

# La Palabra- 2012 Annual Report Edition

February 2013

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## ***A Message from Brant***

This month's La Palabra is an overview of the amazing variety, depth, and creativity found in the ongoing ministries and missions of FPC. We call it the Annual Report, and you may not want to read it all in one sitting—it'll wear you out! The number of people doing so many things so faithfully each and every week is simply amazing. This is one busy church!

One of the main highlights for this past year was the study and implementation of an all-church education hour on Sunday mornings. The roots of this change were in the work of the Session's Growth Task Force, who suggested that unless and until we are growing *spiritually* no other substantive or meaningful growth is possible. This finding led us to re-arrange our entire Sunday morning schedule, putting into place more closely graded children's classes, and providing more adult educational opportunities as well. **My hope and prayer is that you will continue to avail yourself of this important aspect of spiritual growth in 2013!**

And...you won't have to wait long for a good reason! We will be starting an all-church (Lenten) study this month. Bob Schultz, in his capacity of Moderator, has requested all the churches of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon participate in "24 Hours That Changed The World." This promises to be a good opportunity to examine in detail that all-important last day of our Lord's life, which will happen during the sermons. Of course there is also a small group component, as well as a personal devotional guide (available from your small group leader or the church office while supplies last).

The Annual Congregational meeting will be on Sunday, February 10th, starting at 5:00 with a Chili Cook Off and Covered Dish Dinner in Fellowship Hall (no football that night so don't worry!). Please bring your potluck according to this schedule: last name beginning with A-H Side dish; I-O Salad; and P-Z Dessert. Chili Cook Off Contestants: please bring a minimum of one gallon of chili. Chili must be home made, Texas style red chili – no canned chili, and either with or without meat. PRIZES will be awarded for best overall chili, and best vegetarian chili. PLEASE SIGN UP DURING COFFEE HOUR. The deadline for contest entrants will be Sunday, February 3rd.

After all the chili fun, we'll hear reports from each Commission on all that they have accomplished this past year and all that they are hopeful about in the year ahead. At the conclusion of each report we'll celebrate all that God is doing in our midst! Please note: you can also pick up a copy of the full 2012 financial report from the Kiosk if that is of interest to you. No vote is taken on the budget, but there will be a vote on proposed changes to the pastor's call (a 2% cost of living increase was recommended by the Personnel Committee for all church staff, including the pastor).

God is doing wonderful things in our midst—it's going to be a good year!

In Christ, *Brant*

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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

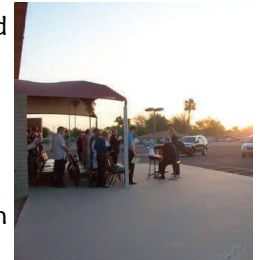


Each of our church choirs participated in our worship services at least once each month during the spring and fall. In addition, several events highlighted our year together in ministry:

- Artist Series: Fox Chapel Concert with Nota Bene
- Dei Gloriam Concert at Camino Del Rey
- CoffeeHouse Promotional Concert: Brian Weaver & Nate Huss Acoustic Show
- Artist Series Pianist Mary Beth Carlson and Territorial Brass led 9:00 a.m. worship services
- First Players 4-Show Production of Annie
- Haydn Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross, Sanctuary Choir and

Cantilena, with Director Dr. Glenn Bennett, soloists, strings, piano, and organ

- Easter Sunrise Service on Sanctuary Patio (followed by breakfast in Fellowship Hall)
- FPC FunFest at Organ Stop Pizza
- VBS Music, led by Miki Newbry and Nelly Nobis
- Artist Series: Love in Motion Signing Choir from Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church, San Diego, leading Worship Music
- Music for Weekly Preschool Chapel, led by Brant and Shiloh
- Concert and Lesson for Combined Music History Classes of MCC Red Mountain Campus



Easter Sunrise Service



One Voice

- Summer Ice Cream Social with “Open Mike” Entertainment (Fellowship)
- Praise Band Concert for Mission Trip Fundraiser Dinner
- One Voice Concert
- Artist Series & Fellowship: Mike Chamberlin, “The Singing TV Guy”
- 15th annual concert of Broadway duets, with Joan White and accompanist Bea Towe, Skirm Auditorium at Friendship Village and FPC Fox Chapel

- Sanctuary Choir potluck-party, home of Barb & Graham Walker
- Music Sunday “Let Love Ring”
- Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir performed at the Desert Botanical Garden *Las Noches de las Luminarias*
- Summer worship music was led by Organists Barbara Cook and Barbara Walker and Director Marlene Verch. Choirs included the VBS Children, Love in Motion Signing Choir, First Ringers, Praise Band, Vocal Octet, Summer Choir, Women’s Choir, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, Tenor-Bass Ensemble, One Voice, and Family Choir. We also had a Sunday of Instrumentalists, a Sunday of Soloists, and a Hymnfest.

