

La Palabra

September 2013

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Brant

In a book written about the Apostle Paul in 1983 there are three references in the index to the terms “truth, ultimate.” But readers looking at pages 30, 32, and 470 find that they are blank. Is it just a good-natured spoof, or is it a statement challenging our ability to ever know ultimate reality? (E.P. Sanders *Paul and Palestinian Judaism*, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983.)

There is an important word that appears two dozen times in the New Testament, the Greek word *dokimazein*, which means “to make a critical examination,” “to put to the test,” to determine the genuineness of something.” Pastor Jim Edwards says that “Christians have often avoided this commandment because they have confused a critical attitude with an uncharitable attitude. Uncharitability is an offense against love, but uncriticalness is an offense against truth. Put to the test all things, then hold to what is good” (Jim Edwards, the Edwards Epistle Vol XIX, No 1&2).

In order that we may “make critical examination,” we are kicking off our most ambitious all-church study to date: The Truth Project. Focus on the Family is designed to help Christians look at their worldview—that set of assumptions we all carry with us at a more or less unconscious level, but which guide us in the most powerful and profound ways. How do we know and evaluate truth claims? How do we sort through varied value systems? What are the core things that guide us? We owe it to ourselves and to those around us to be clear about these powerful, fundamental things. Over twelve weeks (!) we’ll go through topics like theology, philosophy, science, and even politics (!!) examining our closely-held assumptions and making sure they measure up to the Word of God.

The Bible calls us to “make critical examination” that we might know the Truth.

Please know that this study will require a bit more from us: the DVD teaching videos are about 55 minutes long, to be followed by 40-45 minutes of guided interactive discussion. Your small group or Sunday School class may have to negotiate a bit to make sure that everyone is going to the same worship service (before or after), has childcare, or whatever. In the end the investment of an extra 30 minutes or so each week will be well worth it! As always, for those not in a small group, the Y’All Come Class will be meeting in the Sanctuary.

In Christ!

Brant

Are you interested in taking a trip to the Holy Land with others in your church family? Brant has been asked to consider leading such a trip, and is willing to do so (probably not before next year at the soonest) but would like to have some measure of interest levels. Cost would likely be in the range of \$3,500-\$4,000 per person for a 10 day trip. Please contact the church office at 964-8606, or email Brant directly at pastor@fpcmesa.org.

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WORSHIP

Dir. of Music (Chair) — Mark Ramsey
Worship (E) — Dan Reeves
Prayer Chain (D) — Bev Goff

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Karyn Weaver
Worship (D) — Carol Webster
Youth (E) — Bryan Tryon

Mark's Remarks

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

“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

Our annual Hymnfest will be held on Sunday, September 1st, at 9:00 a.m. It will include hymn singing, hymn stories, and a gospel hymn prelude. Pending the organ restoration process, the service will also include a piano-organ arrangement of the great hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

The 2014 Artist Series will feature five concerts in celebration of our Visser-Rowland Organ and the 50th Anniversary of our Sanctuary. Three events will feature the organ, and two Choir & Organ concerts will complete the year's celebration. Mark your calendars, and I hope you'll be able to join us for the complete series!

March 14, 2014 (Friday)
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Arizona Masterworks Chorale
Bill Gleason, Director



March 16, 2014 (Sunday), 10:00-10:30 a.m.

CHUCK SEDGWICK – Dr. Sedgwick is a native of Wisconsin and has been on staff at Cortez High School, Phoenix since 1995. He holds master's degrees in education and choral music as well as a doctorate in organ performance from Arizona State University. Chuck also serves at the organist at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Phoenix.

First Players Community Theater
April 4,5,11,12, 2014
Dinner Theater at 5:30 p.m.
\$12 General Admission
\$8 Ages 10 & Under
\$50 Maximum per Household

Willy Wonka is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019.
Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684.



April 17, 2014 (Maundy Thursday)
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Theodore Dubois “Seven Last Words of Christ”
Sanctuary Choir, Cantilena, Soloists, Strings, & Organ
Glenn Bennett, Director; Mark Ramsey, Organ



August 31, 2014 (Sunday), 10:00-10:30 a.m.
LEW WILLIAMS – Staff Organist at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa. Concert work has taken him around the USA several times. He was named “Organist of the Year” by the American Theatre Organ Society in 1988.

December 7, 2014 (Sunday), 9:00 a.m.



