

La Palabra — 2016 Annual Report Edition

February 2016

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480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

1 Chronicles 16:8

Reading through these reports gives a glimpse of the vital community that is First Presbyterian Church. Within these pages is a taste of the ministries we engage in as people who worship and serve God together. I hope they will whet your appetite to learn more, to try out a new way to respond to the tremendous blessings of God, and to pray specifically for our collective efforts to bear great fruit to the glory of God.

2016 was a good year for us as a congregation. We added wonderful new members. We embarked on a hands-on Mission Trip to a Native American community in northeast Arizona, welcomed a speaker from our national church, provided food to the hungry, housing to the homeless, financial assistance to those in danger of becoming homeless, and Christian teaching to Preschoolers, K-12, young adults and the rest of us. We reached out to the neighborhood with two Worship in the Park events and two Parking Lot Rummage Sales. We even published our own Advent Devotional.

We enjoyed glorifying God with exciting and sometimes challenging worship with beautiful and uplifting music in both our blended traditional service and the contemporary service. We celebrated the Preschool's 30th anniversary. We enjoyed stable staffing.

During 2016 we shared laughter and tears. We rolled up our sleeves to give blood. We pulled on work gloves to 'Make a Difference' in Mesa and plastic gloves to serve breakfast and dinner to women who are homeless, dinner for WRAP and to patrons attending our annual musical.

We are poised for another year of faithful service as we embark upon strengthening our hands-on mission, financial stewardship and our individual commitments to Christian Education. We are a generous congregation that shows our love for God through the sharing of gifts God has given us.

This year I held a tiny baby in the sacrament of baptism, cheered on our youth in their mission pursuits, performed a wedding, too often celebrated the lives of saints in witness to the resurrection, met wonderful people considering church membership, engaged in interesting pursuits and talked with many of you about deep theological matters. Like many of you, I visited with beloved members and church friends at local Medical Centers, Rehabilitation Centers, Hospice facilities and in my Study.

And, of course, our church continued the Interim process. We finalized our Mission Study Report and elected a Pastor Nominating Committee. They are hard at work. I believe we are drawing near to hearing that a minister will soon be coming to candidate here. "Soon" being a relative term. This all happens in God's good timing, and even Jesus said the end is near over 2000 years ago.

2016 gives us many reasons to be grateful to God and much reason to be people of hope in 2017. God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Amen!

Blessings...Lois

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WORSHIP

Dir. of Music (Chair) — Mark Ramsey
Worship (E) — Nate Robinson
Prayer Chain (D) — Joy Schulz

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

Worship Commission: Staff Report

Submitted by: Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries

Each of our church choirs participated in our worship services at least once each month during the spring and fall. In addition, several events highlighted our year together in ministry:



- Weekly Preschool Chapels, with Pastor Lois and Shiloh Murillo
 - Handbell Refurbishing (partial funding by Worship Arts Endowment)
 - New Ruby Red Grand Stage Curtain (partial funding by Worship Arts Endowment)
 - Served as Judge for High School Bass Voice Regional Auditions
 - Sanctuary Choir Retreat, Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona
 - First Players 20th Dinner-Theater Production, Mary Poppins
 - Mesa Interfaith Choral Festival, St. Luke Lutheran Church (with choirs from FPC, Church of The Master Presbyterian, St. Luke Lutheran, Grace UMC, and Mesa North Stake)
 - Marcia Whitehead, Guest Worship Leader for both services, “You Raise Me Up”
- The Seven Last Words of Christ, presented by the Sanctuary Choir, Soloists, Organ, and Piano
 - Assisted Miki Newbry with Vacation Bible School Music
 - Dei Gloriam Performing Arts Video Audition and Concert at Disneyland
 - Mission Trip to Chinle, AZ
 - Workshop for Combined Presbyteries, Northminster, Tucson
 - Artist Series: Ice Cream Social and Band Vintage Rocket, with John Couillard
 - Wednesday WRAP Music, with Karen Rudin, Linda Hayball, Lanai Mills, Paul Soderquist, and Karyn Weaver
 - Territorial Brass in Worship
 - Artist Series: Potluck Dinner and Concert by International Senior Quartet Champions “High Priority,” with Dan Davenport
 - Mesa Make-a-Difference Day
 - Thanksgiving/Stewardship Sunday: welcomed High Priority Quartet to 9:00 a.m. worship. A unique Piano Quartet was also offered by Barb Walker, Bea Towe, Alice Edwards, and Mark Ramsey, followed by a Ministry Fair between services. HolyGrounds featured and premiered a sermon DVD centered on stewardship.
 - All-Church Christmas Caroling
 - Co-accompanied FPC Arizona Cantilena Chorale Concert
 - Music Sunday “That Glorious Song of Old”
 - Summer worship music was led by organists and directors Jim Norris, Tricia Ramsey, Karen Rudin, and Barbara Walker. Special Music included the First Ringers, “Summer Singers,” Mixed Ensemble, VBS Singers, Sunday of Soloists, Men’s Quintet, Soprano Quartet, Women’s Octet, Mixed Octet, “Summer Choir,” “Summer Bells,” One Voice, and a Hymn Festival with Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir.

