

La Palabra

May 2013

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Brant

Back in the fall I preached about the importance of remembering FPC in your estate planning. A tithe, or more, on your estate is like seed that is scattered, and grows despite what we do or don't do, in ways we don't pretend to know or understand, first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head, and then it is ripe and ready for harvest.

You can do great good for the Kingdom of God, and for the church you love, by the simple stroke of a pen, but only if you decide to do it and take the necessary steps. Maybe you assign the church a portion of your estate through your will, as Karen and I have done, allocating 5% of our estate, such as it may be, to each of the churches we have served in ministry so far. Or maybe you name the church as the beneficiary for your life insurance. Or maybe you explore something like a charitable remainder trust, which provides an income for you until your death, and then gives the principle to the church or charity of your choosing.

I repeated these thoughts in February at the Annual Congregational Meeting, and again in worship a short time after that, when the Session announced the newly created Worship Arts Endowment Fund.

So here's my question: have you done anything about it yet?

As good as your intentions might be, this is something that only you can do, and it probably starts with you making an appointment with your lawyer or financial advisor.

Direct bequests have helped FPC mightily over the past several years with debt reduction and capital improvements. And over the past five years our various Endowment Funds, though small, have been able to accomplish meaningful things. Here are just a few highlights:

- ◆ The Montlure Fund has helped scores of young people get to summer camp, with total disbursements usually around \$1000 per year;
- ◆ The Bertha Young Fund (for Christian Education) has paid for training material for the Befrienders and sent members for training at various workshops;
- ◆ The Stubblefield and Kissinger Funds (for training in ministry) have helped Luke Parker and, more recently, Lois Hildenbrand, while the Kissinger and Melhop Fund for education also helped send Jasmine Couillard and Kirk Sexton for LOGOS training;
- ◆ The Theilmann Fund (to be spent at the discretion of Session) has paid for web site expenses related to the Mesa Prayer Walk.

Catch the vision, then make the call and accomplish what your heart purposes for remembering your church as part of your final affairs. And may God bless you as you do so!

In Christ,
Brant

HOPED FOR "TITHE" DEDUCTIONS

5. Wardrobe replacement credit for wear and tear on all church attire
4. Home mortgage payment if a minimum of two church-related fellowships are hosted in any given month
3. 20 percent credit for all materials purchased at a Christian bookstore
2. \$500 for perfect Sunday attendance (a deduction to be proud of!)
1. \$500 for perfect attendance and on-key choir participation

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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

Summer choirs will begin next month! It has certainly been a quick year. I'm not even sure that the ink is fully dry on last summer's schedule. Copies of the new schedule will be available in the Church Office and Information Kiosk beginning Sunday, May 26th. Join us as we make a joyful noise through our somewhat quieter and slower summer months. You will not need to sign any choir letters of commitment, and the only requirement is that you enjoy offering your heart and music in praise to God!

Thank you to *The Music Man* Cast & Crew for another wonderfully successful First Players production. Thank you also to the congregation for supporting the First Players and Artist Series through your donations and through your attendance at this year's events. From the worship-concert resounding tones of Tom Sitzler and Stephanie Ball to the storytelling of Mike Chamberlin and the Holy Week offering of Dale Wood's *Tenebrae*, this year's Artist Series was quite multifaceted and was brought to a great final curtain through our talented thespians in *The Music Man*!

When Brant and I choose a gospel hymn to be sung in one of our worship services, we typically consult our "Bill Martin" list. Bill was a former FPC member who volunteered in our Church Office and who was often heard singing one of his favorite gospel hymns as he went about his weekly tasks. Brant and I asked him to create a list of some of his favorites, and he came up with far more than we had anticipated, some thirty-plus gospel hymns, several of which must have been popular far before our time. Playing stump-the-current-church-leaders, Brant and I couldn't seem to come up with tunes for at least a few of Bill's hymns. One such hymn was *Precious Name, O How Sweet*, which Bill sang with all his heart, and some of you may count it among your favorites. Well, on Tuesday, May 7th, at 12:00 p.m., we'll all have the opportunity to sing some of these "favorite" gospel hymns. The PW will host a *Gospel Sing*, which Barbara Walker and I will lead. Come and enjoy the wonderful fellowship of other gospel-hymn lovers, and either sing with the gusto of Bill Martin or just enjoy reminiscing while listening to some of the musical pearls which echoed through age-old chapels large and small with the joy-filled strains of our faith-full ancestors.