DOROTHY REISS - “Dr. Dorothy” started piano with her mother at age four and won her first competition at seven. The summer of her 16th year she took some organ lessons to become high school organist and had her own radio show of pop tunes on KTOW, Oklahoma City. At the University of Oklahoma she became a protégé of the legendary Mildred Andrews and won many competitions including the American Guild of Organists National in San Francisco, 1952, at age 20. The death of her beloved father from complications of diabetes changed her life resulting in a decision to become a Doctor. She was awarded a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1969. Four years of post-grad study qualified her to practice Internal Medicine which she continued in Pasadena until retirement in 2000! After relocating to Las Vegas she resumed organ playing (some 50 years later!) and serves as Associate

Organist at First Christian Church, Las Vegas. She performed her 75th birthday concert at the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 2006, her 77th at First Christian Church Las Vegas in 2009, and her 80th at UNLV in 2011. She was featured artist for the American Guild of Organists Region IX Convention in San Francisco, July 2011, performing at First Congregational Church, Berkeley, the same venue as her winner's recital in 1952!

Humoresque

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

A church Pastor woke on Sunday morning, and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, he decided he just had to play golf. So, he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and persuaded him to preside over the services for him that day. As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, the Pastor headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet someone from his church. Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning, and everyone else was in church! At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens, and he exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord sighed and said, "No, I guess not." Just then, the Pastor hit the ball, and it shot straight toward the pin, dropped just short of it, rolled, and fell into the hole. IT WAS A 420-YARD HOLE-IN-ONE! St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?" [from Dick Baird]

MISSION

Pastor (Chair) — Brant Baker
Mission (E) — Phillip Pagels
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

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

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

San Carlos Apache Reservation Mission Trip

We are returning this year to the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, to work with mission partners Amor Ministries in building homes. The median annual household income on the reservation is approximately \$14,000 which means about 77% of the people live under the poverty line, and there are approximately 2400 families on the Reservation in need of homes. Thirty nine percent of families live in substandard housing and 40% of the families live in overcrowded conditions. For many, cramped quarters, un-safe living conditions and poverty contribute to a vicious cycle where "home" is not a safe place to reside. The need for adequate housing is urgent.



FPC has arranged to work with Amor Ministries, a well-known home building mission partner in the southwest. Of course building a house is only part of the work: we hope to open hearts to truly see the grace and love of Jesus through providing tangible objects of security, safety, and stability.

The process to build a 28' x 24' home has many steps, and we may not know until we get there if we'll be doing concrete work, painting, or other things. Most of the work is moderately physical, although there are some jobs that are less so.

Once more the cost will be under \$300 (including building materials, hotel, and food). Each participant is asked to cover at least one third of their own costs, the church (through the Missions budget) will cover one third for church members, and each participant is asked to find "mission partners" who will agree to sponsor them (for whatever amount, but totaling the remaining one third) in exchange for a report on the project (and as a way to engage friends and family in what we are doing!).

We'll leave at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 12th, returning Sunday, October 31st, around 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Phill Pagels, Elder for Mission, (480) 427-7254. This is a great trip for families, youth, & seniors!

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser!

On Sunday, September 15th, in Fellowship Hall, the youth will sponsor a **Bake Sale Silent Auction**. If you could bring baked goods from your kitchen to the church kitchen by 9:00 that morning, we will bid on them between services. Winners will be announced prior to HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse service. Remember the more items you buy, the more you support our Youth and the people of the San Carlos Reservation.

Mission Fundraising Dinner

Come enjoy a 50's themed burger bash, complete with root beer floats and awesome fries. Music to be provided by Dan Davenport's Barbershop Quartet, "Vocal Edition." Tickets are only \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12. All proceeds go to help fund the trip, so do a good thing, enjoy a great night, and buy your ticket soon!

DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. — Jasmine Couillard
Adult (E) — Jack Oliver

Children's Ministries (E) — Carol Anderson
Family Ministries (E) — Jennifer Martin

Youth/Young Adult (E) — John Hee

WNL

Wednesday Night Live kicks off this month (September 4th) for the 2013-2014 year! There are some fun and exciting changes in store for the students! We will have more music choices, more directed dinner discussions, dinner games(!) and a classroom-based Bible story lesson for the kindergarten through sixth grade students. The younger students and the older students will separate for a hands-on, discussion-based study. Each block of Wednesday Night Live will be SIX weeks long and run from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Cost will continue to be \$15 per attendee (no increase from last year at five night blocks). For block 1, the K – 6 grade students will explore science, win prizes, compete, have Biblical heroes visit the classroom, make balloon reproductions of themselves and work together to create families. Don't miss out on the fun, excitement and opportunity to grow your faith!

