

La Palabra

September 2017

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

“You are the Light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

(Matthew 5:14)

As I am getting “settled in” to both FPC Mesa and the city of Mesa itself, I am enjoying learning about all of the wonderful things happening in this area. Our congregation reaches out with Christ’s love through our Food Pantry, our participation in I-HELP, Vacation Bible School, Mission trips, and caring for our own congregation through our Deacons and Befrienders. I imagine there are others ways I haven’t yet learned about!

Many good things are going on in the city of Mesa as well, and I was introduced to some of them at a For Our City Mesa meeting in early August. The mission of For Our City Mesa is to be a catalyst for constructive change at the community grassroots level. The vision is to bring together leaders in the community from faith communities, businesses, non-profit organizations, and local government to identify and address the needs and concerns of our area, as well as promote and explore its many wonderful opportunities. When we all come together, we will all be better for the collaboration!

Here are some of the highlights and opportunities to serve our local community:

- **National Day of Service on Monday 9/11** – Neighbors helping neighbors with a variety of projects. For more info on this, contact Bryan Goodwin, Neighborhood Outreach volunteer coordinator at 480-644-3705 or bryan.goodwin@mesaas.gov
- **Make a Difference Day on Saturday, October 28th** – an opportunity to volunteer for 2-4 hours to give back to the community to help make it a better place. Many “beautification” projects in which to assist including painting, park clean up, etc.
- **Mesa Veterans Resource Center** – Provides job training for vets with funding from a grant from Boeing; volunteers are needed to walk alongside vets to help them get the assistance they need and deserve. Located at MCC downtown campus, Suite 101 www.mesaunitedway.org/mesa-veterans-resource-center
- **CarePortal** – “Connected by technology; Powered by people; Led by God.” This is a means to help meet tangible needs in our community by connecting churches who want to help with the families who have the need. The needs are identified by case managers in the child welfare system and an email is sent out to participating churches within a certain radius (i.e. 15 miles) of the family so that the need can be met locally and a relationship can be developed, if appropriate.

These are just a sampling of the many ways to reach out to neighbors in need and enhance our Mesa community. Of course, volunteers are always needed in our congregation as well! If you have some time to offer and are not sure where there is a need, please don’t hesitate to give me a call or come in for a visit and together we can figure out a place for you to serve!

In Christ’s love and hope,
Rev. Ann Conklin

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WORSHIP

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

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

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

We have a new Sunday morning schedule! Several of our HolyGrounds families asked for an earlier worship time, and our Session voted unanimously to move the service to 11:00 a.m. The Christian Education classes now begin at 10:15 and conclude at 11:00. The first service time has not changed. The complete schedule looks like this:

9:00 First Service
10:00 Social Time (coffee, punch, and cookies)
10:15 Christian Education
11:00 HolyGrounds



It's been five years since a Sunday morning schedule change has occurred, and we are continually working to create a schedule that allows everyone the opportunity to participate in all that FPC has to offer. We have a wonderful and growing CE program, and the time change positions the CE start time even closer to the end of first service and to the beginning of the second service. It is our prayer that the time changes will be a means to draw us all closer together while opening the door for others to share in our ministries.

The Worship Commission is a busy group. In addition to considering time changes, the Commission shares in tasks ranging from the mundane selection of special bulletin covers to the awesome responsibility of allocating Commission funds. Our main focus, however, is Worship. We spend most of our time planning for worship and finding ways to draw others to worship. In fact, with that in mind, a new FPC website will soon be unveiled. The site will be a fresher-looking online presence for FPC!

The Commission also plans for seasonal services, for Worship in the Park, for our choirs, the Prayer Chain, communion services, ushers, and the upkeep of our musical instruments. We prepare for weddings, funerals, and memorial services, and we provide music for special church events, such as theater productions, Artist Series events, caroling for our shut-ins, and even liturgical dance!

During my trip through Las Vegas this summer, it was pointed out to me that there are more churches in Las Vegas than casinos! In fact, during Sunday services, at the Offering, some worshipers contribute casino chips as opposed to cash. Some share their winnings, and some hope to win. Since there are so many casinos, the Catholic churches send all the chips into the diocese for sorting. Once sorted for the respective casinos, one junior priest takes the chips and makes the rounds to the casinos, turning chips into cash. And, he is known as . . . The Chip-Monk.

May God's sense of humor and timing continue to fill us with abundant blessings and guiding grace, and may He continue to move us in new directions which even more powerfully impact the lives of our congregation and community.

