

La Palabra

January 2013

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Brant

The New Year is always a good time to take stock, to evaluate, to clarify; to examine commitments, determine which need to be kept, which need to be let go of, and what new commitments need to be added. Too often in life we *accumulate* but fail to *eliminate*. We pack in more stuff, but haven't cleaned out anything (have you looked at your closets lately?). We make more financial obligations but haven't reduced our expenses in other areas (have you looked at your bank account lately?!). We say 'yes' to more time commitments but haven't said 'no' to some things we really don't need to be doing any more.

A new year is a new start, a break, a chance to make resolutions, but perhaps just as important, a chance to evaluate the resolutions, habits, promises, and obligations we have made before. It is so easy to get overloaded...we need to pause and reflect about the year ahead.

As you go about this reflection I have just one question for you: have you made room for God? Our Lord's plans are perfect, but they can only be realized if we have made time and space for *first things*:

- ❖ daily devotions
- ❖ worship with the community of faith
- ❖ studying God's word with other Christians
- ❖ service to others

These may seem like a lot of added responsibilities, but in truth none of the other stuff is going to make much difference if it's not God's purpose for us.

An old saying suggests that we can find out what is important to us by looking at our checkbooks and seeing how we spend our money. But a corollary to this must surely be that we can find out what is important to us by looking at our calendars and seeing how we spend our time. What message are you sending to your Lord, your children, your friends, and perhaps even to yourself when you don't make time for the things of God?

My prayer for us all is that we can re-prioritize our lives in the New Year, according to God's perfect plan. My prayer is that you will find some quiet moments between Christmas and New Years in which to ask God to direct what new habits and obligations you should *accumulate* and which you should *eliminate*. My prayer is that we will all move into the New Year with a peace and confidence that only comes to those who are in God's perfect plan.

In Christ,
Brant

P.S. Important calendar notes for January include:

- January 1 - FPC Prayer Walk (10:00am)
- January 6 - Annual Mesa Prayer Walk (3:00pm) (see article on the Mission page)
- January 12 - East Valley Presbyterian Men Gather (5:00pm) (see article on Discipleship page)
- January 19 - All Church Clean Up Day
- January 25/26 - Presbytery of Grand Canyon (FPC Mesa hosting) **Our own Bob Shultz is being installed as Moderator**—watch for details!

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WORSHIP

Dir. of Music (Chair) — Mark Ramsey
Worship (E) — Dan Reeves
Prayer Chain (D) — Clela Larson-Enck

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Karyn Weaver
Worship (D) — Verna Green

Mark's Remarks

(480) 964-8606, EXT. 24; CHOIRS@COX.NET

Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything. - Plato (c. 429 – 347 BC)

Announcements

The First Players will present “The Music Man” on April 5, 6, 12, 13.
If you are interested in participating with the cast or crew, contact the church!
The schedule and scripts are on the Church Office counter,
and auditions by appointment will be held 1/9-1/12.



Our January 13th worship service will be blessed with the talents of our very own Lyric Baritone Tom Sitzler and his beautiful bride, Soprano Stephanie Ball. Join us for worship at 9:00 a.m. as we enjoy their immense talents and listen to a wonderful variety of solos and duets, including Give Me Jesus, How Great Thou Art, Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho, The Lord's Prayer, On Eagle's Wings, His Eye is on the Sparrow, and The Little Brown Church.



Tom stepped into the professional arena of performing as the Old Gypsy in *Il Trovatore* with Union Avenue Opera. He then premiered the role of Bob in *Family Dynamics* by composer Bill Lenihan, with the St. Louis City Opera. Tom also participated in the Victoria J. Mastrobuono Emerging Artist Program, in New Jersey, covering Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Recently, he was heard singing Silvano in *Un ballo in Maschera* with UAO. He has completed a two-year apprenticeship with the Bach Society of St. Louis, where he performed bass solos in Mozart's *Requiem* and covered solos in J.S. Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. He is currently preparing the roles of Pish-Tush in *The Mikado*, the Bouncer and Dandy #3 in *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, and the Jailer in *Tosca*, all in the upcoming season with Winter Opera of St. Louis.

Stephanie spent two years as a Young Artist for the Bach Society of St. Louis where she developed a passion for oratorio. With the group, she performed solos for Mozart's *Requiem* and Robb's *Requiem*. Recently, she has performed solos for Händel's *Messiah*, Fauré's *Requiem*, and Poulenc's *Gloria* with other St. Louis organizations. Her credits include many prestigious awards. Among them are the Lloyd and Sally Hansen Singer/Actor Award of Excellence and the National Society of Arts and Letters Shirley Winston Award. Stephanie was also a district winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in both Arizona and Kansas City. She is a voice teacher for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis' Artist in Training (AIT) Preparatory Program, where she gives voice lessons to high school students and prepares them for AIT auditions.

