

La Palabra

April 2015

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

In the conclusion of the letter to the congregation at Philipi, they (and therefore, we) are told...

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

Where are your thoughts this month? In light of what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross, consider the following as a guide for your thoughts:

- ❖ What is true in your life and relationships with others?
- ❖ What or who do you consider to be honorable?
- ❖ Is there a difference between just and legal?
- ❖ How do you define purity?
- ❖ Who or what do you find commendable?
- ❖ How do you give thanks to others and to God for that which is pleasing in your life?

One Great Hour of Sharing

With Easter upon us, it is time to take our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This is a wonderful opportunity to give back a portion of the blessings that God has given us. This offering, received on Easter has three specific causes that it supports:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance steps in to help communities devastated by disasters in their area. They were instrumental during the restoration following Hurricane Katrina. In the past few years they have been active helping in flood disasters along the Yukon River in northern Alaska.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program helped over 150,000 people throughout the world last year and increased their level of food security.

The Self-Development of People program helps people help themselves out of their poverty.

Please pray about what you can give to this special offering that helps so many people. Sharing brings joy to others, to God and to us.

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

A Seder Celebration will be offered on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate with family and fun, scripture and singing! The Passover Seder might be called the Jewish Thanksgiving. It is a special time of remembrance of the mighty act of God to deliver the nation of Israel from slavery and release them for eventual return to the Promised Land.



Wind in the Willows, licensed through the Rodgers and Hammerstein Theatre Library, will be presented this month by our First Players under the leadership of Production Director Miki Newbry and Assistant Director Kate Buck. The show will feature Kate Buck as Mole, Brooks Newbry as Rat, John Couillard as Toad, Joy Schulz as Chief Stoat, Robert Harding as Chief Weasel, and Robert Schulz as Badger. Dinner theaters will be presented on April 10, 11, 17, and 18 at 5:30 p.m., and the dinner menu will include Rabbit's Stew, Stoat's Salad, Weasel's

Warm Dinner Rolls, Toad's Triple Chocolate Brownies, and Badger's Beverages. The unforgettable characters from Kenneth Grahame's classic spring to life in this Broadway musical adaptation on the value of friendship. 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. Dinner-Theater Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for ages 10 and under, with a maximum of \$50 per household. They are available on our church website (www.fpcmesa.org), on weekdays in the Church Office (480-964-8606), and during Fellowship Time on Sundays.

Coming Events

- Seder Celebration in Fellowship Hall (Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.)
- **Easter Services** at 6:00 a.m. (Sanctuary Patio), 9:00 a.m. (Sanctuary), and 11:30 a.m. (Fellowship Hall). The sunrise service will be followed by a Scout fundraiser pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall.
- First Players: *Wind in the Willows* (April 10,11,17,18)
- Youth Sunday (April 12)
- Artist Series: Valley Chamber Chorale (Saturday, May 2)

Humoresque

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

A Hindu priest, a Jewish rabbi, and a televangelist were on a trip when their car broke down. They went to a nearby farmhouse and asked the farmer if they could spend the night in his house. The farmer told them that he only had room for two of them, and that one person would have to sleep in the barn behind the house. The Hindu priest volunteered to sleep in the barn, and they all went to bed. Five minutes later there was a knock on the back door. It was the priest. He explained that he hadn't known that there was a cow in the barn, and that as a Hindu he couldn't sleep with a cow. The rabbi told him that a cow wouldn't bother him, and he volunteered to take his place in the barn. Everybody went to bed, but five minutes later there was a knock on the back door. It was the rabbi. He explained that he hadn't known that there was a pig in the barn, and there was no way he could sleep with a pig. The televangelist told everyone that neither a cow nor a pig would bother him, and he volunteered to take the rabbi's place. Everybody went to bed and five minutes later there was a knock at the back door. It was the cow and the pig.

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

DISCIPLESHIP NEWS

Don't miss out on the last three nights of Wednesday WRAP for the 2014-2015 school year! All children (kindergarten and up) and adults are invited each week from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. for worship skills, recreation, fellowship, dinner, games and Bible study. Themes are:

April 1 – Fiesta – No Foolin'
April 8 – Under the Sea
April 15 – Closing Banquet

There will be Sunday School for preschool and elementary students on Easter Sunday! Don't miss this special event of movie, crafts, cookie decorating and playtime!

You love VBS, right? You love watching kids' faces light up as they worship? You love preparing awesome Bible adventures for kids to take part in? And you'll be the first to admit that VBS songs are right up your alley? Volunteer now for Thailand Trek Vacation Bible School – June 8th through the 11th, 5:45 – 8:15 p.m.! Contact Jasmine Couillard for more details.

Montlure: Camp registration for summer 2015 has been posted on the website (www.montlure.org), and the early bird registration deadline is April 1st! If you register before that date at montlure.org/registration.html, you will receive \$50 off your registration fees (camp scholarships are available through Montlure Camp).



The month of March has been very lively for our little friends. We had some amazing rain pour down which brought many smiles to the kids' faces. During April, we will be learning about Easter, plants & seeds, family pets, pond life and children from around the world. It will be fun to discover new things.

Please help! One of our own staff members, Belinda Clark, is in great need of eye surgery but does not have insurance to cover the costs of the procedure that she needs. We are helping by working to put together a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on April 24th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. There will be a dessert auction and 50/50 raffle to help with the surgery. Watch for a flyer to go out with all of the details. If you'd like to make a donation for Belinda, please let me know so that I can give you the information where to send it. Otherwise, please plan on joining us on April 24th. It means so much to be able to help one of our own!

Registration is underway for the fall program! We need every referral that we can get to start out strong and to be as full as we can. Please consider sharing our preschool information with friends and families with children who are 2 1/2 to Pre-k age (potty-trained required). Thank you!