Coming Events

- 9/24 (Sunday) All-Church Potluck (German theme, with Sandra Clark on the Accordion!), 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- October - FPC Road Rally (see our October issue and Sunday bulletins for updates)
- 10/29 (Sunday) Artist Series: Cantilena, Randall Thompson "Frostiana" and music by Norman Dello Joio, 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

fpcmesa.org/worship

Humoresque

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

Trump invited the Pope for lunch on his mega yacht. The Pope accepted, and during lunch, a puff of wind blew the pontiff's hat off, right into the water. It floated off about 50 feet, then the wind died down, and the hat just floated in place. The crew and the secret service were scrambling to launch a boat to go get it, when Trump waved them off, saying, "Never mind, boys, I'll get it." Trump climbed over the side of the yacht, walked on the water to the hat, picked it up, walked back on the water, climbed onto the yacht, and handed the pope his hat. The crew was speechless. The security team and the Pope's entourage were speechless. No one knew what to say, not even the Pope. But that afternoon, NBC, CBS, ABC, MSNBC, and CNN all knew how to cover the story. Their banner headlines read, "Trump can't swim." [from Don Krill]

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dennis Sitzler
Cards (D) — Cindy Davenport
Older Adult (E) — Dave Jurgensen

Transportation (D) — Doug McInelly
Fellowship Deacon — Mark Waters
Fellowship Deacon — Dan Sitzler
Fellowship Deacon — Ruth Danaher

Fellowship Deacon — Ruth Rummler
Fellowship Deacon — Kyle Harding
Presbyterian Women — Suzanne Engman
Youth Elder — Sedona Verch

UPCOMING 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!

- September 24th — Potluck Dinner. This will be a German-themed dinner to celebrate Martin Luther and the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Sandy Clark will provide entertainment with her accordion!
- October — The Annual Road Rally! Watch for further information!



Calling All Women! Are you looking for a deeper sense of community, of connectedness to others or to strengthen your own communities? In the 2017-2018 Bible study, "We will explore nine major themes, relate those to other parts of our faith traditions, and tie them together with the overarching motif of community. The community for which the letter (Hebrews) was written interacts, in a sense, with all the communities of which you are a part, because you bring those groups with you wherever you go - they have helped to form you into the person you are. The community in which you study and worship, your family and friends, social and therapy groups...all are a part of you." The study by Melissa Bane Sevier is called *Cloud of Witnesses the Community of Christ in Hebrews*. Come and join us for what looks to be a great study!

We have four circles. Attend different ones to find the right fit for you. Circles will meet beginning in September. **Eve Circle** meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. **Deborah Circle** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in people's homes. Watch the bulletin for monthly locations. **Lydia Circle** meets the second Tuesday of each month in the church parlor at 12:00 noon. And **Rachel Circle** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the library.

DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. — Jasmine Couillard
Adult (E) — Karen Rudin

Children's Ministries (E) — Stephanie Gerlach
Family Ministries (E) — Ellen Hickey

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Bill Rummier

Discipleship News!

Wednesday WRAP will be meeting each week in September. Don't miss out on the music, dinners, games, crafts, fellowship and Bible study! The themes for this month are:

September 6 — Dinosaur
September 13 — Fiesta
September 20 — Pirate
September 27 — Gone Buggy

Good news from Wednesday WRAP! Our amazing weekly chefs have kept our food costs so low while providing amazing meals that we are LOWERING the cost of attending WRAP this year! The new fees will be \$10 per person each block (only \$1.66 per meal!) or \$3 per person for one night.

Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith by Andy Stanley is an exciting small group Bible study that establishes the biblical case for five things God uses to grow an unshakable faith in you. This is the Bible study we are using at Wednesday WRAP in the Adult group. Please join us each week at 6:15 p.m. as we seek to grow our faith together.

Grief Share

The next session of Grief Share will be starting on Wednesday, September 6th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. This is a 13-week program that is open to anyone grieving the loss of a loved one, whether it is a spouse, parent, child, sibling, or friend. It is open to everyone. You don't have to be a church member to attend. Please feel free to contact Ruth Rummier, 480-415-4925, or Dale Gibson, 480-834-3211, or Charlie Golden at charlielgolden@gmail.com or 480-471-5280.



Welcome back to the new school year at First Presbyterian Preschool! We started on August 14th with 29 kids enrolled! We want to give a special shout out and thank you to all of you who have donated school supplies and snacks to the preschool for the beginning of this year. It has helped tremendously, and we are already off to a great start!