Sunday School

Fall Sunday School kicks off at the end of this month! On September 29th the preschool through sixth grade students will begin having a morning sing-a-long to kick off their classes. Students, teachers and parents are invited to meet under the big tree on the playground each week of the fall session at 10:30. After a few songs with guitar accompaniment, the children will be dismissed to their graded classrooms to enjoy the weekly lesson and activities.

If you have lost someone close to you, or know someone who has, please get more information on the support group/seminar, GriefShare. These classes will begin on Wednesday, September 11th, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the church library. This is a 13-week course, however, each class is self-contained so if you miss one, it is ok. The cost for the course is \$20, which includes a participant's workbook plus weekly handouts. Please contact Jeanne Partida, 480-981-6149, or the office for additional information.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Ministry

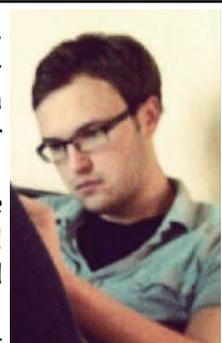
It isn't too soon to begin collecting items for Operation Shoe Box. Our small group has sponsored this project for 5 years now and will be doing so again this year. The collection week will be the 3rd week in November. Stay tuned for more information in October. —Jeanne Partida

Hello! Jason Reeves, the new Youth Mentor, here. In the coming month, I have the privilege of beginning some work with some very talented and enthusiastic people. Along with the help of the Youth Advisory Team, we will be starting a new year of Wednesday Night Live. We are busy planning, trying to make this year the most enjoyable, messiest, craziest, loudest, and most spiritually fulfilling year yet.

The Youth Mentor position was created to foster relationships with the youth in the church and to grow involvement in the church. In this position, I will be working to help plan events, preparing messages for Wednesday Night Live, and making contact with the kids in the youth group.

Presently, I am an art teacher at Campo Verde High School in Gilbert. I get to work with a math teacher that can be a bit to handle sometimes (but he's a pretty decent drummer I hear). Previously, I have attended church at The Spring in Tempe, Red Mountain Community Church, and First Presbyterian Church, Mesa.

I look forward to working with the youth group at FPC. If you should need to contact me, please feel free to email me at youth@fpcmesa.org.



God is SO Good! The school year is off to a great start at the Preschool! We have 41 children enrolled and 18 of those are children who receive the Quality First Scholarship. What a blessing! We look forward to spreading God's Love with all of these new families. We will begin our weekly chapel time with Pastor Brant on September 18th at 9:00 a.m. Please come join in the praise and worship of our Lord. If you know of anyone who would like to enroll a 4 year-old preschooler, please refer them to our school. We have a few more spots open and would love to invite them into our family. Thank you for all of your support!



FELLOWSHIP

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

Transportation (D) — Ron Payton
 Parish Deacon 1 — Peggy Baker
 Parish Deacon 2 — Denise Worden
 Parish Deacon 3 — Dale Gibson

Parish Deacon 4 — Darlene Sitzler
 Parish Deacon 5 — Erin Skarphol
 Presbyterian Women — Jeannette Laurie

Mark your calendars!

Two events are coming up, so please make a note and plan to attend both.



❖ The Second Annual FPC Road Rally is scheduled Saturday, October 26th, at 3:00 p.m. Watch for details to be announced soon!

❖ The 2013 Arts & Crafts Fair will be Saturday, November 9th, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Tables can be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis at a cost of \$25 per table. Applications and fees are due by Friday, October 25th. Applications are available in the church office.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SYNOD OF THE SOUTHWEST



Meeting God at the Borders. Triennial Gathering in Albuquerque, November 8th-10th. \$100 scholarships are available to women from Presbytery of Grand Canyon who attend. Information and registration forms are available in the church office.

A new season is unfolding for Presbyterian Women FPC. The Bible study for the year is focused on the Horizon's Curriculum, *AN ABIDING HOPE, The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy*. Study guides are now available (\$8.00). Women of the congregation are encouraged to become part of a PW Circle for study and friendship. Circles meet monthly beginning in October.