We are blessed with about 100 congregation members participating in our music program. I continue to be thankful for each singer, ringer, signer, and instrumentalist. I pray that each is blessed by God's gift of music and joy in ministry. Special thanks go to our choir leaders: CHORISTERS (Grades 3-6), Karen Rudin, Director and Bea Towe, Accompanist; GUITAR BAND, John Couillard, Director; FIRST RINGERS, Bea Towe, Director; HEARTS HANDS AND VOICES, Ellen Gillespie, Director and Joan White, Assistant Director; JOYFUL NOISE (K-2), Miki Newbry & Linda Hayball, Co-Directors; ONE VOICE, Anita Ramsey, Director; SANCTUARY CHOIR, Bea Towe, Accompanist; FPC DRUM CIRCLE, Gray Baker, Director; and YOUTH BELLS/TINTINNABULATORS, Bev Goff, Director and Bryan Tryon, Assistant Director. Thank you also to our PRAISE BANDS for providing musical leadership for our worship services.

Respectfully Submitted, Mark Ramsey

## COMING EVENTS

- ◇ February 8-10 (Fri-Sun): Sanctuary Choir Retreat to Gold Canyon United Methodist Church
- ◇ February 10 (Sunday): FPC Potluck (5:00 p.m.) and Annual Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- ◇ February 13 (Wednesday): Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary, 7:00 p.m.
- ◇ Tickets to the First Players Production of *The Music Man* (April 5-6, 12-13) may be purchased now via the Artist Series page of our church website (fpcmesa.org) and will be available in the Church Office beginning February 24.

**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 2012 included:

- Training Sessions for Soundbooth Operators, Liturgists, Communion Servers, and Ushers;



Worship in the Park

- Special Services: Winter Visitor Sunday, Women's Sunday, Youth Sunday, Stewardship Sunday & Ministry Fair, with music by Territorial Brass; Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter (Sunrise, Traditional, HolyGrounds), World Communion Sunday (with breads from around the world), Thanksgiving Sunday, Advent, Christmas, and an off-campus missional "Worship in the Park."

- A wonderful Easter Sunrise Break-fast, thanks to Jo & Don!

- Proposal to add a liturgical response following the reading of Scripture: Leader: "This IS the Word of the Lord... People: THANKS be to God" (to show our intention to increase respect for God's Word). **APPROVED.**
- Proposal to offer prayer time for people wanting that in connection with worship (following first service, in Quiet Room, with a rotation of prayer leaders). **APPROVED.**
- Growth Task Force Brainstorming Group: Pagels, Halversons, and John Hee. To get ideas for our HolyGrounds service, the group attended worship services at other East Valley churches. Ideas were assimilated at a brainstorming session of the worship attendees and were brought to the Worship Commission for discussion and implementation.
- All Growth Task Force items for Worship have now been addressed, with many thanks to the Growth Task Force for their careful and prayerful planning.



HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse

### Items for Session Approval

- Proposal to purchase new Sanctuary Choirloft Lighting, to include cost effective and longer lasting LED (white) lights, with Lukert Productions to handle installation. Pledges of \$3,000 were received from Sanctuary Choir members, with remaining costs to be taken from Memorials & Bequests (approximately \$2,000.). **APPROVED.**
- Proposed 2013 Communion Dates - the first Sunday of each month, excluding December, plus Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve. **APPROVED.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Mark Ramsey, (Chair) Director of Music Ministries  
 (Deacon) Verna Green, Worship  
 (Deacon) Karyn Weaver, Funerals/Memorials  
 (Deacon) Cleta Larson-Enck, Prayer  
 (Elder) Dan Reeves, Worship  
 OPEN, Worship – HolyGrounds  
 Susan Durand, Greeters  
 Don Wilson, Ushers  
 Jo Wilson, Liturgists



# MISSION

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

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

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

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## **Mission**

**Brooks Newbry**

We had an active year of mission outreach to our community. One highlight was our trip to the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, near Globe, where we worked on building two homes for needy families. Twenty-one of us, including youth and adults from our congregation and a few friends, spent two exhausting and rewarding days on the rez. Another missional outreach was Mesa Make A Difference Day during which about thirty hardy souls washed trucks for the United Food Bank, celebrating God, joining with friends and serving our community.