Be sure to invite your young friends, ages 5-12, to this year's Vacation Bible School, "SonWest Roundup VBS." VBS will be held Monday through Friday, June 3-7, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon each day, with special music offered again during both Sunday morning worship services on June 9th. Our VBS music leaders will be Miki Newbry and Karen Rudin. Join your friends at *SonWest Roundup* as we celebrate all the fun of being a buckaroo! The cost will be only \$15, which will include a light lunch, a CD, games, movies, fun characters, crafts, music, prizes, friends, Bible stories, and more! Get your registration form now from the Church Office or from the front page of our church website.

Humoresque

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

There was a man who wanted a job as a salesman in a men's clothing store. The owner didn't want to give the guy a job, because he didn't think he would be right for it. Yet, the man came back day after day asking for a job. One day, because of the man's persistence, the owner decided that he could use a break, and it was dinnertime – a time least likely for customers to come into the store. So, the owner told the man, "I'll give you a job on one condition: you must sell this one suit that's been hanging here

on the rack for years. This suit is hideous. If you can sell this suit while I go out for dinner, I'll give you a job for life. You'll have to be a great salesman to sell it." The owner went out to dinner knowing that nothing would happen. When he arrived back at the store, the owner was shocked! There stood the man – his clothes were torn, and he had scratches on his face and his hands. He was bloody. His hair was all messed up. He looked like a wreck. The owner asked, "My goodness, what happened?" The man replied, "I sold the suit. I've sold it, so now I've got a job for life." The owner asked, "What do you mean you sold the suit, it looks like the guy didn't like it?" And the man responded, "No, no the guy loved it. But, his guide dog nearly killed me." [from Bev Goff]

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



Brant has been working with a group of community leaders to put together a city-wide campus ministry, primarily aimed at the five new colleges coming to downtown Mesa this fall. As you may (or may not) know, FPC has a small group of 20-somethings that meets every other week for pizza (of course!), fellowship, and study. The advent of higher education at our doorstep gives us a unique opportunity to minister to young people at a particularly critical time in their lives. Please be in prayer for this amazing opportunity, asking the Spirit to help us find creative ways to engage those college students that may find their way to our shared life of worship and service. And, if you would like to be more actively involved with this project please let Brant know!

ELECTRICAL INCIDENT UPDATE

As you may recall, we had an electrical incident at the church on Monday, April 22nd. That incident is still under investigation as to cause, but the extent of the repairs is becoming more clear as the weeks unfold. It now appears that we will be unable to use the Sanctuary (due primarily to having no power there) for at least three weeks, and possibly as long as two months.

Until further notice we will worship in Fellowship Hall at our usual service times of 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. It would be helpful in terms of seating if some folks who usually come to 9:00 would come to the 11:30 service for the time being. On a side note, we are working to furnish Fellowship Hall with padded chairs for everyone. ☺

Please know that the church staff is working hard to trouble shoot all of the ramifications of this (especially our Facilities Supervisor, Don Krill—somebody take him out to dinner for heaven's sake!), and thanks in advance for your patience as we continue to manage this situation.

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

ACTS 16:5 INITIATIVE

Please be in prayer for our church participation in the Acts 16:5 Initiative. This is a program of evaluation and visioning that we will be engaged in for the coming two years. We will be joining with several other churches in our Presbytery to participate in this nationally renowned program, and the Session has endorsed Lois Hildenbrand to give us leadership through the process. Our last "long term planning committee" helped us accomplish great things (the dedicated Sunday School hour and the Fellowship Hall make over just to name two) but it is no time to rest on our laurels, so let's keep open to what the Spirit plans next!