We are already looking ahead to the first chapel with Pastor Ann and welcoming the families to praise and worship God here at our school on September 6th. We will start at 9:00 a.m. in Fox chapel. Please join us!

We are also still enrolling for our Quality First Scholarship program and we need your help! We have room in our Pre-K classroom with Ms. Nicki & Ms. Kristy. Please tell all your friends and family with 4-year-old children that we have scholarships available. They are income contingent, but the guideline has been extended to families earning 200% above the federal poverty level. That means if you are a family of 4, you can make up to \$49,200. Amazing! Please help spread the word so that we can fill those spots. If we don't fill them in a timely manner, the state will take those unused scholarships away. We don't want that to happen.

We also want to invite you to join us on September 20th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Fox Chapel for our Parent/Teacher community training. We will be covering the topics of proper hand washing to reduce the spread of disease and germs, as well as doing a daily health check with the children. This is a great opportunity to join the families and grow our community at FPC. All are welcome!

Thank you for all that you do for our little school! WE greatly appreciate it, especially the prayers!
Sincerely, Shiloh Murillo, Director

MISSION

Pastor — Ann Conklin
Mission (Chair--E) — Sue Eisenklam
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

Assimilation (D) —
Marketing (E) — Tammy Miller

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

Peace and Global Witness Offering

It is once again time for one of the four annual special offerings as set forth by our denomination. The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be highlighted in September during a Minute for Mission. The offering can be gathered throughout the month or collected on World Communion Sunday, October 1st. This year we will do both. You may give earlier in September or wait for October 1st. Presbyterian Mission agency provided the following inspiration for your prayerful and generous giving:



PROCLAIM THE PEACE OF CHRIST

“So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.” — Ephesians 2:14-17

The letter to the Ephesians tells us that Jesus came to proclaim a universal peace. While the earthly ministry of Jesus occurred in a specific age and place, the peace he shared is limited by neither time nor geography. As followers of Christ, our call to work for peace begins in our own neighborhoods and extends to the ends of the earth. It is a demanding call, but one that Presbyterians at all levels of the church are seeking to follow. The Peace & Global Witness Offering supports the holistic and wide-ranging witness of the whole church. At the national level, this witness means supporting those working to heal the divisions in violent contexts like South Sudan. It means bringing leaders together who have made a profound witness for peace around the world and deploying them to congregations like yours. It means creating materials that equip congregations to deal with important issues—from disagreements between members of session to bullying at schools to gun violence in our communities. And it means using our seat at the United Nations table to speak up for the vulnerable around the world. This Offering strengthens the collaboration of the Peacemaking Program and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations with the peace work of global partners through World Mission.

Yet the Offering is as much about your local congregation living out a commitment to peacemaking and as it is proclaiming Christ's peace. Twenty-five percent of the Offering stays in your congregation and 25% is retained by your mid council, enabling you the freedom to provide support where you need it the most. It has meant two pastors in Texas starting an organization that seeks civility in political discourse. It has meant supporting the work of a mission co-worker in finding reconciliation in difficult international contexts. It has meant scholarships for students recognized as peacemakers, resettlement of refugees, and support for shelters where those who are abused may find refuge. This Offering sustains our witness in many forms and at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), but all are bound together in Christ. Together they are a living proclamation of the peace we know in Christ, who puts an end to hostility and speaks peace to all, near and far.

Last year, FPC Mesa designated their 25% to go to our mission co-worker, Leslie Vogel with CEDEPCA in Guatemala. In a recent update, Leslie said, “August 7-18, I will be co-facilitating and traveling with a group sponsored by the Presbyterian Program and Environmental Justice/Creation Care Programs of PCUSA...I am very excited about this opportunity to connect work that CEDEPCA does to support and strengthen psychosocial health and resilience to environmentally destructive projects such as gold and silver mines, African Palm (for palm oil), etc...From there I will be accompanying the Rev. Delia Leal, Regional Coordinator for CEDEPCA's Women's Ministry as she travels and speaks via the International Peacemaker Program. Pastor Delia will be speaking about some of the powerful ways in which CEDEPCA and the church in Guatemala are addressing intense forms of violence in the society and particularly against women and girls. I will have the privilege and opportunity to serve as Delia's Spanish-English interpreter during the itineration.” Funds sent to Leslie support these and other peace and global witness programs.