We are blessed to have about a quarter of our congregation participating in our music program. I continue to be thankful for each singer, ringer, signer, and instrumentalist, and I pray that each is blessed by God’s gift of music and joy in ministry. Special thanks go to our choir leaders: **SUNDAY SCHOOL/WEDNESDAY WRAP WORSHIP SKILLS**, Directors John Couillard, Anita Ramsey, Karen Rudin, Rev. Paul Soderquist, and Karyn Weaver, with Assistants Linda Hayball and Lanai Mills; **FIRST RINGERS**, Bea Towe, Director; **HEARTS HANDS AND VOICES**, Karyn Weaver, Director, with assistance



from Ellen Gillespie; **ONE VOICE**, Anita Ramsey, Director; and **SANCTUARY CHOIR**, Bea Towe, Accompanist. Thank you also to our **PRAISE BANDS** for providing musical leadership for both worship services: Karen Rudin, Erin Skarphol, and Rev. Paul Soderquist (9:00 a.m.) and Preston MacDonald, Tricia Ramsey, Kevin Reeves, Dan Sitzler, and Sean Snitzer (11:30).

COMING EVENTS

- 2/19 Worship Leader Marcia Whitehead, "You Raise Me Up," 9:00 a.m.
- First Players' 21st Annual Dinner-Theater Production, Peter Pan, March 24,25,31; April 1
- 4/9 (Palm Sunday) "Worship in the Park," Pioneer Park, Worship at 10:00 a.m., BBQ to follow
- 4/14 Good Friday, Dale Wood's "A Service of Darkness," 7:00 p.m.
- 5/7 Soprano Stephanie Ball & Baritone Tom Sitzler, "Animal Art Songs"

Worship Commission Report

The Worship Commission serves our congregation through the planning of weekly worship services, by facilitating the church Prayer Chain, by celebrating with families as they welcomed new life, and by supporting families in times of grief. Items accomplished by the Worship Commission during 2016 include:

- Bev Goff served as temporary coordinator of greeters, replaced by ongoing coordinator Susan Durand.
- Ash Wednesday Service, with Wednesday WRAP Children & Youth, Fox Chapel
- Eighth-Annual Worship in the Park, at Pioneer Park, followed by a BBQ (Fellowship Commission)
- Women's Sunday, with special guest Rachel Yates, Associate Director for Presbyterian World Mission
- Advertised position opening for HolyGrounds Worship Leader
- Easter Sunrise Service followed by a pancake breakfast prepared by our Scouts
- Honored years of service for volunteer coordinators of Liturgists (Jo Wilson), Prayer (Bev Goff), and Sanctuary Decoration (Sandra Clark).
- Jennifer Martin to serve as HolyGrounds Greeter
- Planned Worship Flowers/Gifts for those who have been mothers/fathers for the longest and shortest periods of time.
- Carol Gerlach updated the list of potential communion servers and the server procedure lists.
- Dan Reeves coordinated the purchase of a new computer for Fellowship Hall/HolyGrounds.
- Re-added Apostle's Creed and Gloria Patri to the 9:00 a.m. order of worship.
- Added Youth Liturgists on the last Sunday of each month
- Deacons prepared breads of the world, including unleavened bread, for World Communion Sunday.
- Offered quarterly Psalm Sundays during 2016, led by Martha Bienert.
- Advent Decorating, led by Carol Holdhusen and Sandra Clark, and combined with Carols by Candlelight and a catered supper.
- Candlelight Communion Services of Lessons & Carols
- Celebrated the births of Chelsea Cronenberg and Gwendolyn Sitzler.
- Supported the families of church members who entered the Church Triumphant during 2016: Chuck Gibson, Hank Klassen, Jeannette Laurie, Pat Miller, Margaret Ryan, Dorothy Shearin, and Marlene Verch.