When the de Cristo and Grand Canyon Presbyteries meet on our campus late this month, the opening worship service will be led musically by our own FPC choirs! Special music will be led by the Praise Band, Hearts Hands and Voices Singing Choir, and One Voice, and a featured hymn, *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, will be led by the Sanctuary Choir, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, and Organist Barbara Walker. Also, we will be highly honored to have FPC member Bob Schulz installed as Moderator of our Grand Canyon Presbytery! Join us for worship on Friday, January 25th, at 7:00 p.m.

The Sanctuary Choir will retreat to Gold Canyon United Methodist Church early next month. The group will rehearse pit choir music for the First Players' production of *The Music Man* and also Dale Wood's *Service of Darkness*, which will be sung with our Artists-in-Residence Cantilena during this year's Maundy Thursday Service. The retreat will conclude with our choir and the Gold Canyon choir joining forces to offer special anthems during the Sunday worship services.

Humoresque

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

A man was riding his Harley along a beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, the Lord said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish." The biker pulled over and said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can ride over anytime I want." The Lord said, "Your request is materialistic. Think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking, the supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific, and the concrete and steel it would take! It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind." The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, "Lord, I wish that I and all men could understand women; I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, and how I can make a woman truly happy." The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?" [from Alice Schlak]

MISSION

Pastor (Chair) — Brant Baker
Mission (E) — Brooks Newbry
Hunger Action Enabler (D) — Sandra Clark

Assimilation (D) — Carol Holdhusen
Evangelism (E) — James Norris

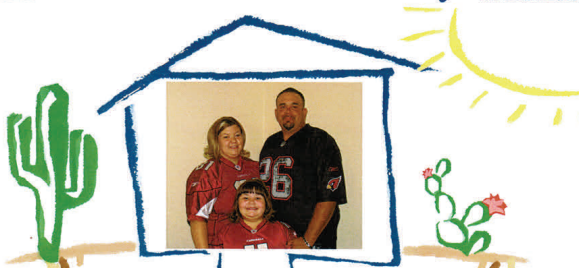
Seasonal Ministries (D) — Susan McMichael
Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (D) — Jane Potyka

2013 Mesa Prayer Walk – Sunday, January 6th, 3:00 p.m.

Last year over 25 churches walked and prayed over one mile of the perimeter of the City of Mesa (while a bunch of motorcyclists rode and prayed the whole distance!). This year churches in Gilbert are joining this prayer effort, so we'll be praying for both cities as we walk and pray our assigned mile along Baseline. Plan to meet at 3:00 at the southwest corner of Greenfield and Baseline on January 6th at 3:00 p.m. Note: we'll be walking west so plan to bring a hat and sun glasses.

Prayer Walking has been described as "intercession on location." When we pray and walk we are opening ourselves to allow the Spirit to bring things into our line of vision that can guide our words of intercession, thanksgiving, and confession. In this sense walking prayer becomes a kind of discernment or listening, as God speaks through our eyes and so prompts our hearts to prayer.

The Miramontes Family



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WINTER BUILD

The Habitat build this winter will be for the Miramontes family: Sergio, Tiffany, and their daughter Haylee, who currently live in a mobile home in poor condition in a run-down park. The living conditions are causing worsening asthma for Haylee. They are looking forward to having a stable and healthy home for themselves. The build address is 581 Friar Ave. in Apache Junction. We currently have 16 people signed up to work on the weekends of January 19th (lunch and 10 workers) and February 9th (lunch and 10 workers). Please contact David Bozmoski (boz615@gmail.com) (602-423-9917) or Jeanne Partida (jp44az@cox.net) (602-292-8940) for more information.

Pathways

The Pathways course is an outstanding 13-week survey of God's work in the world from biblical days until today! It includes biblical, historical, cultural, strategic, and partnership information and will be taught in our area on Monday nights starting in February. Several of our members have taken this course and found that it changed the way they looked at what has, is, and will happen in the world of God's kingdom. The course features world-class speakers who will help students make a creative inquiry as to their unique place in God's plan. Go to: www.pathways2.org for more information and registration info.