## **Evangelism**

**Jim Norris**

We have enjoyed reaching out to our community in various ways this year, expressing openness and opportunity to all. The focus of our work was an advertising campaign in The Groves Report, promoting the programs and activities of our church, and a campaign aimed at newcomers to the area. We also replaced the sign on Mesa Drive and explored future options in signage (perhaps digital one day). Despite all these efforts it remains true that many people who join our church are brought or invited here by other members.

## **Assimilation**

**Carol Holdhusen**

The Assimilation Deacon is responsible to contact second time visitors to our church. Phone calls welcome them to our church and answer questions, and any useful information is passed back to the Pastor. I watch for new faces in the congregation on Sunday morning and try to welcome them to our church family. The other responsibility is assisting Pastor Brant with the new member class—telephoning the list of new members and giving them a reminder of the class date and place. This past year I provided the new member class with the treats and drinks during their break time.

## **Seasonal Ministries**

**Susan McMichael**

**Blood Drive:** FPC Mission Commission sponsored two blood drives in conjunction with United Blood Services. On May 6, 2012, 14 potential blood donors rolled up their sleeves resulting in 12 successful procedures (80% of our goal was fulfilled). On October 28, 2012, 11 potential donors stepped forward resulting in 8 successful procedures (53% of our goal was fulfilled).

**Christmas Angel Tree:** The Mission Commission sponsored five neighborhood families at Christmas. With the generous help of the congregation, we provided gifts for each family, a holiday meal, as well as an assortment of household and personal care items. In keeping with tradition, the Angel Tree project was a resounding success.

## **Labauch Literacy**

**Patricia A. Pyle**

Our 71 active members contributed over 3,500 hours tutoring, driving and preparing lessons for our 72 active students during the year beginning January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. In addition, the support staff contributed over 2,500 hours training tutors, tracking student and tutors and keeping the statistics which were then reported to ProLiteracy in Syracuse, New York. We are also proud to report that two of the students became U.S. Citizens during this period. A portion of the reported hours were for a conversation class chaired by one of our tutors. Not all of the participants are registered as students but, none the less, benefited from this chance to practice their English. The support of FPC is greatly appreciated.

## **Mesa Presbyterian Ministries**

**Jane Potyka**

Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (MPM) had a busy year in 2012. MPM became a stand-alone 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and grant applications have been submitted to various agencies for future funding. Total number of calls when the MPM phone line was open – 686. (note: the MPM line holds 100 calls until the line is cleared so 686 does not reflect the need. The 100 call limit usually is reached within two days.) Total number served was 154: utilities 31, rent 74, food/meals 2, medical 5, transportation 39 and misc. 3. Total income was \$40,766 and total spent \$33,854.

## **Deacon's Food Cupboard**

**Sandra Clark**

The Food Cupboard continues to have high demand, with approximately 60 bags being given out each week. If each of these 3,000 bags goes to a family of four, there is an impact of 12,000 people served, and an estimated dollar value of nearly \$120,000! It takes a lot of volunteers to make all this possible, and thanks to Jane Potyka, Jan Peterson, Pat White, Gana Martin, Marilu Thompson, Kevin Woods, Bonnie Puckett, Jan Smith, Kelly Clark, Dee Masters, Jackie Kambak, Susan Woods, and Gary Clark. A very special thanks to Matt Hayball, who donates the use of his truck and time each week to make the pick up from United Food Bank!

# 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

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The Ministry Commission is the “business arm” of the church. It oversees Property and Grounds, Stewardship, the Finance (and Endowment) committees, Personnel, Nominating and Session.