Items for Session Approval

- Recommended approval of a revised Finance Committee procedure to transport weekly offerings to the safe via a locking bag, per audit guidelines. APPROVED
- Recommended one combined worship service in the Sanctuary on Youth Sunday, April 24, to facilitate youth numbers and to facilitate a Bible game-show setting. APPROVED
- Recommended 2017 Communion Dates: the first Sunday of each month, excluding April and December, plus Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve. APPROVED
- Recommended one combined worship service in the Sanctuary on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. APPROVED

Respectfully Submitted,
 Mark Ramsey, (Chair) Director of Music Ministries
 (Deacon) Carol Gerlach, Worship
 (Elder) Nate Robinson, Worship
 (Deacon) Joy Schulz, Prayer Chain
 (Deacon) Karyn Weaver, Funerals/Memorials

Dan Reeves, Worship — HolyGrounds
 Susan Durand, Greeters
 Don Wilson, Ushers
 Dan Davenport, Liturgists

DISCIPLESHIP

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

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Alice Schlak

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Bill Rummler
Youth Elder — Gregg Gerlach

Discipleship Commission: Annual Report

Submitted by: Jasmine Couillard, Director of Christian Education



Sunday Christian Education continues to thrive for all ages: preschool through adult. We have 5 classes meeting each week on campus. One of the adult classes is thriving so well that we had to make some changes to the library where they meet! The elementary age classes are meeting in two rooms. Bea Towe and Lanai Mills are teaching the preschool through third grade students. Ruth Letizia and Deborah Rosen are teaching the fourth through sixth grade students. Each summer we combine the elementary classes so that

our dedicated teachers can have a season off. Also the teachers had their classes make musical, poetic, scriptural presentations to the congregation at the 5:30 Christmas Eve service. What a blessing that was!

Wednesday WRAP continues to meet from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in six week blocks during the school year. In May 2016 we closed out our year with a Fear Factor type game show including many fun and exotic animals. In September we kicked off our new year with fun changes and additions to our weekly themes. Wednesday WRAP is open to families and individuals of all ages. We have fellowship, music classes, dinner, crafts, games and Bible study. Grief Share is a support group of those currently grieving the loss of a loved one. Grief Share kicked off their third 13 week session of classes this year and they start each week with dinner in Fellowship Hall, joining the rest of the Wednesday WRAP attendees. There is an adult Bible study class that meets after dinner. This class would love to have visitors or new members! We are currently studying *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel. Wednesday WRAP themes and meals for February are:



- February 1 – Backwards Night with dessert and then a Burgers & Dogs meal
- February 8 – Valentine's with Sandwiches

The church Nursery continues to be staffed each Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The nursery is located inside the sanctuary (in the quiet room) for the 9:00 a.m. service. This allows flexibility to parents training their young ones to sit in the pew as well as the opportunity for these children to participate in the children's sermon! The 11:30 service is staffed each week by Tanya Snitzer and Isobel Letizia.



Vacation Bible School 2016 was a bit different than in past years. We met for four nights in June and learned about Jesus as well as Norway through a program called Expedition Norway. We had a teen program and an adult program (what a success this was for the first year!), in addition to our elementary program! A handful of our VBS volunteers and children then brought our program on the road to the Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian congregation on the Indian Reservation in Del Muerto, Arizona. VBS 2017 is already in the planning stages and will be Group's Maker Fun Factory. Plan now to come June 5th – 9th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Montlure Presbyterian Camp was held at Camp Colton in Flagstaff in summer of 2016. Ten children and youth attended through our church, and we were able to sponsor them with \$1,400 in scholarship funds! Registration for the 2017 camp season opened on January 15, 2017.

Discipleship Commission: Youth Report

Submitted by: Anita Ramsey

2016 was a very active year in the life of the FPC Youth Group under the direction of Anita Ramsey. The Junior and Senior High students grew in faith as they studied the Word of God, served their community, and socialized with friends.

STUDY:

During the spring the youth would gather on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening each week to learn about God's plan for them through the study of His Word. Sunday mornings during the spring semester was spent reading and discussing 1st Samuel. During the Summer months the class continued to meet using a curriculum that covered biblical solutions for common problems teenagers encounter. When School started in the fall, the Sunday curriculum switched to lesser known stories of the Bible and a video study of the Book of Esther, and the Book of Ruth. Robert Harding assisted Anita each Sunday morning.

On Wednesday evening, many youth participated in FPC's midweek program, Wednesday WRAP. During the Bible Study portion of the program, Bill Rummier lead the kids through devotionals, study, and prayer.

This was a Triennium year for the Presbyterian Church. FPC sent John John Schlak and Bryan Hickey as delegates to the campus of Purdue University for five days for what has been described as an extreme summer camp. Both individuals said they enjoyed the week and will never forget the experience or what they learned.



SERVICE:



The year also brought many opportunities to serve the church and the community. One of the ways the youth served the church was by presenting the annual youth service. This was held the last Sunday in April. It was a multi-generational service involving not only the youth, but also their parents. In place of a traditional sermon, the kids participated in a mock Jeopardy game utilizing information they had learned throughout the year in Sunday School. Other forms of church service included serving on the youth cook team for Wednesday WRAP and serving dinner for the Dinner Theater in the spring.