FELLOWSHIP

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

Transportation (D) — Ron Payton
 Parish Deacon 1 — Sharon Schroeder
 Parish Deacon 2 — Denise Worden
 Parish Deacon 3 — Rosemary Chisnall

Parish Deacon 4 — Darlene Sitzler
 Parish Deacon 5 — Jeanette Chaney
 Presbyterian Women —



SAVE THE DATE! On Monday, March 11, 2013, FPC will have a Court of Dreams Event with the Phoenix Suns! March 11th is the Monday of spring break, so it's not a school night. This event was very well attended last year, and anyone who went can attest to how much fun we had! It's a great event to invite friends and family. Tickets are again only \$20 for the game and an hour of basketball fun on the actual Suns' court after the game. Contact Linda Reeves in the church office to reserve your tickets.



As we look forward to 2013, let us **CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN**. May we celebrate our Gifts in Service, Bible Study and Fellowship. May we work with women around the world in transforming the church in an emerging era.

Join a PW Circle and add your GIFTS to the multitude of women around the world in service to others.

January Meetings:

January 8th	CT Meeting	1:00 p.m.	Library
January 14th	Eve Circle	7:00 p.m.	Parlor
January 15th	Deborah Circle	9:30 a.m.	TBA
	Lydia Circle	12:00 p.m.	Parlor
	Rachel Circle	1:00 p.m.	Library

New members and guests are always welcome for fellowship, Bible study and service. For additional information, call Rosemary Goings (962-5065) or Alma Post (833-3103).

Alma Post, PW Moderator

Editor's Note: For several months we have provided a link to the La Palabra on our website using the Friday "Email Blast." Many of you have said you appreciate receiving the newsletter in this manner, while some of you have said you prefer the hard copy sent through the mail. While it is our plan to continue to mail hard copies, we would like to know how many of you would be interested in receiving the link only. This would save on the cost of printing and mailing each month. The La Palabra is also available directly on our website, www.fpcmesa.org, using the Newsletter link.

The plan is to begin the scaled-back mailing with the March La Palabra, so please let me know your preference by February 15th. I can be reached via email at pubs@fpcmesa.org or by phone at 480-964-8606.

Thank you!

Linda Reeves

DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. — Jasmine Couillard
Director of Youth —

Children's Ministries (E) — Carol Anderson
Family Ministries (E) — Patty Carnes
Adult (E) — Jack Oliver

Youth/Young Adult (E) — John Hee
Youth (E) — Tricia Ramsey

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Wednesday Night Live (WNL) will resume with block 3 on January 9th! Register now so you don't miss out on the music, dinners, Bible studies and so much more. This is a weekly way to connect with the different generations of our church and community. Volunteering with or just hanging out with the children and Youth can bless and enrich your life in numerous ways! WNL runs for five weeks and is just \$15 per person. Please contact Patty Carnes or Jasmine Couillard if you have any questions.



SONWEST ROUNDUP VBS

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School 2013!!! We will transform our church campus into SonWest Roundup from June 3rd – June 7th. Start getting those boots shined, your cowboy hat dusted off and your favorite pair of jeans out from the back of your closet. Yee Haw!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School is now a few weeks into the Winter session and things are going great! If you haven't been to Sunday School and need help finding a class, please contact Jack Oliver or Jasmine Couillard. Parents of children in the preschool through sixth grade classes: How is your child's Sunday School teacher doing? Our teachers find time in their busy lives to plan fun and exciting lessons for your child each week. If you have noticed something extra special that your child's teacher has done, please let them know! The teachers welcome your feedback!

EAST VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S EVENT

Plan to attend this event entitled "Associated Body of Christ" on Saturday, January 12th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Representatives from various organizations will be on hand to share what they are doing in our area and around the world. Those organizations include: Habitat for Humanity, Christian Motorcycle Association, Oasis Microfinance International, Church of the Master Narthex Youth Center, and more. The main speaker will be Jack Oliver. Dinner will be prepared by Boy Scout Troop #257. Tickets are \$10 each. For more information, call 480-201-8078.

Happy New Year! We hope that you and your family celebrated the grace of our Lord's birth together. It has been a beautiful time for us to share our joy with you and the families at the preschool.

We have great news to share with you! The Pre-K #2 classroom expansion has just been completed, and we are now able to accept 8 more families into that classroom. We already have three families starting on January 7th! Please let your friends and family know that we have space available for them at our school.

This month we will be learning about winter, transportation, community helpers and the ocean. We will be visited by community members who are nearby to teach us about what they do for us. If you would like to come and share how you contribute to our community, please let me know. We would love to have you as our guest.