## Property

**Sam Thielke**

Here is a list of some of the more major (\$\$\$) building and grounds accomplishments for 2012:

- Replacement of the Preschool roof
- Replacement of the Fox Chapel air conditioning unit
- Moving and reconfiguration of the dry well
- New identification signs for some of the buildings and/or rooms
- Installation of a new entry door for Fellowship Hall with an accompanying “eyebrow” accent
- Partial remodeling of Fox Chapel
- Upgrade of landscaping and housekeeping personnel

## Stewardship & Finance

**Jim Schwartzmann**

Thanks to our generous and considerate congregation, we had a very successful stewardship program and pledge drive in 2012. We had more people send in pledge forms than last year and the total pledges were higher than last year. 2012 is the first year in several years that the total amount of pledges sent in was greater than the budget amount for the year. That means we had no shortages to make up at the end of the year. We were not only able to make our General fund budget, but we also have a second year where we are able to add money to our Capital fund reserve fund for future major Capital fund expenditures which are going to happen. The Session also approved, for the first time, additional Church bylaws which established a permanent Finance Committee for our church to oversee and review financial elements of our Church and maintain a healthy financial balance here. We were able to pay down our mortgage debt by payments and received an additional \$2,000 to pay down additional principal. We had the best timely response yet for sending in the 2013 pledges. Nearly all our pledge cards were returned within a week or so of pledge Sunday which allowed us to establish and finalize our 2013 budget without having to make guesses on potential income for the 2013 year. Finally, the 2013 total budget is the same as the 2012 year but there are differences in various categories and commissions within the budget.

## Endowment Committee

**Jack Gunter**

The Endowment Committee consists of Jack Gunter, Brent Gregory, Mary Jane Hee, Skeets Throckmorton, and David Frederick, with Jim Schwartzmann, stewardship elder, serving as an ex-officio member. The committee met three times during 2012 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 \$87,364.64 as of December 31, 2012. The General Endowment Fund value as of December 31, 2012, was \$77,634.67.
- Disbursed \$900 of the Montlure Fund income for camp scholarships, disbursed \$1,000 of the Stubblefield Fund for Luke Parker’s seminary expenses, & disbursed \$120 of the General Endowment Fund for Red Cross training.
- Continued to interpret the endowment concept to the congregation in conjunction with an Endowment Fund brochure, Minutes for Mission, and Sunday school presentations, conveying the need for further contributions to the Endowment Fund.
- Received \$14,639.15 of FPC’s Capital Fund to create a Capital Endowment Fund. The value of the fund as of December 31, 2012, was \$15,533.17.

The committee will continue to serve the endowment needs of the membership of FPC.

## Nominating

**Barbara Walker**

The following persons comprise the Nominating Committee as of June, 2012: Bill Anderson, Deacon, Randy Gray, Congregation, Robert Harding, Congregation, and Phillip Pagels, Congregation. Since June there were two Elder resignations: the Youth/Young Adult position was filled by John Hee and Adult Education was filled by Jack Oliver, with approval of the congregation. We are in meetings now to fill the slate for 2015 positions that will be vacated in June.

**(Ministry Report continues on page 9.)**

## 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 —

### Fellowship Activities in 2012 – Annual Report



Eggstravaganza

- ◇ Fellowship assisted with retirement potluck dinner for Bob Gerlach January 8th.
- ◇ Fellowship sponsored Chile Dinner January 30th.
- ◇ Fellowship assisted with Super Bowl Sunday February 5th.
- ◇ Suns Court of Dreams Event March 4th.
- ◇ Fellowship sponsored Barbeque Lunch at Worship in the Park March 25th.
- ◇ Fellowship assisted with EGG-stravaganza April 7th.

◇ Fellowship sponsored a Salsa

Challenge May 5th.

- ◇ Fellowship sponsored Road Rally and dinner October 6th.
- ◇ Fellowship sponsored TV Singing Guy and potluck dinner November 3th.
- ◇ Fellowship sponsored Craft Fair November 17th.



Craft Fair

### Fellowship Plans for the future

Your Fellowship Commission members are busy making plans for the events we'll hold in 2013. We have plans for a Potluck Dinner in February, Linda Reeves and staff have planned the SUNS Court of Dreams event for early March, we'll have the Worship at the Park BBQ and EGG-Stravaganza events in late March. The Music teams are putting together the annual church musicals in April. We'll have a Cinco de Mayo Salsa Challenge in May, an Ice Cream Social in August, another Road Rally in October, and another great Craft Fair in November. LOTS of fun events will be happening at your church next year.