In July, several of the youth participated in the all-church mission trip to Chinle under the direction of Sue Eisenklam. The youth acted as group leaders for the VBS that was being provided for the local church. They also participated in painting the church's exterior.

In August FPC Preschool was added as another youth mission project. The youth helped with preparations for the start of school by making boo-boo bags and cleaning the playground. In September they helped the preschool with their 30 year anniversary celebration by labeling water bottles, collecting items and creating raffle baskets, and by serving dinner at the celebration.

The youth participated in the annual Mesa Make a Difference Day. We spent the morning of October 22nd cleaning up a pathway in west Mesa.

The youth have an ongoing mission to support the organization Feed My Starving Children by packing food and by raising funds to donate. During the Lenten season the youth distributed small plastic tubes and requested that the congregation members keep these on their dining table and each day give thanks for their food and place a quarter in the tube to pay for a meal for a starving child. On Easter Sunday, the members returned their quarter-filled tubes. Over \$1000 was raised for the FMSC organization. In December, the youth held their "Cookie for you, Dinner for two" fundraiser. They gathered in the church's kitchen and baked 60 dozen cookies. Those cookies were packaged and sold, raising over \$400.

Socializing:

The youth enjoyed many different activities throughout 2016. We had a mall scavenger hunt, rock climbing, game nights, bowling, laser tag, putt-putt golfing, Sunsplash, an AZ Rattler game and a Thanksgiving Italian Dinner. Several of our event evenings have been spent enjoying the amenities of the youth room. We have watched many movies on the projection system, played numerous games of pool, ping pong, air hockey and foosball. This summer the room was given a coat of paint with a new color adding a sense of newness to the room.

The Holy Rollers bicycling group has continued this year when the weather has permitted. The group has been opened up to the general congregation and has become a multi-generational activity. We have had about eight rides including an evening ride and to Freestone Park where we had a barbeque.

2016 has been a good year for the youth group. We continue to experience God's grace and blessings as we study, serve and socialize here at FPC.



Discipleship Commission: Preschool Report

Submitted by: Shiloh Murillo, Director



We truly feel blessed at our preschool as we look back at what 2016 has given us! We started out 2016 in the planning phase for our 30th Anniversary Celebration at the Preschool. September rolled around and God blessed us abundantly with the realization that this preschool has been serving families in the Mesa community for 30 years! We worked in partnership with the Boy Scouts, Presbyterian Women, the youth group, FPC volunteers and alumni preschool families to make that evening a truly special occasion! We look forward to bringing this great ministry of First Presbyterian Church to many more children and families in the next 30 years! **Happy 30th**

Anniversary, First Presbyterian Preschool of Mesa!

Over the last year our preschool has worked closely with the Quality First Coach to develop the best practices in our Early Childhood classrooms. Some of our focus has been on the detailed interactions with the children as it relates to increasing their quality experiences. Many times this hands-on training has brought an immediate positive application to the children that we serve! We just finished up our assessment in the Quality First Scholarship Program for renewing our star rating. **We are thrilled to announce our preliminary results indicate that we have earned the 4-Star Rating, which is an increase in quality from our last assessment cycle! Congratulations to all of our teachers and the overall program for earning such high distinction in the Early Childhood community!**



We are seeing a unique change in the family dynamic and lack of involvement that these families are able to share with our program. It has become apparent that the needs of the community and preschool are changing, and we are focusing our efforts on meeting those needs as best we can. The preschool has seen a diminished attendance from families in the community who can pay their full tuition rate. At the end of the school year in May 2016 there were 28 kids enrolled. Due to the changes in the demand for the 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. hours, we polled the families and found that their needs did not meet those hours of operation. Our program changed its hours to 9:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We are working with the Preschool Board to devise a plan for the next school year to consider what the needs truly are. Our funding from the Quality First Grant was reduced for the 2015-16 school year as well. We were allotted 8 full time scholarships which can serve up to 16 children. On a positive note, as of December 31, 2016, we have 31 kids enrolled.

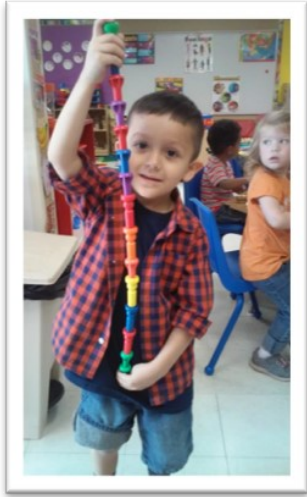


The staff also underwent a series on professional development trainings through the Department of Economic Securities agency this past summer. All of our staff attended training in different areas for Health and Safety including Child Abuse, Nutrition, Sun Exposure, Shaken Baby Syndrome, Playground Safety and many others. It was a 12-hour training series that was required to renew our DES program certification. The other new requirement for DES was incorporating a new Emergency Evacuation Plan. Our program now has the expertise in these areas and many others.