Mission (continued)

I Help Support

I-Help needs a few more volunteers for hosting and for laundry positions from now until the end of the year. A training session will be offered in the Parlor on Saturday, September 16th, at 9:00 a.m. Anyone interested in the program is welcome to attend. The agenda is to show any new volunteers how easy it is to help and to answer any questions current volunteers may have. If you are curious about the program, please plan to attend. Another way to support this program is to contribute supplies. They are currently running low on travel size shampoo and are always in need of bottled water. Contributions are stored in the men's bathroom in the youth room. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can make a difference with this mission. Please direct any questions or concerns regarding I Help to Janet Verch at 480-218-1357 or email: jverch1@cox.net

Deacon's Food Pantry

The food pantry needs canned fruits and canned meats such as beef stew or ravioli. They **do not need** tuna or cereal. Thank you for your on-going support of this vital mission.



MINISTRY

Clerk of Session (Chair) — Linda Hayball
Property (E) — Robert Harding
Personnel (E) — Jeanne Partida

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

Nominating (D) — Steve Post
Stewardship/Finance (E) — Bob Gerlach

As of July 31, 2017, First Presbyterian Church has an operating deficit of \$26,735, representing 16.2% of pledged income. Expenses are down by \$7118. However this will come back to Budget as our new Pastor's benefit package kicks in. Receiving the unpaid portion of your Pledge would be greatly appreciated.

	JULY 2017		2017 YEAR TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET + / -
INCOME	31,105	34,904	217,595	244,330	(26,735)
EXPENSE	36,265	34,904	236,518	244,330	(7,812)
DIFFERENCE	(5,160)		(18,923)		(18,923)

If you have questions regarding this report, contact Bob Gerlach at 480-458-7619.

The Ministry of Befrienders

Do you have the gift of compassion and care? Do you enjoy visiting with people? Do you have time to share God's love and ensure people who can no longer join us in worship know that their faith family at FPC still remembers them and cares about them?

The Befriender Ministry may be just the way for you to share your time and God's love! Befrienders are connected with a person or two in the congregation who can no longer come worship with us on Sunday. They remain in contact via regular phone calls and visits and also take communion to these folks following our communion service on the first Sunday of the month. Guidance is given for these visits, but mostly people just want some company and to know the church cares about them. For more information about this very important ministry, please contact Gana Martin at 480-962-1648.

September Birthdays



Monte Nelson	1st
Mark Ramsey	3rd
Ruth Rummmler	5th
Charlie Golden	7th
Diana Johnson	7th
Gregg Gerlach	10th
Gabe Homolya	11th
Suzanne Engman	13th
Rosalie Lowe	13th
Sam Smith	13th
Skeets Throckmorton	13th
Beverly Snitzer	14th
Adam Williams	14th
Paul Green	15th
Miki Newbry	16th
Nuha Ghubril	17th
Bill Rummmler	17th
Mildred Kimbrough	18th
Helen Thielke	18th
David Tobey	18th
Rediet Newbry	21st
Kyle Harding	21st
Henry Woodrum	21st
Paul Harding	22nd
Andrea Schultz	22nd
Richard Lowe	24th
Steve Post	25th
Susan Sylvia	25th
Sandra Clark	26th
Don Wallen	26th
Jeanette Chaney	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.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Newbry, Brooks, Miki, Rediet and Ashlyn
 2719 N. 76th St.
 Mesa, AZ 85207
 Brooks' cell: 480-364-6439

Calendar Notes

September 4

Labor Day — Office Closed

September 6

First Ringers rehearsals begin
 Sanctuary Choir rehearsals begin

September 7

Dei Gloriam rehearsals begin

September 16

Officers Retreat

September 17

Commissions & Session meet

September 24

Monthly Food Drive
 Potluck Dinner



IN MEMORIAM

Bob Trimble, August 13, 2017



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and phone calls. They have been a source of inspiration and strength for Kelly and me. Thank you for Rev. Ann and Mark Ramsey in all they did to help us through this time. We will miss Gary, but will remember the wonderful church service you all gave to us.

Love, Sandy & Kelly Clark

First Presbyterian Church
161 N. Mesa Drive
Mesa, AZ 85201

See calendar on website:

<http://www.fpcmesa.org/about-us/current-events>

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Friday 8:30 - 12:00 noon

Ann Conklin, Pastor

Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries

Jasmine Couillard, Christian Education Director

Linda Reeves, Office Manager/Publications

Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director

Don Krill, Buildings Supervisor

Anita Ramsey, Youth Director

Teresa Kiser, Bookkeeper

James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus

Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus