

La Palabra

October 2017

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Ann

The Gift of Giving

While stewarding the many gifts God has given us is a year-round commitment and, indeed, an important spiritual practice, this is the time of year when we begin thinking more intentionally about our gifts in terms of pledging them to the mission and ministry of God as expressed through First Presbyterian Church. Created in the image of a very generous and giving God, giving is a core part of our identity as Christians.

We are called to care for the least of these and FPC does that very well through a variety of ministries including:

- Deacon's Food Cupboard – provides a bag of groceries for 50-60 people each week
- I-HELP – provides showers, two home cooked meals, and a safe place to be and to sleep for 25 women three Sundays per month
- Mesa Presbyterian Ministries – provides rental and utility assistance for the working poor in our community
- Annual mission trips to serve people and needs near and far

We minister to and serve those in our own congregation through worship, education, and fellowship opportunities in addition to Wednesday WRAP, GriefShare, VBS, Befriender ministry, and an active small group ministry. We have a vibrant and active preschool. Our space is utilized by many groups for many purposes such as Head Start, Boy Scouts, AA, and Square Dancing. What a bounty of gifts that are present here at FPC Mesa!

All of this ministry and much more happens as a direct result of your gifts ~ your tithes, your offering, your pledges. And, as you are probably well aware, there are ever increasing needs in our congregation and community. God is counting on us as God's faithful servants and followers of Jesus Christ!

I want to challenge you this fall to think not about giving to a budget, but rather giving to God for God's ongoing ministry here at FPC. I want to challenge you to think not about the burden of giving, but the gift of giving. What a gift it is to be able to express our deep gratitude to God for all God has done for us through a faithful response of sharing our gifts – and sharing them generously! It is truly a gift to reflect God's character in the gift of giving!

Pledges will be received and dedicated to God on Sunday, October 29th. Thanks be to God!

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

Pastor Ann's Service of Installation will be held in our Sanctuary on Sunday, October 22nd, at 4:00 p.m. I hope that all will make every effort to attend and to keep in prayer this special time of worship and praise. We will celebrate the beginning of Ann's FPC pastorate and the great work of our Pastor Nominating Committee and their role in hearing God's call to welcome Ann as the Pastor of our new ministries together. We are being greatly blessed. The installation service will include our Sanctuary Choir, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, and HolyGrounds Praise Band. It will be a service rich in music and celebration and offering us all an opportunity to worship and give thanks to God for bringing our congregation to this new ministry opportunity. Thanks be to God!

FPC Artist Series: In honor of American Architect Frank Lloyd Wright's 150th birthday, the Arizona Cantilena Chorale will present an FPC concert of music by American composers, in our Sanctuary on Sunday, October 29th, at 4:00 p.m. The program will include Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*: Seven Country Songs, three selections by Norman Dello Joio: *Jubilant Song*, *A Fable and Of Crows and Clusters*, and Howard Hanson's *Psalm 150*. A freewill offering will be accepted. The Chorale was established by its director, Dr. Glenn Bennett, in the summer of 2005 by bringing together the vocal talents of students and friends from



past and current performing groups who have an ability to create a homogenous vocal blend. The Chorale's repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary choral works. They have worked with local symphony orchestras as well as collaborated with other choruses to perform major works such as Handel's "Messiah" and the "Messa di Gloria" by Puccini. Most recently, the Arizona Cantilena Chorale has performed in the international tour "Video Games Live" at the Mesa Arts Center. Additionally, they have performed with the Symphony of the Southwest in productions of Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," at both the Mesa Arts Center and the Valley Vista Performing Arts Center in Surprise, Arizona.



Looking Ahead: Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir invites you to "Mickey and Meatballs", a Disney Concert & Spaghetti Dinner to be presented in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 4th, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars, save the date, and watch for more information in our November *La Palabra!*

All are invited to Karen Rudin's Studio Recital. Karen's students will be joined by our FPC Choristers in a delightful afternoon of music for voice and a variety of instruments. The event will take place in our Sanctuary on Sunday, November 5th, at 4:00 p.m. Come and enjoy the musical talents of our Choristers and the students of Karen's "Starshine" Music Studio.

If you are interested in these and other upcoming musical activities, please take a moment to visit our new website, www.fpcmesa.org. The Worship page includes further information about our Artist Series and other various music ministries.

Coming Events

- 11/4 (Saturday) Dei Gloriam Concert, "Mickey & Meatballs", Fellowship Hall, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- 11/5 (Sunday) Karen Rudin Studio Recital (with our FPC Choristers!), Sanctuary, 4:00 p.m.

