

La Palabra

March 2013

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Brant

Have you heard the news? We're so close!

At the Annual Congregational Meeting last month Stewardship Elder Jim Schwartzmann shared joyous financial news for the year past, and then announced that with carry-overs and expected pledges, we are only \$5,000 short of finishing the Fellowship Hall Extreme Makeover. The nature of the remaining improvements are such that they need to be done at the same time. Jim has challenged us all to consider making an "over-and-above gift" so that we can get this project finished by year's end. If you are interested, please contact him at jimsnet48@aol.com.

Have you heard the news? We're doing good work!

At the same congregational meeting we heard wonderful reports of all the good work being done in so many parts of our church, and indeed beyond our church into the world. All of those ministries deserve consideration as you look for how God might be calling you to become involved, but today I would like to put before you Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (also known as Christ Häven) which provides direct financial assistance to the working poor. This ministry is in need of additional volunteers to help with intake, follow up, and database entry. Currently only three or four people do all of this for the 700 plus inquiries for help we receive each year. If you would be interested in learning more, please contact either Jane Potyka (jpotyka@cox.net) or Bob Gerlach (MPM@fpcmesa.org).

Have you heard the news? There's a new way to support worship arts!



The Session is pleased to announce the creation of a new endowment fund at FPC. Knowing how important worship and the arts are to our congregation, the Session has created a fund to provide for music ministries in all its forms and expressions. Income from this new fund will be available to help with instrument upkeep and repair, new instrument purchases, supplies for worship services, salaries, etc.

If you would like to include support of this endowed fund in your legacy planning, or if you have any questions about this or other endowed funds of the church, please contact any member of the Endowment Committee: Jack Gunter, Brent Gregory, Mary Jane Hee, David Fredericks, Skeets Throckmorton or Jim Schwartzman. Gifts to the new Worship Arts Endowment (or any of the other endowment funds of the church) can be made at any time, over and above one's regular pledges and offerings.

Have you heard the news! It's time once more to Worship in the Park!

On Sunday, March 24th (Palm Sunday), we'll take our worship and fellowship *al fresco*, returning this year to Red Mountain Park (7745 Brown Road, east of Power. Enter off of Sun Valley Blvd for best access). **One service only that morning at 10:00 a.m.**, with a great barbeque lunch following. You are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and a hat (although we will be under the Dove Ramada at the west side of the park near the playground). See map at <http://www.mesaaz.gov/parksrec/parks/pdf/RedMountainSiteMap.pdf>.

In Christ,
Brant

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WORSHIP

Dir. of Music (Chair) — Mark Ramsey
Worship (E) — Dan Reeves
Prayer Chain (D) — Cleta 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 fifth annual FPC “Worship in the Park” will be held on Palm Sunday, March 24th. We'll meet at [Red Mountain Park](#) (7745 E. Brown Rd.) at 10:00 a.m. for a picnic, games, and worship led by Pastor Brant, the Praise Band, One Voice, and Hearts Hands and Voices. The park includes ball fields, playgrounds, basketball, a walking trail, soccer, and volleyball. We will meet at the "Dove" Ramada. The link to the park ramada map is shown in Brant's message on the first page of this issue. Hard copies of the maps will be available during our Sunday worship services on March 17th or in the Church Office.

Dale Wood's “A Service of Darkness” will be offered in the Sanctuary on Maundy Thursday, March 28th, at 7:00 p.m. The Sanctuary Choir will be joined by Cantilena with Director Dr. Glenn Bennett. “A Service of Darkness” is patterned after the ancient service of *Tenebrae*. Seven choral meditations are based on the seven last words of Jesus from the cross. With each meditation, light will be progressively extinguished until only a candle sheds its glow as a symbol of the coming Resurrection.

Easter Sunday, March 31st, will begin with a Sunrise Service on the Sanctuary Patio, at 6:00 a.m. Following the service, we'll move to Fellowship Hall for breakfast. At 9:00 we'll meet again for a Festival Worship Service, with special music offered by our choirs, organ, and piano. The morning will conclude with another Easter celebration in our HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. “Our Lord Is Risen, Indeed!”

THE MUSIC MAN, by Meredith Wilson, will be presented next month by the First Players Community Theater; Anita Ramsey, Production Director. The 17th annual First Players production will be held on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 5 & 6, as dinner theaters beginning at 5:30 p.m. and repeated the following weekend, April 12 & 13. The show will feature John Couillard as *Professor Harold Hill*, Kate Buck at *Marian Paroo*, Brooks Newbry as *Marcellus Washburn*, Bob Schulz as *Mayor George Shinn*, Joy Schulz as *Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn*, Karen Rudin as *Mrs. Paroo*, and Ian Harding as *Winthrop Paroo*. Tickets are available at [fpcmesa.org](#), in the church office during the week, and during Sunday Coffee Hours (10:00-10:30 a.m.). Suggested minimum donations for the Dinner-Theaters are \$12 General Admission, \$8 ages 10 & under, with a \$50 maximum per household.



