

La Palabra

November 2013

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Brant

November is about thanksgiving, and fittingly, about our stewardship of all God's blessings! In keeping with these themes, November is also the month that your church asks you to consider making a pledge for the coming year (2014) as a response of faithfulness, and to allow the Session to make responsible financial plans for the coming year. Here are a couple of important things to know in that regard:

- 1) THANK YOU! The Current Fund, which we use to pay the basic expenses of the church, has been stable through 2013, and we appear to be on track to finish the year with a balanced budget. If you are already tithing, then you know the unique joys of that discipline, and **if you aren't quite to the ten percent mark, then you are invited to make an incremental increase in your giving** (perhaps 1-2%). About 15% of our givers are estimated to be tithers. If everyone else can increase their giving toward becoming a tither, FPC should be able to fund all existing mission, ministry, and programming planned for the coming year.
- 2) THANK YOU! The Building Fund, which we use to pay the mortgage and to make capital repairs and improvements, has also been strong. As you may recall, for the past two years the Session has asked us to make a special capital fund pledge for the Fellowship Hall Extreme Make Over, which was to be finished at the end of 2013. All things being equal, we would be ready to move forward on that project in early 2014 because you have been so faithful. The sanctuary incident this past spring, however, revealed a problem in the primary electrical panel (not part of the incident) that must be addressed sooner than later, and that is best addressed in connection with the Make Over project. **IF you would be willing to extend your Building Fund pledge at current levels for one more year, we would be able to cover the costs of this unexpected repair and complete the Make Over.** Furthermore, IF members will make those pledges, the Finance Committee will recommend to the Session that the repairs and Make Over be done out of the first dollars to the Building Fund, in the belief that members will continue to give to the project even though it is done (in order to then cover other things the Building Fund must cover for the rest of the year). Essentially this means that if pledges are strong, we could be doing the Extreme Make Over in the first part of the year as planned!

It is good that we pause to remember with thanksgiving all that we have received, and that we plan for how we will share those blessings with others in the year ahead.

God has blessed each and every one of us in so many ways. It is good that we pause to remember with thanksgiving all that we have received, and that we plan for how we will share those blessings with others in the year ahead!

In Christ!

Brant

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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

This year's Sanctuary Choir retreat will be held in Sedona on November 1st-3rd. Rehearsals will be held at Church of the Red Rocks, and on the 3rd, we will join with the CRR choir to present special music during morning worship. The choir will rehearse their Lenten & Easter music, including the Dubois Seven Last Words which will be presented in our Sanctuary on Maundy Thursday, April 17th, with Soloists, Organ, Cantilena Choir, and Director Dr. Glenn Bennett.

Our annual FPC Ministry Fair will be presented on Sunday, November 10th, in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour (10:00-10:30). Each Commission will display and advertise the activities of their various ministries. In addition to learning about FPC worship offerings, be sure to drop by the Worship Commission table for an enticing sweet cream puff!

On April 5,6,12,13, the First Players will present their production of Music Theatre International's blockbuster musical "Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory." Auditions will be held in the Choir Room on Saturday, November 16th, 1:00-3:00 p.m. For audition information, contact Mark Ramsey, 480-964-8606, Ext. 24. Librettos and Production Schedule are on the Church Office counter.



With much thanksgiving for our faithful choir members, there will be no mid-week choir rehearsals during Thanksgiving week. A very, very Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir will perform next month for the Desert Botanical Gardens *Las Noches de las Luminarias*. The group will perform on Tuesday, December 17th, from 5:30-9:30 p.m. This year, all bell choirs well be on an outdoor stage! If you would like to attend the concert, tickets are available on the Desert Botanical Gardens website (<http://www.dbg.org>) and in advance from the DBG ticket office.

The Sanctuary Choir would love to welcome some new choir members. Here are but a few incentives to joining our choir: learning great music and developing great friendships; keeping the spirit, mind, and body in tune; monthly socials/treats at rehearsal(!); and retreats to fun locations. Come and join this fun and talented group as we prepare special music to be presented with the children's, youth, and adult choirs on Music Sunday, December 22nd. We're also working on the pit choir music for *Willy Wonka*. Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Choir Room with warm-up on Sunday mornings at 8:20 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Praise Song Notebooks are available during our 9:00 a.m. blended service. If you would like to use printed music rather than lyrics-only for our praise songs, please request a notebook from one of our ushers.