There have been a few physical changes around the preschool as well. We are pleased to announce the progress on the preschool playground. In October, the Head Start program devised a plan to renovate the sand area to bring in a new shade structure, artificial turf, concrete curbing and fencing so that the playground would have better supervision standards. They also replaced the top surface of the rubber cushion underneath the playground structure. It is a refreshing feeling to see the improvements and know that our children and families will be able to enjoy the benefits of that for a long time!

Each week we have had a beautiful partnership with Pastor Lois Hildenbrand during our chapel time with the families. We are enjoying the creativity that Pastor Lois brings to the children during each sermon! She encourages the children to grow in their faith and love of God. Dr. Mark Ramsey is also a huge blessing

because he shares his great talents with us and the kids really enjoy it! Our attendance by the parents has diminished again this year, but that does not change the energy that we foster with these children. We would like to see many more families join us as we worship each week, but sometimes the needs of the parents at drop off time differ from the experiences that we offer to them. Here's to next year's parents and welcoming them to our weekly chapel time!



As we look forward to 2017, we are hopeful that the Lord will continue to bless us by bringing the children of this community to our program. We anticipate this transition period for the Church and Preschool with the coming of a new pastor to be favorable and know that God has good things in store for all of us.

We know that He is present in all that we do here, especially in the hearts of these little children!

Lastly, we appreciate all of your love and your willingness to continue to make the Preschool a ministry of the church. We are very blessed and know that God has so much in store for these children, families and the staff that work with them.



NEW Bible study opportunity for women!



Coffee Break Women's Bible Study will meet Wednesday, February 1st, at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Parlor. Fellowship, friendship, and growing in God's Word are the goals of this new group, which will meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The first topic will be "How Do You Walk the Walk You Talk?" based on a guide by Kay Arthur and the book of Ephesians. What difference does a life of faith make? How can we live out God's priorities of unity, authenticity, holiness, forgiveness, and unconditional love? No preparation or commitment is needed for this group. Come when you can and also enjoy some

coffee and muffins with us. Invite your friends as well! If you have any questions, please contact Gail Soderquist, 602-228-7667.

MISSION

Pastor — Lois Hildenbrand
Mission (Chair--E) — Sue Eisenklam
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

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

Seasonal Ministries (D) — Darlene Sitzler
Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (D) — Jane Potyka

Mission Commission: Annual Report

Submitted by: Sue Eisenklam, Mission Chair

This has been a busy year for mission.

Evangelism

We continue to maximize our online presence. We have increased our Facebook presence as a way of getting the word out about FPC. We conducted a campaign to invite neighbors to the church. In April, three local apartment buildings agreed to distribute the fliers that we created. We invited people from the neighborhood to bring their yard sale stuff and join us for a community yard sale event. Many participated as vendors as well as shoppers. In addition to the community outreach, FPC set up a table to sell donations received from the congregation with proceeds of \$291 being split between the Triennium youth and the 2016 Mission Trip. The Community yard sale was such a success that we repeated it in November after another flier distribution. While a smaller turnout, it was a success as well. Once again there was an FPC table with proceeds of \$303.23 going toward the 2017 Mission Trip.

Assimilation

There were two new member classes, one in March and one in December. Each class had five people who became new members for a total of 10 new members.

Seasonal Ministries

Blood drive: The Mission Commission of FPC, in partnership with the American Red Cross, once again hosted a blood drive. The blood drive which was held in April had 27 registered donors, and collected 31 units of blood. After discussion, it was decided to let go of hosting the blood drive and focus on other mission activities.

Angel Tree: We sponsored three families this year. Two of the families were from the preschool and one of the families was from the FPC neighborhood. One of the families had nine members. As is our tradition, we provided gifts to each of the family members, as well as a holiday meal, other food stuffs, and an assortment of household and personal items.

Mesa Presbyterian Ministries

Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (MPM) had a busy year in 2016. We receive as many as 70 calls a week for rental assistance while funds are available. Jack Oliver and Brent Gregory have joined the MPM team. One hundred nine people were served. Eighty four received rental assistance and 25 received utility assistance.

Deacon's Food Cupboard

The Food Cupboard continues to have a high demand, with approximately 65 bags given out each week. Since we were closed only two weeks this year, we distributed bags 50 weeks for a total of 3,250 bags in 2016. We served 9,000 people in 3,010 households. The value of each bag is \$32.00 x 3,250 bags equals a value of \$104,000. The dollar value from the United Food Bank was \$47,000. The dollar value from the FPC Congregation and Sagewood donations was \$25,000. Contributions totaled \$72,000.