Humoresque

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

A farmer lived on a quiet rural highway. As time went by, the traffic built up and eventually got so heavy and so fast that his free range chickens were being run over, at a rate of three to six a week. So the farmer called the local police station to complain, "You've got to do something about all these people driving so fast and killing all my chickens." So the next day the policeman had the Council erect a sign that said: SCHOOL CROSSING. Three days later the farmer called the policeman and said, "You've still got to do something about these drivers. The 'school crossing' sign seems to make them go even faster!" So again, they put up a new sign: SLOW: CHILDREN AT PLAY. That really sped them up. So the farmer called and said, "Your signs are no good. Can I put up my own sign?" In order to get the farmer off his back, the policeman said "Sure. Put up your own sign." The phone calls to the Police Station stopped, but curiosity got the better of the Officer, so he called the Farmer, "How's the problem with the speeding drivers; did you put up your sign?" "Oh, I sure did and not one chicken has been killed. The policeman was really curious and thought he'd better go out and take a look at the sign. He also thought the sign might be something the Police could use elsewhere, to slow drivers down. As he drove by the farmer's house, his jaw dropped the moment he saw the sign. 'NUDIST COLONY' 'Slow down and watch out for chicks!' [from Barb Walker]

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!

- October — The Annual Road Rally! Watch for further information!
- November 11 — Community Yard Sale, 8:00 a.m. to noon



Presbyterian Women Circles have begun meeting to Study *“Cloud of Witnesses, the Community of Christ in Hebrews”* by Melissa Bane Sevier. Circles are an opportunity to fellowship with a group of women seeking to grow their faith in community. The statement of purpose for Presbyterian Women is *“Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves; to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study; to support the mission of the church worldwide; to work for justice and peace; and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom.”* We invite the women of the church to join one of our circles. Eve Circle meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. Deborah meets in member’s homes the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Lydia meets on the second Tuesday at 12:00 p.m. in the parlor. Rachel meets on the second Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the library. Do come join us!

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 Rummeler

Discipleship News!

Wednesday WRAP will be meeting twice in the month of October. We hope to see everyone there including some new friends! We meet for music, dinner, fellowship, games and age appropriate Bible study. Everyone age 5 – 105 welcome! Themes for the month are:



October 4 – Over the Rainbow



October 25 – Great Pumpkin

Five Things That God Uses to Grow Your Faith by Andy Stanley. In this DVD study, Andy Stanley builds a biblical case for five things God uses to grow BIG faith. Join us on October 4th in the library at 6:15 p.m. as we discuss this study.



What a wonderful feeling in the air! The temperatures are starting to drop and the kids are really enjoying the change. As we begin October, we are reminded that change is not a bad thing but a necessary part of God's plan for us. With excitement, we want to announce a couple of changes that are happening at our little school. First, we would like to welcome Sara Wheat, our new teacher for our 3-year-olds. She is a fun and caring teacher for these little minds! Second, we started out the school year with just 11 kids enrolled before the first day of school. But within the first two weeks, we enrolled 20 more kids! A great change indeed! Also, we are hoping to start our fall planting in our new garden boxes on the playground. Hopefully, we will have a few things for the kids to help grow along the way bringing the classroom experience outside!

Additionally, we want to send out our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of the First Presbyterian Church congregants for their generous contributions of school supplies that started our program off on the right path. We are so humbled and thankful for your generosity! The children are thoroughly enjoying them! Thank you!

In Christ's Care,
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

Mission Commission is gearing up for a full slate of activities going on!

Peace and Global Witness Special Offering will be received on World Wide Communion Sunday, October 1st. You will find envelopes in the pews. As was the case last year, the session has approved that the 25% which the church gets to earmark will go to the peacemaking efforts of our Mission Co-worker, Leslie Vogel, in Guatemala. Thank you for your prayerful contributions.

Mesa Make a Difference Day will be Saturday, October 28th. FPC has participated in this event for the last several years. We typically have 20 – 25 youth and adults work an assignment given to us by the city. While we have put in the necessary paperwork to join the efforts that day, we have not yet been given our assignment. Please watch the bulletin for further information.



Shoe Drive is scheduled for the month of October. The folks at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Prescott, who are also partners with Tseyi Bidaa Church in Del Muerto, have asked us to join them for a shoe drive for the children of Tseyi Bidaa. They have a need for new or gently used shoes for boys and girls, preschool through high school. The shoes need to be winter appropriate. Tennis shoes and boots would be good. The young people especially appreciate popular name brands. We will collect shoes throughout the month of October. There will be collection boxes in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and the office. The shoes will be taken to Presbytery meeting on November 4th to be given to Virginia and Danny Halwood to take to the children.

Community Yard Sale will be Saturday November 11th, from 8:00 a.m. -12:00 noon. As in the past, we will have tables available to reserve, at no charge, for your own yard sale items or crafts as well as tables available for our church neighbors. There will also be tables for mission trip participants to sell your donations with proceeds going to the 2018 mission trip. Furthermore, PW will have their annual bake sale and Mission Commission and Mesa Presbyterian Ministries will have an information table of community resources available. Mark your calendars to be part of this community event!



Food Pantry – As always, thank you for your ongoing support and generosity to the food pantry. They need canned fruits, canned vegetables other than green beans and canned meats like ravioli or beef stew or chili with meat but **not tuna fish**.