Humoresque

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

A couple lived near the ocean and used to walk the beach a lot. One summer they noticed a girl who was at the beach almost every day. She wasn't unusual, nor was the travel bag she carried, except for one thing; she would approach people who were sitting on the beach, glance around, and then speak to them. Generally, the people would respond negatively, and she would wander off, but occasionally someone would nod, and there would be a quick exchange of money and something that she carried in her bag. The couple assumed that she was selling drugs, but since they didn't know for sure, they decided to just continue watching her. After a couple of weeks the wife said, 'Honey, have you ever noticed that she only goes up to people with boom boxes and other

electronic devices? Tomorrow I want you to get a towel and our big radio and go lie out on the beach, then we can find out what she's really doing.' Well, the plan went off without a hitch, and the wife was almost hopping up and down with anticipation when she saw the girl talk to her husband and then leave. The man then walked up the beach and met his wife at the road. 'Well, is she selling drugs?' she asked excitedly. 'No, she's not,' he said, enjoying this probably more than he should have. 'Well, what is it then? What does she do?' his wife fairly shrieked. The man grinned and said, 'She's a battery salesperson.' 'Batteries?' cried the wife. 'Yes!' he replied. 'She Sells C Cells by the Seashore!'

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) — Sue Eisenklam

Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (D) — Jane Potyka

Shoe Box Time

Time is quickly approaching! Shoe boxes are here and will be available between services November 3rd. Imagine the joy some boy or girl will feel when presented with a special box filled with goodies in the name of Christ. Suggestions of items you might include are found on a pamphlet you will receive with your box or boxes. Please prayerfully consider helping us collect more boxes than last year.

We ask that the boxes be returned to the church by November 17th. Hope you will enjoy filling the boxes as much as our small group does (Hot Chili's). If you have any questions, please ask David and Tammy Miller, Spencer and Connie Hoff, Bert Landstra and Lois Hildenbrand, Jeanne Partida, Jan Montgomery, or Jack and Yvonne Oliver. Thank you and God bless.

Honor a Vet. Make a difference. Donate Blood. Sunday, November 10th



The American Red Cross will have a Bloodmobile in the church parking lot Sunday November 10th, Veteran's Day weekend, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Help us reach our goal of 50 donors! Giving blood is a priceless gift! What a great way to honor those who have served or are serving our country!

You may go on-line to register and schedule an appointment. Go to: redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: FirstPresbyterianMesa. You may also sign up during fellowship time between services. Or you can contact Sue Eisenklam at 480-993-6512, eisentouch@yahoo.com. Blood drives are sponsored twice a year by the Mission Commission of FPC.

How Blessed we are! We get to be Angels!

FPC will once again be sponsoring 4-6 needy neighborhood families this Christmas season. Gift suggestions for members of each family will appear on the tree in the sanctuary in December. What a lovely way to share our blessings! Watch for more details about this year's Angel Tree coming your way soon!



NOMINATING COMMITTEE will begin its work of establishing a slate of Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2017 for the openings that will take place. If anyone is interested in being considered for any position that will be vacated, please notify the office.

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

Wednesday WRAP is back!

Block 2 of Wednesday WRAP kicks off this month! Join us on November 6th for music, dinner, games and really fun, hands on Bible study! The kindergarten through sixth grade students will learn lessons such as how anger can hurt people (using messy ingredients like shaken soda cans and marshmallows!), understanding that God wants us to be helpful and kind even when no one else is watching (cookies will be decorated to sneakily hand out to someone) and that God is our peace (Jehovah Shalom). We meet weekly from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and all kindergarten-aged students through adults are invited! We will be bringing back weekly themes this block!

November 6: All American

November 13: Circus

November 20: Bring a friend/Thanksgiving

December 4: Pirate

December 11: Dr. Seuss

December 18: Christmas Music Practice

Sunday School

Attention all Winter Sunday School teachers/assistants and those interested in helping in the preschool through sixth grade classrooms: Mark your calendars for our quarterly teacher meeting to be held on Sunday, November 24th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Christian Education office.