Next CT meeting: September 3rd, Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., library.
 Lydia Circle meets second Tuesday, 12:00 noon, parlor (start September)
 Eve Circle meets second Monday, 7:00 p.m., parlor
 Rachel Circle meets second Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., library
 Deborah Circle meets second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., members' homes

CWU in Arizona Annual Retreat, "Behold I Stand at the Door & Knock," Rev. Beverly Phillips; Saturday, October 26th — 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; check-in and continental breakfast: 8:00 a.m. The 2013 Church Women United in Arizona Annual Retreat features Rev. Beverly Phillips, the celebrated author, speaker and leader of women in their prayerful journeys. This unique event will include Workshop & Studies to include making your own set of beads for your prayer journey. Early registration by September 30th \$35; in October and at the door \$40. To RSVP and register by email, contact yamalil@cox.net. Retreat location: University Presbyterian Church, 139 E. Alameda, Tempe. Contact person at FPC: Flinn Lund.

September Birthdays



Monte Nelson	1st
Patricia Sakala	1st
Mark Ramsey	3rd
Bryan Tryon	3rd
Michael Payton	4th
Amber Post	4th
Ruth Rummmler	5th
Tyler Post	6th
Diana Johnson	7th
Gregg Gerlach	10th
Gabe Homolya	11th
Rosalie Lowe	13th
Sam Smith	13th
Skeets Throckmorton	13th
Beverly Snitzer	14th
Adam Williams	14th
Barbara Blackmon-Gussak	15th
Paul Green	15th
Miki Newbry	16th
Nuha Ghubril	17th
William Rummmler	17th
Mildred Kimbrough	18th
Jeff Sitzler	18th
Helen Thielke	18th
David Tobey	18th
Jonas Koopman	20th
Kathryn Pomeroy	20th
Rediet Gerlach	21st
Teresa Halverson	21st
Kyle Harding	21st
Henry Woodrum	21st
Paul Harding	22nd
Andrea Schultz	22nd
Richard Lowe	24th
Steve Post	25th
Susan Sylvia	25th
Sandra Clark	26th
Don Wallen	26th
Richard Hawkins	27th
Bev Goff	28th
Jeanette Chaney	29th
Edward Cordone	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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Storm Johnson, son of Diana Johnson and grandson of Jo Godfrey, completed his basic training in San Diego and will be stationed at Camp Pendleton for 30 days. He will then be stationed at 29 Palms to complete a course of computer training.

Calendar Notes

September 2

Labor Day — Office Closed

September 4

Wednesday Night Live begins

September 11

Griefshare begins

September 14

Youth Lock-in

September 15

Youth Mission Trip Bake Sale
Commissions & Session meet

September 17

Befrienders

September 22

Mission Fund Raising Dinner

September 29

Monthly Food Drive
Sunday School Promotion



We want to recognize the faithful work of Matt Hayball. He has been the food pantry driver for many years. His red truck picked up thousands of pounds of food each week, bringing it to our church to feed the needy. We are grateful for your work, Matt, and thank you for everything you have done to make this job a complete success. We wish you a great retirement.

FPC

What Up?

September '13

Wednesday Nite Live kicks off again on September 4th (six weeks). Come and hang out in the Youth Room, have dinner, and then be ready for the preposterous shenanigans (and some thoughtful bits as well) of John Hee and friends!



September 14th, 7:00pm

LOCK IN!!!!!!

Bring: \$3 (for snacks and stuff), sleeping bag, toothbrush, and a winning smile. Bring a friend if you can (they'll need a permission slip) but be sure to warn them it's gonna be off the chain! Earn an extra \$10 scholarship for mission trip if you come to church the next morning :-)



Mission Trip Fundraiser: Silent Auction
Bake will be Sunday, September 15th (yes, after the Lock In!). Parents, please bring baked goods to sell that morning!



Sunday Mornings @ 10:30-Sunday School
with Gray and Todd. Topics this fall include a Banner Bible study and a study of sexuality.

Looking ahead: Oct 12-13—Mission Trip,
Nov 16—Bowling, Dec 15—Christmas Party.



FPC is excited to announce that Jason Reeves has been brought on as our new Youth Mentor. Jason will stay in touch with everyone and serve on the Youth Advisor Team.
Welcome Jason!