Habitat for Humanity

FPC joined with Habitat for Humanity to reconstruct a house for a woman in Chandler. We worked over two weekends. In addition to those working, members of the church provided coffee and donuts and a lunch as well. FPC's direct financial support in 2016 was \$2,750. Jeanne Partida, who was the contact person for many years, has resigned. Thank you, Jeanne for your commitment and service. The Mission com-

mission has decided to focus on other missions and not continue with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat has been informed.

I Help

FPC hosted 36 Sunday nights in 2016 at an average of 19 ladies each night. There were 1,056 dinners, breakfasts and lunches provided for a total of 1,868 meals. Thank you to the “village” of people who helped on Sunday evenings, who prepared hot breakfasts, who picked up and delivered the laundry each week, who prayed, and who donated drinking water, bath supplies and money. In December we had the annual Christmas party hosted by the WOW small group. There were gifts for each lady, food, games, cookie decorating, and Christmas carol singing. Nancy Tordai has resigned as program coordinator; however, she will serve as mentor for our two new co-coordinators Janet Verch and Renita Jurgensen. Bev Goff has participated as the person who talks to all the ladies and takes prayer requests. She too has decided to resign. Lora Vitale is the ladies’ new prayer request person. Thank you, Nancy and Bev, for your love and dedication to this vital program for so many years.

Laubach Literacy

This past year Mesa Laubach Literacy had 65 tutors. There were 1,803 hours of instruction. Tutors and support staff spent another 1,803 hours driving, training, tracking and preparing lessons. There were 73 students served. There were 13 conversational classes. 11 people are on a wait list. 27 people met their goals.

Special Offerings

One Great Hour of Sharing: 2015: \$1,100.15 — 2016: \$3,040

Pentecost Offering: 2015: \$584.00 — 2016: \$2,466 with \$990 going to FPC Mission trip

Global Peace and Witness Offering: 2015: \$1,475 — 2016: \$1,594 with \$398 going to the work of Leslie Vogel

Christmas Joy Offering: 2015: \$3,567.00 — 2016: \$3,508.02 in 2016. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Mission Matters Workshop

Presbyterian Women invited Rachel Yates, Associate Director for Presbyterian Mission Agency, to be the guest speaker for Women’s Gifts Sunday on March 13th. Taking advantage of having someone as knowledgeable about mission as Rachel here, the Mission Commission hosted a workshop about how mission matters.

Mission Trip

In July, seventeen youth and adults went to the Tseyi Bidaa Presbyterian Church in Del Muerto, Arizona. In the mornings, they painted the fellowship hall and in the afternoons, they facilitated Vacation Bible School with up to 18 children. It was a meaningful experience for everyone who went and the folks from the church appreciated the experience as well. We finished the time with them with a community dinner and performance by the children. They would like us to come back in 2017.

Mission co-worker

In August, session approved a partnership that the mission commission brought to them. We now have our own mission co-worker. Rev. Leslie Vogel is a mission co-worker in Guatemala serving with the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA). She will be coming to FPC in March of 2017!

Mesa Make a Difference

On October 22, a team of 21 people joined together to clean up the Eureka Canal alley near Westwood High School.

MINISTRY

Clerk of Session (Chair) — Linda Hayball
Property (E) — Allan Schultz
Personnel (E) — Kate Buck

Personnel (D) — Susan McMichael
Nominating (E) — Barbara Walker

Nominating (D) — Miki Newbry
Stewardship/Finance (E) — Bob Gerlach

Property

Allan Schultz

There were many projects necessary to repair/replace small items and make repairs to church facilities and the Preschool buildings. These included: simple door stopper, hinge and lock repair/replacement, plumbing repairs, soap and paper towel dispenser replacements. The kitchen ice maker was serviced. All are considered normal and ordinary maintenance issues.

We had several unplanned expenses in 2016. The Sanctuary women's and men's room hot water heater was replaced, the Fellowship Hall rest room grille windows were removed and replaced with frosted glass windows to better conserve the air conditioning, and both restrooms were re-painted. The courtyard rest room was modernized with a new sink and vanity, mirror and a bright yellow paint job. The Christian Education office was re-painted with a brighter color.

There were several small projects completed in 2016 to enhance the appearance of our facility: parking lot curb painting to provide better visibility with white paint versus the dark red, Youth Rooms A and B were re-painted, the Youth Rooms, Choir Room, Parlor and the Sanctuary carpet were professionally steam cleaned, and the kitchen was deep cleaned.

- We re-established the contract with Pied Piper Exterminating to maintain our campus on a three month cycle.
- We hired a part-time custodian for 18 hours a week to better maintain the property.
- We are researching pole mounted lighting fixtures to be placed in the gravel area between the south parking lot and the sanctuary to provide much better lighting in that area. We plan on installation the first quarter of 2017.
- We exceeded 2016 budget allowance by \$311.27 due to some unplanned maintenance items.