Please keep the Sunday school program in your prayers. The elementary Sunday school program is growing, and we are meeting neighborhood children for the first time. The teachers work hard and are dedicated to the students and lessons. We are kicking off each week with a sing-a-long under the tree in the playground and learning many spiritual songs. Let's surround this important part of our ministry in prayer this month and for the rest of the year. Thank you!

We want to thank all of you who purchased a Save Around Phoenix coupon book. All of the money that was raised will go toward remodeling the playground bathrooms in the Jackson Building. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, we would greatly appreciate it. At this point, we are at approximately 30% of our total goal of \$5000.

This month the children will be learning about pirates, nursery rhymes, outer space, harvest and Thanksgiving. It will be a month full of fun and learning! Feel free to stop by and enjoy a morning with the children. We will be observing Veteran's Day on November 11th and will be closed. We will also be closed for Thanksgiving weekend, November 27th-28th.

We hope that you can find time to stop and enjoy the beautiful fall weather and share the time with your families. We are truly blessed to be a part of the First Presbyterian Mission here at the Preschool.

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo
480-835-7877 ext. 27
preschool@fpcmesa.org



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

CRAFT FAIR — Saturday, November 9th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.:

Denise Worden and her team of helpers have worked hard to make sure we have more craft vendors than ever before. They will display a wide variety of treasures! Many of our own congregation will be participating. PW will be holding a bake sale, and much, MUCH MORE! Plan on coming to see all the fabulous stuff that will be offered (and perhaps do some Christmas shopping)! This is another event that some of your friends might like to attend with you!



Yarnell Fire Household Shower: Thank you for your generous response in providing household supplies to people who lost homes in the tragic Yarnell Fire. FPC contributed a carload of bedding, towels, and kitchen tools to the Presbytery-Wide PW project.

PW Synod Gathering: Susan McMichael and Helen Lents will represent FPC PW at the PW Synod Gathering in Albuquerque, November 8-10. *Meeting God at the Borders* is the theme of this gathering.

Next CT meeting: November 5th, Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., library.

Lydia Circle meets second Tuesday, 12:00 noon, parlor

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

PW Holiday Luncheon

FPC's Presbyterian Women invite you to a Holiday Potluck Luncheon on Tuesday, December 3rd, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be hosted by Deborah and Rachel Circles. The speaker will be PW Presbytery moderator, Donny Yordy. RSVP your salad/vegetable/dessert item to Ellie Koch, 480-807-1685.

Are you alone, hungry and thankful? Please come join those of us who do not have plans for Thanksgiving dinner. It is a "Bring-A-Dish" event. Turkey is prepared. You bring the trimmings. RSVP to Flinn Lund.



November Birthdays



Aaron Frederick
 Steve Muth
 Jane Potyka
 Scot Logan
 Diane Schwartzmann
 Mark Weinel
 Kathleen Price
 John Fitzpatrick
 Carol Gerlach
 Kelly Pagels
 Sandy Hanson
 Charlene Raikes
 Heidi Blincoe
 Alltianna Husnick
 Eli Hillis
 Alexander Nguyen
 Amanda Hoyman
 William Letizia
 Kay Harding
 Erin Skarphol
 Ann Hawkins
 Marjorie Bergeron
 Pam Kurtz
 Martha Bienert
 Jan Garpner
 Ethan Couillard
 Mary Beth McMichael
 Gail Wylie
 Lois Hildenbrand
 Flinn Lund
 Aenea Schwartzmann
 Bryan Verch
 Robert Verch
 Karyn Weaver
 Matthew Fleener
 Jade Fleener
 Bob Free
 Arlene Wagner

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.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Bozmoski, David & Laneville, Kim 4545 W. Solano Drive Glendale, AZ 85301	Kitchen, Calli 480-354-8513 (Phone number change only)
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Calendar Notes

November 1-3
 Choir Retreat in Sedona
**(Tony Montoya & Graci Armendariz
 at HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse!)**

November 7
 Endowment Luncheon

November 9
 Craft Fair

November 10
 Blood Drive

November 11 & 12
 Circles meet

November 15 & 16
 Men's Prayer Retreat, Saguaro Lake Ranch

November 16
 Endowment Brunch
 Willy Wonka Auditions

November 17
 Commissions & Session meet

November 22 & 23
 Youth Event — Acquire the Fire!