Suns Court of Dreams

Are there other events that you would like to see us sponsor through the next year? If so, LET ME 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!

Dan Davenport – Fellowship Elder

[Dan.Davenport@cox.net](mailto:Dan.Davenport@cox.net)

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women of FPC Mesa are part of the worldwide church through service and mission support of Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery, the Synod and General Assembly. The purpose of Presbyterian Women is 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 strengthen the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witness to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Presbyterian Women Circles are Deborah, Eve, Lydia, and Rachel. Eve meets the second Monday evening of each month. Deborah, Lydia and Rachel meet the second Tuesday of each month. Circle meetings include a Bible study, Business and Fellowship.

The Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team consists of selected officers and representatives from each Circle. The Coordinating Team meets the first Tuesday of each month. Membership in the Circles has increased during 2012.

Grace Groups have been formed to bring together women of similar interest. Groups include games; knitting and crocheting; and sewing & quilting. These items (16 baby & crib quilts, 14 laundry bags, 8 play shorts, 6 lap quilts and 10 T-shirt night gowns) provided by these groups are distributed to our home bound members, hospitals and to the Ganado Clinic which serves the Native American population in that area.

Circle Members give to various charities and causes through their monthly pledges and donations to the Spring Birthday Offering, Fall Thank Offering and the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Memorial donations are used to support the kitchen. Also, cash donations, Campbell Soup Labels, and Box Tops for Education are collected and donated to Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



PW Sewing



Circle Meeting

### **ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS**

◇ **Spring Gathering February 25th** – All women of FPC were invited to join together for lunch, a music program, quilt show and fellowship.

◇ **Women's Sunday March 18th** - PW organized the service. Lois Hildenbrand was the speaker. Robert Gerlach was presented with PW Honorary Membership Certificate and Pin for his service to FPC and the community.

◇ **Presbytery Horizon Bible Study Review April 28th** – Presbytery-wide Bible Study Review of "The General Epistles" was held at FPC. This was an opportunity for PW members to review the 2012-2013 Bible Study recommended by General Assembly Presbyterian Women.

◇ **Fall Gathering October 2nd** – All women of FPC were invited to attend a Welcome Back Fellowship Luncheon and CT meeting. Donna Yordy, Moderator-elect of Presbytery PW was the guest speaker.

◇ **Fall Presbytery Gathering October 20th** - Seven members from FPC attended this Presbytery-wide meeting held at John Calvin Presbyterian Church.

◇ **Fundraising Bake Sale November 17th** – The Bake Sale was organized and coordinated with the Fellowship Commission's Fall Arts and Crafts Show.

◇ PW also assisted with Memorial Receptions and provided a Continental breakfast for the Officers' Retreat.



Women's Sunday

2012 has been a busy and rewarding year for PW members as we continue to share our financial blessings and talents to serve God through FPC Mesa. We say, Thank You, to each Staff and Congregational member who continues to support our efforts.



Bake Sale at Craft Fair

Alma Post, PW Moderator

# DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. (Chair) — Jasmine Couillard  
Children's Ministries (E) — Carol Anderson  
Family Ministries (E) — Patty Carnes

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

There have been some really exciting changes in Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in 2012!

Each Sunday at FPC we now offer a complete Sunday School program with classes for children (starting at preschool age) all the way through adult. Sunday School runs from 10:30 – 11:20. If you haven't attended a Sunday class yet, consider making a New Year resolution to increase the amount of Biblical study you do weekly - and start by attending a class. Each week we have an average of 90 children, youth and adults participating in study at church either after or before their chosen Worship service. I would like to extend a big thank you to our Sunday School teachers – Lanai Mills, Kim Bozmoski, Miki & Brooks Newbry, Anita & Mark Ramsey, Tammy Miller, Ruth Letizia, John Couillard, John Hee, Brent Gregory, Jack Gunter, Lois Hildenbrand and many other small group leaders and substitutes. Carol Anderson stepped in as Children's Elder in April of this year. She has graciously taken on a combined elder position overseeing the preschool, nursery and children's Sunday School. She also organizes and prepares activity bags and worksheets for the children to utilize during Worship. Carol has done an amazing job and is a valuable asset to the Discipleship commission!