An affectionate paean to Smalltown, U.S.A. of a bygone era, Meredith Wilson's THE MUSIC MAN follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize — this despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian the librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by curtain's fall.

THE MUSIC MAN is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are supplied by MTI, 421 W. 54 St., New York, NY 10019. Tel: (212) 541-4684. Fax: (212) 397-4684. [www.MTIShows.com](#). For show information, please call the church office at (480) 964-8606, Ext. 24.

Humoresque

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

A woman arrived at the Gates of Heaven. While she was waiting for Saint Peter to greet her, she peeked through the gates. She saw a beautiful banquet table. Sitting all around were her parents and all the other people she had loved and who had died before her. They saw her and began calling greetings to her. "Hello - How are you! We've been waiting for you! Good to see you." When Saint Peter came by, the woman said to him, "This is such a wonderful place! How do I get in?" "You have to spell a word," Saint Peter told her. "Which word?" the woman asked. "Love." The woman correctly spelled 'Love', and Saint Peter welcomed her into Heaven. About a year later, Saint Peter came to the woman and asked her to watch the Gates of Heaven for him that day. While the woman was guarding the Gates of Heaven, her husband arrived. "I'm surprised to see you," the woman said... "How have you been?" "Oh, I've been doing pretty well since you died," her husband told her. "I married the beautiful young nurse who took care of you while you were ill. And then I won the multi-state lottery. I sold the little house you and I lived in and bought a huge mansion. And my wife and I traveled all around the world. We were on vacation in Cancun, and I went water skiing today. I fell and hit my head, and here I am. What a bummer! How do I get in?" "You have to spell a word," the woman told him. "Which word?" her husband asked. "Czechoslovakia." Moral of the story: Never make a woman angry... You'll pay later!

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

New Member Class

The next new member class will be Saturday, March 16th, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in learning more about the ministry and mission of FPC Mesa, you are welcome and encouraged to attend this class. There is no requirement to become a member at its conclusion. The class offers a time of orientation to the church, question and answer with the pastor, and a campus tour (plus snacks!). Please call the church office to reserve a spot, 480-964-8606.

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

Nominating Committee

Are you willing to serve the Lord by being an Officer of our congregation? If so, contact one of the committee members: Bill Anderson, Randy Gray, Robert Harding, Phillip Pagels or Barb Walker.

La Palabra Mailing. *It's not too late to let me know if you want to receive La Palabra via link. If I did NOT hear from you, you received this edition via mail. If you want to receive it by link only, let me know.*

Linda Reeves

PRESBYTERY OF GRAND CANYON— March Churches for Prayer

March 3 — Horizon Presbyterian, Phoenix

March 10 — Northminster Presbyterian, Phoenix

March 17 — Sunnyslope Presbyterian, Phoenix

March 24 — Bethany Presbyterian, Phoenix

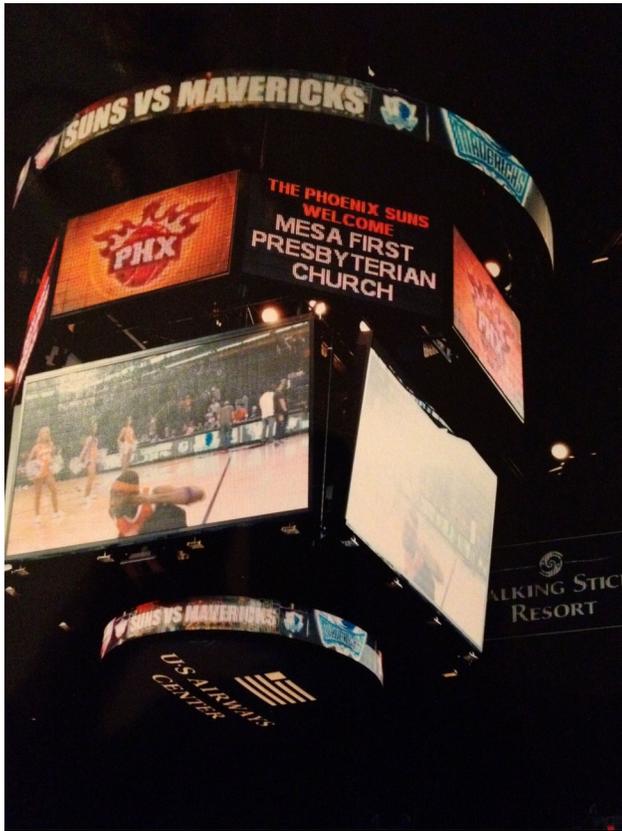
March 31 — First Presbyterian, Mesa

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 —



SUNS COURT OF DREAMS EVENT

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET TICKETS! Monday, March 11th, FPC will have a Court of Dreams Event with the Phoenix Suns! That 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 get your tickets.