November 24
 Stewardship Sunday
 Monthly Food Drive

November 28
 Thanksgiving Day
 (Office Closed November 28th & 29th)

FPC

What Up?

Nov '13

WNL Block 2
Nov 6, 13, 20

EPIC! TRUTH

REACH THE LIGHT PRESENTS

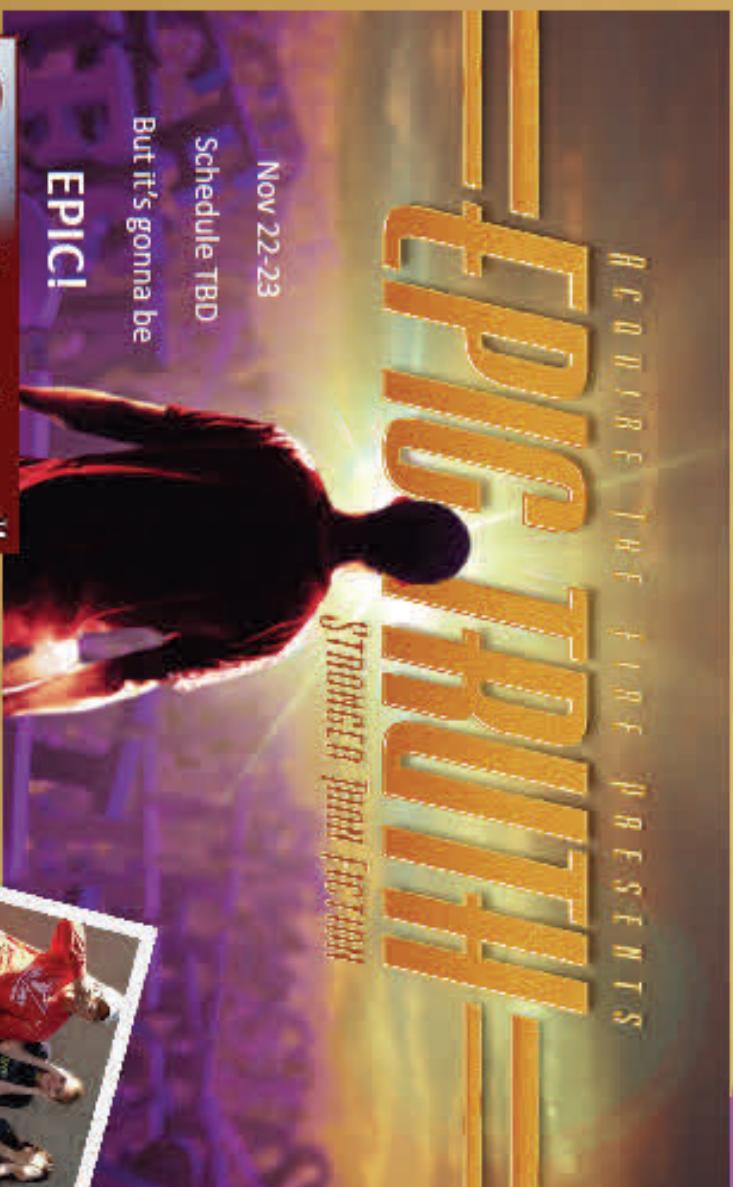
STRANGER THAN Fiction

Nov 22-23

Schedule TBD

But it's gonna be

EPIC!



You're Invited!

Save the
Date

Sunday

Dec 15

3:30

Youth Team: Gray Baker—
(480) 459-8071; Teresa Hal-
verson—(480) 962-1924;
John Hee—(602) 284-7311;
Todd Ramsey—(480) 495-
6109; Jason Reeves (480)
229-9387

Monkeying around on
the mission trip!

Sign up for reminder texts by texting @5a5b5 to 623-552-4487.
It will reply with a message asking to reply with your full name.