The church Nursery is open each Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This allows parents with children 5 years of age and under to attend Church service and/or Sunday school while knowing their child is being lovingly cared for. Each week there are approximately 1 – 3 children in the nursery between first service and Sunday school. In 2012 there were 5 different children cared for in the Nursery at one time or another. The Nursery staffs 13 regular volunteers on a 6 – 8 week rotational basis.

This fall we launched a brand new Wednesday night program designed for children kindergarten through adult. Our new program is called Wednesday Night Live. We gather in four 5-week blocks during the school year from 4:52 – 7:00 p.m. Sign up now to participate in block 3 which will run through February 6th. Cost is only \$15 per person for the entire block. Please pre-register by downloading the form from the church website. So far this year we have 50 children and adults attending each week. That includes over 27 adult volunteers! We have seen seven kids come for the first time ever. We have had 11 new adult volunteers. Thank you, Patty Carnes, for your willingness to serve the church as the Family Ministries Elder (directing Wednesday Night Live and Vacation Bible School amongst other duties) since June of 2011!



Vacation Bible School 2012 was SonRise National Park. Patty Carnes was the assistant director, and we registered 45 children, age 3-12, to attend Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Eight of the registered children had never been to FPC before. One family continued to participate in FPC Preschool and Wednesday Night Live after VBS. VBS had 40 adult and youth volunteers! Vacation Bible School 2013 is already in the planning stages. The theme will be SonWest Roundup and will be held June 3rd - June 7th.



Bibles were presented to children in 3rd and 7th grade, as well as to children that didn't own a Bible. We were able to place 11 new Bibles into children's hands this year.

Nine children in grades 4 - 12 from FPC registered to attend Montlure Presbyterian Camp in summer of 2012. \$900 in scholarship funds went to benefit those 9 children!

If you are looking for a new and fun way to use your talents at FPC, please let me know. In order to continue offering such excellent programming in Christian Education, we are always in need of volunteers. I would be happy to find a position that fits your schedule and abilities. God bless!

— Jasmine Couillard, Director of Christian Education



The Preschool has truly been blessed in 2012! There have been new and exciting things going on and many changes have happened. A huge thank you goes out to Nicki McInnelly and the highly qualified teachers from the 2011-2012 school year. They worked so hard to maintain the quality standards that our preschool's reputation stands on, and we continue to be blessed with referrals and committed families to continue educating God's children.



Our facility is licensed for 59 children and our current enrolled is at 48. There are three children receiving Department of Economic Security Childcare benefits. We participate in the First Things First Quality First childcare scholarship program through the Department of Education. For the 2012-2013 school year we were granted 17 spots for the FTF Pre-K scholarship and 13 spots for the QF childcare scholarship program. This equals almost \$100,000 in grant revenue providing services to 30 children.

Because of some of the requirements in the grant, we decided to make a directorial change in the summer months. The proposal was made to the Preschool board in the spring. By June, interviews were underway and a prospective candidate was identified. Shiloh Murillo began with First Presbyterian Preschool on July 1, 2012. Since March we have been adjusting to the changes associated with this.

The premises and playground have had a few changes this year, too. In the Jackson building, classrooms C and D have been renovated by tearing down the adjoining wall to expand it into one large classroom allowing for more children to attend without increasing the cost of hiring two new teachers. What a difference it has made! We are thrilled to see this long-time dream come true for our school. New bulletin boards have been placed in the hallway, classroom and outside of the director's office making communication and visual displays more accessible to the families, AND we have been very blessed to receive grant funds to buy new toys and equipment for the playground.

We have the fortune of being accepted as a Quality First Smart Support service site at no cost to us! This means that our staff is receiving weekly hands-on training in the classroom dealing with behavioral, social and emotional issues with the children in our care from a Certified Behavioral Therapist. Our therapist is Liz Plotkin with Southwest Human Development. It has been a tremendous benefit to have her here.

This school year (2012-2013) we have partnered with Pastor Brant and Mark Ramsey to bring the children a once-a-week family chapel time. It has been grace-filled and special for the children to have their families with them as they learn more about God's plan. We sing songs, tell Bible stories and share a uniquely special time with Our Lord.

Praise God, our preschool is finally free of the debt owed to the church! We have worked hard to be good stewards of our resources and have also begun contributing to the utility and paper products costs for the school and church. We are so thankful to the FPC community for continuing to keep the Preschool as a ministry of the Church and support us through the good times and the rough spots.

