personal care items **should not** be wrapped. There is a collection box in the church office for those items. If you have questions, call: Sue Eisenklam, 480-993-6512 or Sandy Clark, 480-835-1338. As always, thank you for your big hearts, kindness and generosity!

MINISTRY

Clerk of Session (Chair) — Carol Gerlach
Property (E) — Alan Schultz
Personnel (E) — Jo Wilson

Personnel (D) — Kate Buck
Nominating (E) — Barbara Walker

Nominating (D) — Mary Jane Hee
Stewardship/Finance (E) — David Frederick

At our October meeting, the Session voted that the entire Session would be the Interim Search Committee and elected Jo Wilson and Dan Reeves co-chairs.

From Presbytery we were provided with Procedures for Securing an Interim Pastor and Personal Information Forms (resumes) of the candidates they selected for us.

On November 9th, we interviewed the four candidates. A Presbytery representative was also in attendance at the interviews.

It is the Session's sole responsibility to approve an Interim Pastor and the Terms of Call, and we are continuing with the process as set forth.



Ministry Report

Christmas Chuckle!

The REAL Night Before Christmas (By Parents): 'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house I searched for the tools to hand to my spouse. Instructions were studied, and we were inspired, in hopes we could manage "Some Assembly Required." The children were quiet (not asleep) in their beds, while Dad and I faced the evening with dread: a kitchen, two bikes, Barbie's townhouse to boot! And now, thanks to Grandpa, a train with a toot! We opened the boxes, my heart skipped a beat – let no parts be missing or parts incomplete! Too late for last-minute returns or replacement; if we can't get it right, it goes straight to the basement! When what to my worrying eyes should appear but 50 sheets of directions, concise, but not clear, with each part numbered and every slot named, so if we failed, only we could be blamed. More rapid than eagles the parts then fell out, all over the carpet they were scattered about. "Now bolt it! Now twist it! Attach it right there! Slide on the seats, and staple the stair! Hammer the shelves, and nail to the stand." "Honey," said hubby, "you just glued my hand." And then in a twinkling, I knew for a fact that all the toy dealers had indeed made a pact to keep parents busy all Christmas Eve night with "assembly required" till morning's first light. We spoke not a word, but kept bent at our work, till our eyes, they went blurry; our fingers all hurt. The coffee went cold and the night, it wore thin before we attached the last rod and last pin. Then laying the tools away in the chest, we fell into bed for a well-deserved rest. But I said to my husband just before I passed out, "This will be the best Christmas, without any doubt. Tomorrow we'll cheer, let the holiday ring, and not run to the store for one single thing! We did it! We did it! The toys are all set for the perfect, most magical, Christmas, I bet!" Then off to dreamland and sweet repose I gratefully went, though I suppose there's something to say for those self-deluded—I'd forgotten that BATTERIES are never included!

December Birthdays



Frank White	1st
Denver Wyse	1st
Sheilah Dye	2nd
Linda Reeves	4th
Kay Herrera	5th
Sophia Letizia	5th
James Schwartzmann	5th
Karen Rudin	6th
Anita Ramsey	9th
Samantha Jo Woods	9th
Randy Castela	10th
Nell Evans	10th
Nancy Tordai	10th
Spencer Hoff	12th
Kevin Woods	13th
Carolyn Barber	14th
John Hee	14th
Myrna Olmstead	14th
Margaret Johnson	15th
Marie Robb	15th
Gana Martin	16th
Bob Leonard	17th
Julia Laneville	18th
Laura Bruening	19th
Jerry Kurtz	19th
Ruth Robinson	20th
Marlene Verch	20th
Barbara Walker	20th
Maurice Belew	21st
Jonathan Martin	21st
Virginia Perkins	21st
Michael Eberhardt	22nd
Steve Durand	23rd
Barbara Strader	25th
Herb Andreen	26th
Nancy Bockler	26th
Westley Logan	27th
Ruth Pomeroy	28th
Allan Chisholm	29th
Rosemary Goings	29th
Nicki McInelly	29th
Ruth Yurich	29th

Editor's Note: If your birthday is missing or we have the wrong date, please call the office so we can update our records. We wish a special day to anyone we have missed.

Calendar Notes

December 2

Lydia & Rachel Circles meet

December 7

Sanctuary Rededication

December 8

Eve Circle meets

December 9

PW Holiday Luncheon

December 10

Preschool Christmas Program

December 16

Deborah Circle meets

December 17

Music Sunday Rehearsal

December 21

Music Sunday

December 24

Christmas Eve Services:
5:30 — Family; 8:30 — Traditional

December 25

Merry Christmas

December 26 & 31

Office Closed



Dear Friends,

Words completely fail, as they did during the wonderful reception on my last Sunday, to express how overwhelmed Karen and I have been by your outpouring of love. The cards and notes have been so touching, and the check that you all presented was above and beyond! We are so honored to have lived, laughed, and loved among you for these past fifteen years. Our thoughts and prayers go with FPC into her future, and we will cherish our many memories here.

In Christ,
Brant and Karen