The Sanctuary roof replacement was started on December 19, 2016, and was delayed a few days because of inclement weather. The existing concrete/asbestos roofing was removed and disposed of on schedule. The steeple was taken down and refinished with night glow white all-weather paint. New LED lighting was installed to illuminate the steeple at night. The existing sky light was removed and replaced with a new sky-light. The roof replacement was completed on January 11, 2017. **The total cost for this entire project was \$156,630.00**

The steeple lighting work was delayed due to the lack of power at the steeple, the supply wires had been cut several years ago. We are not aware of why this was done. We feel that the wiring can be restored but not without some extensive work to make it happen. Our electricians are working on it. Also the steeple grounding wires were replaced that were stolen a few years ago. **The cost of this is to be determined.**

The overhang of the roof was cleaned, sanded, stained and sealed with a finish that is anticipated to last 15 – 20 years. **The cost of this work is \$4,750.00**

We anticipate continuing our day to day maintenance in the way of repairs and improvements in 2017 to maintain our property in as good a shape as possible and what budget dollars will allow.

Session

Linda Hayball

During 2016, session met in eleven Stated Meetings and one Called Meeting. In addition to the Annual Meeting in February, there were three Called Congregational Meetings. A Pastoral Nominating Committee was elected in May and by-laws changes were approved in August. We met with the Deacons and church staff for our Annual Retreat in August. Seventeen new members were added to the Active Roll and 16 members were transferred or removed. Membership as of December 31, 2016 is 291.

The following members were transferred to the Church Triumphant: Charles Gibson, Pat Miller, Margaret Ryan, Jeanette Laurie, Marlene Verch, Hank Klassen and Dorothy Shearin.

Endowment

The Endowment Committee consists of Jack Gunter, David Frederick, Brent Gregory, Renita Jurgensen, Ron Payton, and Skeets Throckmorton, with Bob Gerlach, stewardship elder, serving as an ex-officio member. The committee met twice during 2016 and has undertaken the following actions:

- Continued oversight of the Endowment Funds including the Kissinger, Mehlhop, Stubblefield, and Montlure Funds with a total value of \$116,016.89 as of December 31, 2016. In addition, the General Endowment Fund value was \$92,431.43 and the Capital Endowment Fund was \$58,225.80. The Worship Arts Endowment Fund value was \$13,873.41, the Organ Maintenance Fund value was \$22,626.62, and the Columbarium Fund value was 24,387.60.
- Received \$10,000.00 for organ maintenance, \$5,000.00 for the general fund, \$1,200.00 for Montlure camp scholarships, and \$240.00 for worship arts.
- Dispersed \$1,400.00 of the Montlure fund income for youth camp scholarships.
- Continued to interpret the endowment concept to the congregation in conjunction with an Endowment Fund brochure and Minutes for Mission, conveying the need for further contributions to the Endowment Fund.

Pastor Nominating Committee

Yes, your Pastor Nominating Committee is still working diligently. After interviewing via skype about seven candidates, we are choosing the outstanding ones to meet face to face. We are excited about the latest candidates we have interviewed and God will let us know if any of them are the right fit for FPC Mesa. Continue to pray for us as we seek our new pastor.

Financial Reports are not published but are available for pick up at the kiosk or church office beginning February 12th.

NEW SANCTUARY ROOF!



FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler
Cards (D) — Cindy Davenport
Older Adult (E) — Steve Muth

Transportation (D) — Doug McNelly
Fellowship Deacon — Mark Waters
Fellowship Deacon — Dan Sitzler
Fellowship Deacon — Dale Gibson

Fellowship Deacon — Ruth Rummel
Fellowship Deacon — Heidi Blincoe
Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman

Fellowship Commission: Annual Report

Submitted by: Dennis Sitzler, Fellowship Elder

The Fellowship Commission puts on, or assists with, many social activities during the year. This provides opportunities for our congregation to enjoy each others' company and provides some fun events to attend. This also encourages our congregation members to invite their friends to come and meet our church family, while having fun participating in the events with us. We encourage everyone to wear NAME BADGES, which we provide upon request, so everyone can easily know/learn each others' names. We also coordinate Coffee Hosts & Baked Goodies teams which provide refreshments during Coffee Time after first service each Sunday in Fellowship Hall.



- Fellowship sponsored a Western Hoedown BBQ dinner with Square Dance caller Bill Kanai — January 16th.
- Fellowship sponsored a “Chili Cook-off” dinner with the Annual Congregational Meeting — February 28th.
- Fellowship held a BBQ following the Worship at Pioneer Park — March 6th.
- Fellowship assisted with the EGGStravaganza event & breakfast — March 26th.
- Fellowship worked as dinner servers/cleanup during the four

dinner theater plays put on by the First Players in April.