We cannot thank you enough for the help that you have given to us and that you are giving to us! We feel the prayers that you express and appreciate them very much!

Sincerely, Shiloh Murillo, Preschool

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

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Fellowship events! They are not to be missed! Some dates and times are to be determined, so stay tuned for further updates. Make plans to attend and bring a friend!



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| ❖ April 4 | 9:00 a.m. | EGGstravaganza (for children up to 10 years) and continental breakfast in Fellowship Hall |
| ❖ May 16 | 5:00 p.m. | Salsa Challenge |
| ❖ June 20 | TBD | Family Movie Night |
| ❖ August 15 | TBD | Ice Cream Social |
| ❖ October 10 | 3:00 p.m. | Road Rally |
| ❖ November 14 | 9:00 a.m. | Craft Fair |



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

COME TO THE WATERS

PW to Get Preview of 2015-16 Bible Study

The theme is Biblical stories of water: creation, baptism, thirst and longing, as well as stormy waters of faith, justice, righteousness, mercy, forgiveness, and compassion. Conducted by Beverly Phillips and Chris Casanova from University Presbyterian Church. It will be held here at FPC on Saturday, April 18th, from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

All Presbyterian Women are invited. A great overview for circle leaders and Bible study leaders.

Healthy Living Workshop is a six-week program presented by the East Valley Adult Resources program of the Mesa Senior Centers for anyone from 18 to 118 dealing with one or more ongoing health conditions. If you're in that boat, and most people over the age of 60 are, please call the church office or Neil Frances of Mesa Senior Centers at 480-219-2537 to register. The workshop will meet every Monday from April 13th through May 18th at 9:00 a.m. in the church library.

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| <p>April 2: Maundy Thursday Seder, Fellowship Hall, at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>April 3: Good Friday — Office Closed</p> <p>April 4: EGGstravaganza at 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>April 5: Easter Sunday Services: Sunrise Service—6:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast—Boy Scout fundraiser Traditional Service—9:00 a.m. HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse—11:30 a.m.</p> |
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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 Mission Commission of FPC is hosting its semi-annual blood drive. As a church we have committed to supporting this event. Thank you to all of you for your on-going participation in this important, life giving mission.

The American Red Cross will have a bloodmobile in the church parking lot from 9-2 on Sunday, April 19. You may sign up to give blood four different ways: 1. Sign up directly online at redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: FirstPresbyterianMesa. 2. Sign up in fellowship hall beginning April 5 between services. 3. Call Sue Eisenklam at 480-993-6512. 4. Email Sue at eisentouch@yahoo.com.

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

SESSION NOTES

- ❖ Bill Lents was re-elected to be our Elder Commissioner representative to Presbytery.
- ❖ Our membership stands at 318.
- ❖ Average January 2015 attendance: 141 + 43; January 2014: 185 + 54.
- ❖ Palm Sunday (March 29) worship service will be held outside at the Mesa Arts Center at 10:00 a.m. followed by a BBQ here at church.
- ❖ Session approved a Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast fundraiser to be held on Easter Sunday, April 5th, between the sunrise service and the 9:00 a.m. service.
- ❖ Session approved the Mission Commission's recommendation that Larry Bienert start a Prison Ministry under the auspices of FPC Mesa.



Ministry Report

DON'T FORGET PER CAPITA

Historic fact: The first-known mention of per capita dates back to 1734 in a letter to ministers. The per capita donation is \$31.00 per church member. Per capita is the money that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church to support administrative and specific mission functions. It is apportioned to the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly. It is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC (USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone.

Submitted by Dave Frederick

April Birthdays



| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Michael Gerlach | 2nd |
| Carol Holdhusen | 2nd |
| Dan Sitzler | 6th |
| Susan Durand | 8th |
| Jessica Reeves | 8th |
| Jeanne Partida | 9th |
| Tanya Snitzer | 9th |
| Dalitso Sakala | 12th |
| Allan Schultz | 12th |
| Jo Wilson | 12th |
| Amy Woods | 12th |
| Sedona Verch | 13th |
| Patricia White | 13th |
| Diane Byerly | 15th |
| Kelly Clark | 15th |
| Hal Engman | 15th |
| Robert Harding | 15th |
| Ron Payton | 15th |
| Krista Leichtman | 16th |
| Debbie Rosen | 16th |
| Dave Weaver | 16th |
| David Frederick | 19th |
| Kay Lutman | 19th |
| Mary Martin | 19th |
| Don Wilson | 19th |
| Emily Bero | 23rd |
| Robert Brause-Crame | 23rd |

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.



ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Lenke, Irene | Rugg, Mary |
| 8650 S. Los Feliz Dr. | 2308 N. Kachina |
| Tempe, AZ 85284 | Mesa, AZ 85203 |
| 480-730-9110 | |

Calendar Notes

April 2

Maundy Thursday Seder Demonstration

April 3

Good Friday — Office closed

April 4

EGGstravaganza

April 5

Easter

(Services at 6:00, 9:00 & 11:30 a.m.)

Scout Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser after 6:00 service

April 10, 11, 17 & 18

Wind in the Willows Dinner Theater

April 12

Youth Sunday

April 13 & 14

Circles meet

April 15

WRAP Closing Banquet

April 19

Blood Drive

Commissions & Session meet

April 26

Monthly Food Drive



Thanks to the members and friends of FPC for the prayers and good wishes during Chuck's recent hospitalization. They were very much appreciated.

Chuck & Dale Gibson

Thank you all for your cards, prayers, love and support during this difficult time. What a blessing it is to have such a caring church family. We will never forget.

In Christ,
Pat White and Family

See calendar on website:
[www.fpcmesa.org/current events](http://www.fpcmesa.org/current%20events)