PRESBYTERY OF GRAND CANYON— May Churches for Prayer

- May 5** — Palo Cristi Presbyterian, Paradise Valley
 - May 12** — Scottsdale Presbyterian
 - May 19** — Community Presbyterian, Payson
 - May 26** — First Presbyterian, Peoria

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 —

Congratulations to the First Players cast and crew in their recent production of “The Music Man!” What an excellent production – and great dinner too!

On Saturday, May 4th, we’ll be hosting a Cinco de Mayo Mexican Pot-Luck dinner, with our Salsa Challenge contest included. Signups and contest entries should have already begun by the time you receive this. Come join in the fun and good food. Prizes will be awarded for the best Salsa.



We’re also planning a Diamondbacks outing in June and another Ice Cream Social in August. Watch for details.

Alas – all good things must come to an end... My term as your Fellowship Elder is ending as of Pentecost Sunday. Please join me in welcoming Charlie Golden to this fun, and yet demanding position. Charlie will need your help and support – please give it to him willingly and often. I would also like to take this opportunity to profusely THANK the Fellowship Commission members and other volunteers who have done so much to bring about the events we’ve sponsored over the past three years. Thanks to everyone for the many kind remarks I’ve received about our work at the church.

Dan Davenport,
Fellowship Elder



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

PW INVITES ALL WOMEN of the church to enjoy a potluck salad lunch on Tuesday, May 7th, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite salad, enjoy lunch and fellowship with other women of the church.

The program will include the installation of the 2013 – 2014 PW Officers AND a musical program courtesy of our very own Barbara Walker and Mark Ramsey. Deborah and Lydia Bible Study Circles are hostesses, so they will furnish the plates, silverware, drinks, rolls and dessert.

Call Ellie Koch (480-807-1685) or Caroline Cline (480-964-7128) for additional information.

A special Thank You to all the ladies who answered our SOS for kitchen helpers. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.

May Meetings:

May 7th	Salad Luncheon	12:00 noon	Fellowship Hall
May 13th	Eve Circle	7:00 p.m.	Parlor
May 14th	Deborah Circle	9:30 a.m.	TBA
	Lydia Circle	12:00 p.m.	Parlor
	Rachel Circle	1:00 p.m.	Library

All Women of the congregation and guests are welcome and encouraged to visit a Circle for fellowship, Bible Study and Service.

Alma Post,
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

Our first year of Wednesday Night Live has concluded! That went by so quickly! We had a total of 40 adult volunteers participate through 22 evenings this year - THANK YOU! We met new adult and kid friends! We saw a handful of children and adults that had never before participated in our Wednesday night program. We included an adult component for the first time and saw several adults rotate through the class including a lady who started coming to our church for the first time because of the Wednesday Bible study! God is good! Evaluation forms have been distributed seeking your opinions for next year's programming. If you have not received one and would like to offer your advice, please pick one up from Jasmine Couillard.

SonWest Roundup Vacation Bible School starts next month on June 3rd! Yee Haw Pardner! We will be having games, crafts, Bible stories, music, movies, fun characters, prizes, friends and more at FPC from June 3rd – 7th. Each day from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon we invite all children between the ages of 5 and 12 to join us! (We also need a few more volunteers if you are looking for a great way to give of yourself this summer!!) The cost is only \$15 per child and this includes a light lunch each day and a music CD. All children who are formally registered in advance and come to the first day will receive a prize. Registration forms are available on the church website at www.fpcmesa.org



Montlure camperships forms need to be submitted as soon as possible. In order to qualify for a \$100 sponsorship from the church, your form must be received at least 4 weeks prior to the start of your child's camp date. Campership forms are located on the church website and in the office. Please contact Jasmine Couillard if you have any questions or need more information about Montlure or campership funds.



Wow! This school year has flown by! It is hard to believe it is almost over. We have had a fantastic year together. Our last day of school will be May 22nd. We will re-open for our summer program on June 3rd and will be open for all of June and July. We still have room for your little ones to join in the fun this summer!

Our Annual Spring Fling will be on May 9th at 10:30 a.m. The children will be singing a few songs and there will be a family picnic after the program. We hope that you will join us for this annual tradition at the Preschool. All are welcome!

We are still looking for help with the emergency kits that we are putting together for each classroom. Please stop by the church office to see the list of items needed. Thank you!