We would like to thank our dedicated Preschool Board: Pam Godfrey, Ginny Mallia, Jasmine Couillard, Nicki McInnelly, Laura Schmid (parent representative), Carol Anderson (Church Elder's representative), and Ellen Hickey (former member). Their outstanding concern and dedication to this preschool over the years has been a priceless gift of caring and support for the children that come to our school.

We are slated for a busy enrollment this spring and summer (2013) and look forward to receiving the joy of sharing God's creation with the children and their families. Our gratitude abounds and our hearts are overflowing with excitement for what lays ahead for this sweet little preschool we call home.

In His Will,  
Shiloh Murillo, Director

**Ministry Report (continued)**  
**Session**

**Carol Gerlach**

During 2012, Session met for eleven Stated Meetings and three Called Meetings. In addition to the Annual Congregational Meeting in February, there were three Called Congregational Meetings. We met with the Deacons and church staff for our Annual Retreat in August. The Active Roll: 23 new members were added and 16 members were transferred or removed. Membership as of December 31, 2012 is 387. The following members were transferred to the Church Triumphant:

1/02/12	Marguerite Dowling	7/17/12	Homer Lytle
1/25/12	James Partida	8/15/12	Mary Wamble
4/25/12	June Jackson	10/13/12	Henry Ghubril
4/26/12	Lynn Marshall	11/11/12	Howard Godfrey
6/26/12	Robert Oberly		

## February Birthdays



Peggy Anderson	1st
Patty Carnes	1st
Alma Post	1st
Jen Sitzler	1st
Kara Gregory	2nd
Will Snitzer	2nd
Alexander Wells	4th
Josh Leichtman	6th
Gary Clark	7th
Ada Schwartzmann	7th
Logan Saulsby	8th
Nate Buck	9th
Carter Herod	9th
Isobel Letizia	9th
Bob Trimble	9th
Aaron Chesko	10th
Ginny Mallia	11th
Karen Post	12th
Kate Buck	14th
Stacia Koopman	14th
Sherry Masters	14th
Ruth (Skippy) Muth	15th
John Peterson	15th
Robert Schulz	15th
John Goings, Jr.	16th
Sharon Brause	19th
Abby Patton	19th
Richard Schroeder	19th
Storm Johnson	21st
Gavin Mallia	21st
Clara Padelford	21st
Kim Roberts	21st
Lucy Carlyon	22nd
Lillian Radebaugh	22nd
R.J. Watson	22nd
Bryan Hickey	25th
Shelby Castela	26th
Elly Weinel	26th
Lee Tobey	27th
Andrew Cordone	28th
Linda Free	28th
Bob Strader	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.



A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who in any way assisted at the Presbytery meeting. Each of you helped to make for a very successful event.

Barbara Walker

**La Palabra Mailing.** If you have not done so, please let me know as soon as possible if you want to receive La Palabra via mail or link. We will begin reduced mailings with the March newsletter.

Linda Reeves

### Calendar Notes

#### **February 3**

Souper Bowl of Caring

#### **February 8-10**

Choir Retreat

#### **February 10**

Potluck Dinner and Annual Meeting

#### **February 11 & 12**

Circles meet

#### **February 17**

No Commissions or Session  
(Combined February/March meeting on 3/3/13)

#### **February 18**

President's Day — Office Closed

#### **February 19**

Befrienders

#### **February 23**

Montlure Alumni Gathering

#### **February 24**

Monthly Food Drive



### IN MEMORIAM

Maxine Miller — January 7, 2013



Financial Reports are not published on-line. Copies of the reports are available in the church office.

**EPC**

# What Up?

Feb



Are you ready  
for joust about  
the best time  
ever???

Saturday Feb 16  
Meet at church  
at noon (eat first)  
Should return by 6  
Cost: about \$20 but the  
church will offset so your  
cost is only \$10 (plus  
whatever you need for  
snacks 'n stuff)  
Costumes? Cool!  
Friends? U bet!



Wednesday  
night LIVE

Block 3 meets only one time this month-Feb 6!



**SUNDAYSCHOOL**  
Join Eli and Dawn and Gray at 10:30am on Sundays for "Uncle"



Ash  
Wednesday  
February 13, 7:00pm



Questions? Call Teresa @ 480-962-1924 or [mrshatveyaz@msn.com](mailto:mrshatveyaz@msn.com)