- Fellowship sponsored former Channel 3 Sports Anchor Mike Chamberlin — May 1st.
- Fellowship sponsored a Salsa Challenge dinner — May 22nd.
- Fellowship sponsored a “Movie afternoon” with JC Films guest star Tim Goodwin attending the event — June 12th.
- Fellowship put on an Ice Cream Social with Vintage Rocket (John Coulliard’s band) in concert — August 28th.



- Fellowship along with the Deacons sponsored a Potluck dinner with music provided by the 2016 International Senior Quartet Champions “High Priority” featuring our very own Dan Davenport — September 25th.
- Fellowship sponsored a Road Rally and dinner — October 8th.
- Fellowship held a BBQ following the Worship at Pioneer Park — October 23rd.
- Fellowship sponsored our annual Craft Fair — November 12th.

Fellowship Plans for the future

Your Fellowship Commission members are busy making plans for the events we’ll hold in 2017:

- We’ve already held a Western Hoedown BBQ dinner with Square Dance caller Bill Kanai on January 21st.
- The annual Chili Cook-off Dinner will be held in conjunction with the Congregation Annual Meeting February 26th.

PETER PAN

- We'll assist with the Dinner Theater on March 24th, 25th, 31st and April 1st.
- We'll have a BBQ following "Worship at Pioneer Park" on April 9th.
- We'll host our Salsa Challenge Dinner in May, where contestants vie for prizes for the best home-made salsa.
- Family movie night in June.



- We plan on hosting an Ice Cream Social in August, with some type of entertainment planned.
- We will put on another Road Rally in October where teams receive clues and travel the city to locate their destinations and next clues on the route. Prizes are awarded for the team finishing closest to the average course navigation time, with a dinner at the end of the event where teams can exchange "war stories" of the event.



LOTS of fun events will be happening at your church this year. Are there other events that you would like to see us sponsor this year? If so, **LET US KNOW**. New ideas are welcome and needed. We are always looking for new events to provide an opportunity for our congregation and their friends to get together, socialize, and have some fun in the name of our Lord Jesus!



PW and Mission Commission are sponsoring a collection of school supplies for Children's Concern International (Ruth Robinson's mission in the Philippines). Containers are posted in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall to receive backpacks, notebooks, paper, pencils, as well as children's clothing in good repair. The congregation is invited to participate in this mission endeavor.

PW looks forward to hosting Leslie Vogel, missionary in Guatemala, as our guest minister on Women's Sunday in March.

Thank you to Presbyterian Women who were hostesses at a continental breakfast served at the combined Grand Canyon and de Cristo Presbytery meeting in January.

Ladies of the congregation are invited to participate in one of the PW Circles at FPC, a monthly meeting devoted to Bible study and fellowship.

- Eve Circle meets second Monday, 7:00 p.m., parlor
- Deborah Circle meets second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., members' homes
- Lydia Circle meets second Tuesday, 12:00 noon, parlor
- Rachel Circle meets second Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., library

February Birthdays



<i>Peggy Anderson</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Patty Carnes</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Alma Post</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Kara Gregory</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Will Snitzer</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Josh Leichtman</i>	<i>6th</i>
<i>Gary Clark</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>Nate Buck</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Jean Chappell</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Isobel Letizia</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Bob Trimble</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Ginny Mallia</i>	<i>11th</i>
<i>Garrett Hull</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Karen Williams</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Kate Buck</i>	<i>14th</i>
<i>John Peterson</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Bob Schulz</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>John Goings, Jr.</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>Brock Hoyman</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>Sharon Brause</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Richard Schroeder</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Storm Johnson</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Gavin Mallia</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Clara Padelford</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Kim Roberts</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Lucy Carlyon</i>	<i>22nd</i>
<i>R.J. Watson</i>	<i>22nd</i>
<i>Bryan Hickey</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Elly Weinel</i>	<i>26th</i>
<i>Lee Tobey</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Linda Free</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Bob Strader</i>	<i>29th</i>

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.*

Thank you all, our precious church family. Your love, support, prayers, condolences and hugs have meant so much in this very difficult time. We appreciate you all.

Sue and Peter Eisenklam



Calendar Notes

February 5

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 6

Deacons meet

February 13 & 14

Circles meet

February 20

Presidents' Day — Office closed

February 21

Befrienders meet

February 26

Monthly Food Drive

Chili Cook Off

Annual Congregational Meeting



IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Shearin — November 17, 2016



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See calendar on website:
<http://www.fpcmesa.org/about-us/current-events>