Now is the time to think about putting your young child or grandchild into a high quality preschool. Look no further! We are an exceptional choice! Did you know there are 9 staff members who have changed the lives of 53 children this year? They have been sharing God's love and teaching from their hearts all year long! You could be a part of that joy, too! Please stop by the office or call 480-835-7877 to find out more information.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Preschool Director

May Birthdays



Jan Peterson	1st
Joy Schulz	2nd
Sydney Skarphol	2nd
Raul Flores	4th
Dodi Neill	4th
Bill Smith	4th
Rochelle Yeager	4th
Brent Gregory	6th
Robert Nobis	6th
Fran Gunter	11th
Peggy Baker	12th
George Wagner	12th
Leland Wilson	12th
Connie Gailfus	13th
Gail Pearson	13th
Jon Lokensgard	14th
Monica Schnuelle	14th
Malia Hee	15th
Robert Martz	16th
Stella Bero	17th
Jennifer Smith	17th
Lisa Calhoun	18th
Dillon Haynes	18th
Mihret Gerlach	19th
Lynne Logan	21st
Veronica Montiel	21st
Robert Harbin	22nd
Graham Walker	22nd
Vivian Buck	23rd
Denise Worden	23rd
Lynne Harding	24th
Karen Eberhardt	25th
Yvonne Oliver	25th
Deanne Wyrick	25th
Meritt Haynes	27th
Margaret Ryan	28th
Patricia Wyse	28th
John Frontone	29th
Jo Godfrey	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

May 4

Salsa Challenge & Mexican Potluck

May 7

PW Salad Luncheon & Gospel Sing

May 9

Preschool Spring Fling

May 12

Mother's Day

May 13 & 14

Circles meet

May 19

Commissions & Session meet
Outgoing Officer BBQ

May 26

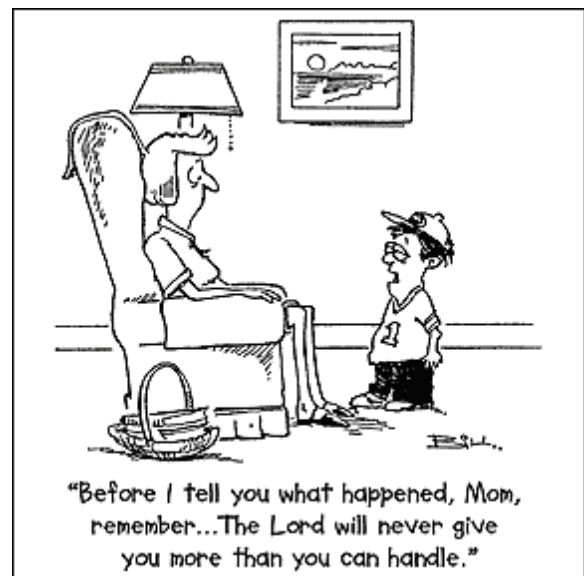
Monthly Food Drive

May 27

Memorial Day — Office Closed

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Evans, Nell	Pearson, Gail & Gary
Crismon Peaks	5535 E. Arbor Ave.
100027 E. Hillview	Mesa, AZ 85206
Mesa, AZ 85207	
480-354-1006	



Happy Mother's Day!

FPC

What Up?

May '13

What to do after
WNL ends?

No worries,

it's **Totally Tuesdays!**

May 7th & 21st

AT THE CHURCH

5:00-7:00pm

Tuesday, June 4th & 18th

Dive In Bible Study @ Bakers

Tuesday, July 9th & 23

Dive In Bible Study @ Ambri's

Summer Youth = Totally Tuesdays!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

With your Hosts
TODD AND GRAY!

Sunday Mornings
10:30-11:20
Youth Room

Questions?

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

Youth Advisor #:

Steve and Beth Ambri—480-656-4690
Gray Baker—(480) 459-8071
Teresa Halverson—(480) 962-1924
John Hee—(602) 284-7311
Todd Ramsey—(480) 495-6109

No ride? No problem! Don't miss an event 'cause you got no wheels. Call any of the youth advisors and we'll help you get a lift!