YOUTH TEAM: Jason—(480) 229-9387, Gray—(480) 459-8071, Teresa—(480) 962-1924, John—(602) 284-7311, Todd—(480) 495-6109

Presbyterian Women Synod of the Southwest Meeting God at the Borders

It's an Opportune Time

"There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth."

Ecclesiastes 3:1 from The Message

Gathering November 8-10, 2013

HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE

In Old Town Albuquerque
800 Rio Grande Blvd, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104



AN OVERVIEW:

- A focus on Immigration Issues
- Worship, Bible Study, Music, Spirituality, Marketplace,
- Workshops: IMMIGRATION, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SUICIDE PREVENTION, COMMUNICATIONS, EXODUS BIBLE STUDY, MENAUL SCHOOL, HANDCRAFTS with LAGUNA PUEBLO

Friday, November 8:

Room check-in: 2:00-6:00 p.m.
Registration: 2:00-6:00
Dinner: 6:00
Opening Program & Devotions: 7:00

Saturday, November 9:

Devotions: 7:30
Breakfast: 8:00 a.m.
Morning program & workshops: 9:00
Lunch: 12:00
Afternoon program & workshops: 1:00
Free time: 3:30-7:00
Explore Old Town and have dinner on-your-own
Evening program & Devotions: 7:00

Sunday, November 10

Devotions: 7:30
Breakfast: 8:00
Worship: 9:15
Concluding Program
Dismiss: 12:00
Lunch: Box lunch for homeward travel

REGISTRATION:

Registration is due by **October 4, 2013.**

- Please use attached registration form. Make checks payable to PW Synod of Southwest.

CANCELLATIONS:

Regretfully we must adhere to a stringent Cancellation Policy re Registration, Meals, & Transportation.

- Full refund on cancellations received by October 18
- ½ refund on cancellations received on or before October 25
- No refund on cancellations received after October 26

TRANSPORTATION:

- Buses subsidized by PWSS will leave from Phoenix and Tucson and pick up riders en-route to Albuquerque. Take advantage of this transportation arrangement for the modest fee of \$25.

LODGING:

MAKE YOUR OWN ROOM RESERVATION

For 2 nights, November 8-9 2013
Call Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
800 Rio Grande Boulevard, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104
Phone 505-843-6300

Hotel Albuquerque has given us special room rates, \$109 + tax per night double occupancy. Indicate that you are attending Presbyterian Women Synod of Southwest Gathering.

**REGISTRATION FORM for the PW SYNOD of SOUTHWEST GATHERING
MEETING GOD AT THE BORDERS: It's an Opportune Time**

November 8-10, 2013

**HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE
In Old Town Albuquerque**

Registration due by October 4, 2013

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Presbytery _____ Congregation _____

FULL GATHERING REGISTRATION

Includes: Registration, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch and snacks, Sunday breakfast buffet, Sunday box lunch. \$177.00 \$ _____

PARTIAL GATHERING REGISTRATION

Plan A: Includes Registration, Friday Dinner \$75.00 \$ _____
 Plan B: Includes Registration, Saturday Lunch and snacks \$75.00 \$ _____
 With Registration you may attend all programs & workshops

TRANSPORTATION

Bus from Phoenix (Please check your station) \$25.00 \$ _____
 Valley Presbyterian (6947 E McDonald Dr, Paradise Valley)
 Desert Palms Presbyterian (13459 Stardust Blvd, Sun City West)
 Flagstaff (time & place to be determined)
 Winslow (time & place to be determined)
 Other en route _____
Bus or Van from Tucson (Please check your station) \$25.00 \$ _____
 Tucson Trinity Presbyterian (400 E University Ave)
 Benson (time & place to be determined)
 Other en route _____

PW PRESBYTERY OF GRAND CANYON SCHOLARSHIP (less \$100) _____

TOTAL INCLUDED \$ _____

I need airport shuttle service Arrival: Airline/ flight#/ day/ time _____
 Departure: Airline/ flight#/ day/ time _____

CANCELLATION POLICY re Registration, Meals & Transportation:

- Full refund if cancellation is received by Oct 18
- ½ refund if cancellation is received by Oct 25
- No refund if cancellation is after Oct 26

Make your check payable to PW in Synod of Southwest

Mail to:
 Susan McMichael
 227 W 9th Place South
 Mesa, AZ 85201
 Phone: 480-969-6482 email: msmcmichael@cox.net

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