We want to thank all of the families for their sweet gifts that helped to make the teachers feel special. We feel very blessed to have such wonderful families in our community!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director

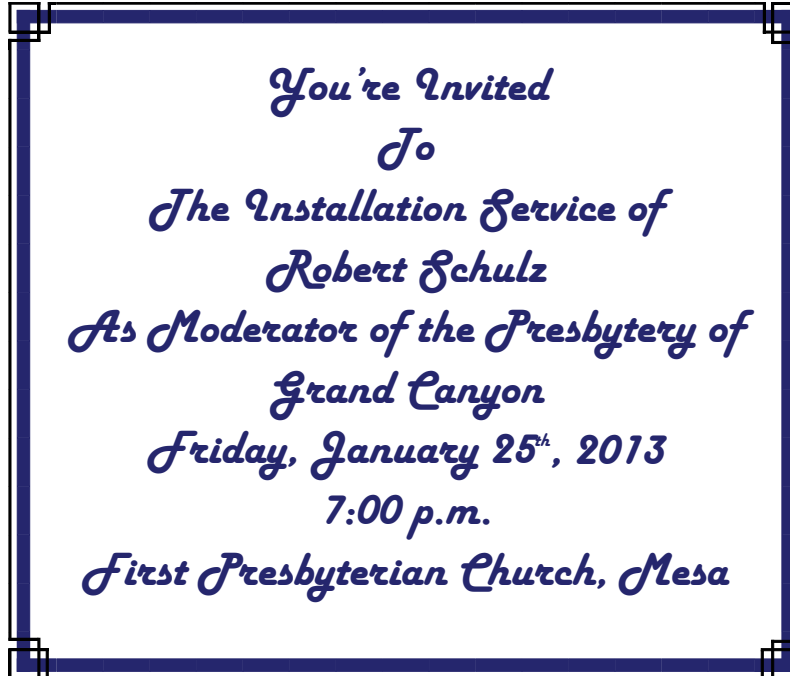


MINISTRY

Clerk of Session (Chair) — Carol Gerlach
Property (E) — Sam Thielke
Personnel (E) — Jo Wilson

Personnel (D) — Tammy Miller
Nominating (E) — Barbara Walker

Nominating (D) — Bill Anderson
Stewardship/Finance (E) — Jim Schwartzmann



HELP NEEDED

The Presbytery of Grand Canyon and the Presbytery deCristo will meet at our church on Friday, January 25th, from 12:00 noon until 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, January 26th, from 7:30 a.m. until approximately noon. Being the host church means we have quite a few responsibilities. If you can volunteer to assist in any of the capacities listed below, please call Barbara Walker at 480-964-2226 or the church office.

Overnight accommodations	Office coverage
Hospitality Room Service	Host/Hostess
Donate goodies for Hospitality Room (Breads, Cookies, etc.)	

You are welcome to attend any of the sessions. Register as a visitor and you will get a packet of information, but you will not have the privilege of voting.

PRESBYTERY OF GRAND CANYON— January Churches for Prayer

January 6 — Trinity Presbyterian, Prescott
January 13 — University Presbyterian, Tempe
January 20 — Flagstaff Federated Church
January 27 — Church of the Master, Mesa

January Birthdays



Stephanie Gerlach	1st
Jenna Towe	1st
Rebecca Wal	1st
Ryan Posthumus	2nd
Alyene Trimble	3rd
Dale Baker	4th
Robert Stickney	5th
Josiah Alvarado	6th
David Bozmoski	6th
Callista Schwartzmann	6th
Taylor Skarphol	6th
Courtney Ambri	7th
Tamala Miller	8th
Joan Still-Woods	8th
Nate Robinson	9th
Kelly Woods	10th
Nancy Woods	10th
Susan Logan	14th
Kim Laneville	15th
Stan Snitzer	15th
Jan Montgomery	16th
Dan Davenport	17th
Helen Letizia	18th
Cameron Hee	20th
Bill Anderson	21st
Jason Reeves	21st
Polly Betterton	23rd
Bea Towe	23rd
Laura Cone	25th
Ashlyn Newbry	25th
Alma Oberly	25th
Patricia Miller	26th
Charles Gibson	29th
David Jurgensen	29th
Adalyn Sitzler	29th

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

Calendar Notes

January 1

New Year's Day — Office closed
FPC Prayer Walk

January 6

Mesa Prayer Walk and BBQ

January 8 & 14

Circles meet

January 10

Catalyst begins!

January 12

East Valley Presbyterian Men's Event

January 15

Befrienders

January 19

All-Church Workday
Habitat Build
Youth Ice Skating

January 20

Commissions and Session meet

January 25 & 26

Presbytery at FPC

January 27

Monthly Food Drive



We would like to thank the members and friends of FPC for their generous gifts of stuffed toys, which were donated to Cardon Children's Hospital Toy Drive. With everyone's support, we were able to deliver approximately 60 brand new toys for their Hope Closet for sick children.

Thank you!

Women of Wonder Small Group