Thank you to everyone who contributed food and assisted in any way toward the Continental Breakfast and Hospitality Room for the January Presbytery Meetings. All your help was greatly appreciated.

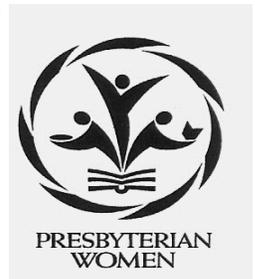
REMINDERS:

- 1) March 10th—Women's Sunday
- 2) March 16th —PWP Spring Gathering at Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church.

Susan McMichael will be stepping down as PWP Treasurer and

Helen Lents will be installed as the new PWP Treasurer.

We are proud of both these ladies for their service to FPC PW and PWP.



March Meetings:

March 5th	CT Meeting	1:00 p.m.	Library
March 11th	Eve Circle	7:00 p.m.	Parlor
March 12th	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

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

It is not too late to register for the final block of Wednesday Night Live! We begin on March 6th and run through April 10th. WNL is from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday night and includes dinner, music, Bible study and so much more! Registration is open to children in kindergarten through adult. If you are an adult that has not had a chance to try out our new Wednesday Night Bible study, I would highly encourage you to come. Cost is \$15 per person for the entire 5 night block and includes dinner. Contact Patty Carnes or Jasmine Couillard for more information.



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!

Spring has sprung at the Preschool and that means everything new! New themes, new adventures and maybe even new toys! We are celebrating new life, too, by studying plants, insects and bugs. Our latest discoveries include having a live chicken come for a visit.

We need your help getting the word out about our little patch of heaven, our Preschool. We are taking enrollment registrations from the community and have plenty of space for everyone. Did you know that our preschool has an 80% referral rate? That means that people know how great our program is because of voices like you in the community. Send your friends, family and people you see playing in the park or at McDonald's our way... Thank you!



We will be having a Saturday Preschool Open House Preview day for the community on April 6th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Families can come check out the facility and meet the staff. Maybe they will get to play a bit, too!

I hope you have a wonderful spring season. We would love to host you for a visit. Stop on by.

God willing,
Shiloh Murillo, Director



Thank you for your overwhelming show of love and support during the recent loss of our son, Christopher. The many cards and calls made our small family appreciate our church family of friends, and it eased our pain.

Gary and Sandy Clark

March Birthdays



Happy Birthday!

Milan Carnes	1st
Cleta Larson-Enck	1st
Mary Patton	1st
Joe Alvarado	5th
Paige Castela	6th
David Letizia	6th
Sean Snitzer	6th
Darlene Sitzler	7th
Helen Lents	11th
Marilu Thompson	12th
Joan Carns	13th
Jasmine Couillard	15th
Brandon Castela	16th
Pam Godfrey	16th
Marvin Luntz	16th
Anthony Vitale	17th
Dick Baird	18th
Carter Herrera	19th
Nelly Nobis	19th
Lillian Leichtman	22nd
Dan Gibbs	23rd
Gray Baker	24th
Caroline Cline	25th
Cindy Davenport	25th
Alice Peterson	25th
Earl Visser	25th
Mark Bockler	28th
Joshua Anderson	29th
Carmen Haynes	29th
David Miller	29th
Kyle Posthumus	29th
Becca Brause	30th
Frances Kaufmann	31st
Bill Lents	31st
Melissa Pomeroy	31st

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

March 3

Commissions & Session meet
(February/March meeting)

March 10

Women's Sunday

March 11

Suns Court of Dreams Event

March 11 & 12

Circles meet

March 16

PWP Spring Gathering

March 24

Palm Sunday —
Worship at Red Mountain Park

March 28

Maundy Thursday
(A Service of Darkness at 7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary)

March 29

Good Friday — Office Closed

March 30

Easter Eggs-Travaganza — 9:00 a.m.

March 31

Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service — 6:00 a.m.
Festival Worship Service — 9:00 a.m.
HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse Easter Celebration —
11:30 a.m.

March 31

Monthly Food Drive



IN MEMORIAM

Jay Nelson, February 20, 2013



FPC

What Up?

March '13



Yup, it's no longer "In your dreams,"
it's for real!
FPC "Court of Dreams"
March 11th, 7:00pm
Youth cost: only \$10!!!

Come with the family,
Or come with the youth,
just don't miss it —
Sign up today!!!

Questions?
Call Teresa @
480-962-1924
or mrshalveyaz
@msn.com

Wednesday
Night
WFL

Block 4 meets March 6, 20, and 27.
Off for Spring Break!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join Gray and Todd
and all the cool kids
each week at 10:30am
for "Uncommon"