I-Help is looking for volunteers to help the breakfast crew on Monday mornings from 5:30 - 7:30. For a very long time Alice Schlak, Peter Eisenklam and more recently Hal Engman have provided hot breakfasts to the ladies. If one of them is out of town or not available, it can be challenging. Thus, we are looking for people to give them a break and/or serve as backup. We are asking for a commitment of one Monday

FPC needs a bookkeeper to replace Teresa Kiser, who has resigned. This position is part time, 8-10 hours a week. We are looking for someone who has a working knowledge of QuickBooks. The bookkeeper will need to keep accurate, detailed records of monetary transactions including payroll, banking, accounts payables and reports. For further information, please contact the Personnel Elder, Jeanne Partida 602-292-8940 or jp44az@cox.net.

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

Completed Projects Or Where Did our Money Go?

To bring you up to date on how we spent money in the last year and half I have listed some of the completed improvements we made.

1. Sanctuary roof. We obtained four roof replacements quotes for a new roof. The cost was estimated at \$250,000.00. Through several contractor interviews looking at different products and roofing plans we were presented with a plan for an all metal roof, 30 to 40 year life, installed for \$170,000 .00 completed. A savings of \$80,000.00.
2. We were very aware of the lack of proper lighting on our campus. We spoke to the city of Mesa to determine if we could raise the current parking light poles to about 30'. The answer was no because our property bumps up against residential property and higher lighting would not be permitted. We learned that we have to work with what we got.
 - a. We changed the eight lamps in the two existing pole lamps with much brighter LED lamps at about \$80.00 each. They should last about 8 -10 years verses the Metal Halide lamps that lasted 1 ½ years at \$100.00 each.
 - b. We added three pole mounted lamps in the gravel area between the sanctuary and south parking lots, they too are LED lamps with about a ten year life.
 - c. We have purchased a gable mounted LED flood lamp to be mounted at the roof peak above the sanctuary main double doors, this lamp should provide light to most of the east parking area.
3. We had painted the A and B youth rooms including both restroom/shower areas and kitchen. The Fellowship Hall rest rooms, Courtyard rest room and the CE office.
4. We hired a part time custodian for 18 hours a week for the same cost of the professional service for 10 hours a week. You will note that the campus is clean and bright once again. Her name is Belinda Clark, say hi to her and thank her for her very good work.
5. We contracted for exterminating service every three months to rid us of an insect invasion on our campus.
6. You will note that the Head Start and Preschool play ground has been greatly improved and made safer. This cost was paid by the Head Start program, Thank you to them.

There were several maintenance items handled by our Maintenance Supervisor and Dave's crew, most unseen by our congregation. We have the campus fire extinguishers and lighted exit signs and FH Kitchen stove hood fire system inspected by the Mesa FD and certified for one year. We have the underground Natural Gas lines inspected and certified for one year. Both of these inspections are paid for out of the Property Maintenance accounts.

There are many day to day repairs made by several church members from toilet replacement/repair, small paint jobs and several work orders to keep the Preschool and Head Start areas acceptable during State and County inspections.

— Respectfully submitted, Allan Schultz

The Nominating Committee of FPC continues their work throughout the year. Sometimes we have to fill vacancies where a member has resigned. We also will begin on offices in 2021 that need to be filled. If you may be interested in an Elder or Deacon position, begins in June 2018, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Michael Gerlach, Renita Jurgensen, Chuck Mikel, Steve Post, Helen Thielke, Janet Verch, Barbara Walker

	AUGUST 2017		2017 YEAR TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET + / -
INCOME	28,299	35,735	245,895	285,900	(40,005)
EXPENSE	42,727	35,735	269,093	285,900	(16,807)
DIFFERENCE	(14,428)		(23,198)		(23,198)

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

October Birthdays



Jennifer Martin	1st
Dylan Hickey	2nd
Carter Buck	3rd
Ruth Danaher	3rd
Irene Lenke	5th
Rita Scriba	5th
Steve Wylie	8th
Connie Chisholm	11th
Brooks Newbry	12th
Sam Thielke	12th
Bob Mallia	14th
Dale Gibson	15th
Penelope Sitzler	16th
Dan Reeves	23rd
John McNary	25th
George Montgomery	26th
Diane Brause	27th
John Couillard	27th
Katherine McMichael	27th
Cary Preston	29th
Janet Verch	29th
Luke McInnelly	30th
Chuck Michel	30th

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

October 1

World Communion Sunday

October 9 & 10

Circles meet

October 15

Commissions & Session meet

October 22

Sunday School Teacher Meeting

October 28

Mesa Make-a-Difference Day

October

All Saints Day
Dedication Sunday
Monthly Food Drive



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

See calendar on website:
fpcmesa.org/calendar

LA PALABRA

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First Presbyterian Church

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Mesa, AZ 85201

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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

James R. Bruening, Pastor Emeritus

Robert Martz, Pastor Emeritus