

La Palabra

December 2013

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606



A Message from Brant

Give me Jesus.

That's the name of a song written in 2005 by Fernando Ortega (and since also recorded by Jeremy Camp). It's a pretty simple song that says,

*In the morning, when I rise, in the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise, give me Jesus
Give me Jesus, Give me Jesus,
You can have all this world, But give me Jesus.*

I think that's part of what I'm after when, about every year or two, I feel *driven* to read back through one of the gospels. *Who was he? What more is there for me to learn from him? How can I grow to be more like the person he created me to be?* These are the questions, for the answers, give me Jesus.

This month we head into Advent, the season of preparation, waiting, and celebration, and I would like to take you along on this journey with me. Looking afresh at the gospel of Matthew, and with these and other questions in mind, I would propose that we search with eagerness, looking to be given only Jesus.

Of course the Jesus we have been given is the one who defies our expectations, imaginations, and complications, in God's wisdom coming to us as a baby. As Advent draws to a close, we will celebrate his birth with a joyous celebration of music (Sunday, December 22nd) and with a traditional service of lessons, carols, and readings (Tuesday, December 24th, 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.).

All in all it's going to be a great month!

In Christ!

Brant

Just
**GIVE
ME
JESUS**

INDEX

<i>A Message from Brant</i>	1
<i>Mark's Remarks (Worship)</i>	2
<i>Mission</i>	3
<i>Presbyterian Women</i>	3
<i>Discipleship</i>	4
<i>November Birthdays</i>	5
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	5
<i>Youth What Up?</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7



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



Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir will perform this month at Red Mountain Community Church (December 6th and 7th) and for the Desert Botanical Garden *Las Noches de las Luminarias* (December 17th). At DBG, the group will perform from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., and this year, all bell choirs will be on an outdoor stage, so if you would like to attend the concert, dress warmly! Tickets will be available on the Desert Botanical Garden website (<http://www.dbg.org>) and in advance at the DBG ticket office.

This year's Music Sunday, "Christmas Peace," will be held on December 22nd, during our 9:00 a.m. service and will feature each of our FPC choirs. The service will include choir solos, combined choirs, and congregational carols. There will be a special Music Sunday rehearsal on Wednesday, December 18th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All choirs are invited to gather at the Wednesday WRAP dinner table at 5:30 that night. The cost will be \$3 per person, payable at the door, and reservations should be made by calling the church office, (480) 964-8606, Ext. 24, by Thursday, December 12th. Following the Music Sunday rehearsal, the Sanctuary Choir will adjourn to the Choir Room, where they will rehearse for Christmas Eve, from 7:00-8:00.

A Candlelight Communion Service of Lessons & Carols will be offered on Christmas Eve at both 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. The 5:30 p.m. service will include music and drama offered by our Sunday School classes and will also feature a "Celebration of Gifts" prelude. All of our younger musicians are invited to offer an instrumental or vocal solo. Please contact me if you would like to share your gifts! If possible, prepare pieces based on Christmas carols.



It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas. If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one to be used in the Sanctuary during the Advent season, order forms are available at the kiosk or in the Church Office. The poinsettias are \$10 apiece. Please return the form, with payment attached, to the church office. There will be a sign-up table during coffee time. Deadline for response is December 16th.

Humoresque

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

After 35 years of marriage, a husband and wife came for counseling. When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the years they had been married. On and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured. Finally, after allowing this for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and after asking the wife to stand, he

embraced and kissed her long and passionately as her husband watched - with a raised eyebrow. The woman shut up and quietly sat down as though in a daze. The therapist turned to the husband and said, "This is what your wife needs at least 3 times a week. Can you do this?" "Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays, I fish." [from Anita Ramsey]

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

Christmas Angel Tree

The time is here for our annual opportunity to be angels! The tree with angels will be up on Sunday, December 1st. We are sponsoring three needy neighborhood families this year. We will provide gifts, household and personal care items as well as a holiday meal for each family. We invite you to participate in this mission by taking an angel from the tree at the back of the Sanctuary.

Purchase the designated gift, wrap it in holiday paper, attach the angel to the outside of the gift and return the gift to the tree by Sunday, December 22nd. Gifts and food will be delivered on that day. Household and personal care items **should not** be wrapped. There is a collection box in the church office for those items. If you have questions call: Sue Eisenklam, 480-993-6512 or Sandy Clark, 480-835-1338. As always, thank you for your big hearts, kindness and generosity!



2014 Per Capita Apportionment:

General Assembly:	\$ 7.02 (\$0.22 increase)
Synod of the Southwest:	4.00 (no change)
Presbytery of Grand Canyon:	<u>19.98</u> (\$1.28 increase)
Total —	\$31.00



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

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, who will speak on her experiences in Appalachia. Bring a salad or vegetable item to share. Dessert will be provided.

Circles Meet:

Eve Circle meets second Monday, 7:00 p.m., parlor
Lydia Circle meets second Tuesday, 12:00 noon, parlor
Rachel Circle meets second Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., library
Deborah Circle meets second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., members' homes

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



Sunday School News!

The Sunday school has been going great this fall for the elementary aged students. We will wrap up our current studies by celebrating the upcoming holiday - Christmas! All children in the preschool through sixth grade are invited to join us for SANTA'S WORKSHOP! The children will become the elves and make gifts for their family and friends from 10:30 – 11:20 a.m. on Sunday, December 22nd, in Jackson A & B. (This is the regular Sunday school time.) If your child has not been a part of the Sunday School program, they are invited to join us now. This is sure to be a super fun time!

Wednesday WRAP will continue to meet in December. All students aged kindergarten and up, as well as all adults, are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We have music, dinner, games and Bible study! The kindergarten through sixth grade students will be learning that forgiveness is a very important part of healing (demonstrated with disappearing ink!) and that God is always there: using play dough, candy, science and more!

Themes for this month are:

December 4: Pirate

December 11: Dr. Seuss

December 18: Christmas Music Practice

WRAP will have our annual music practice to prepare for Music Sunday on Wednesday, December 18th. We will have an optional recreation time from 5:00 – 5:30 followed by a pasta dinner (5:30 – 6:00) and music practice in the sanctuary from 6:00 – 7:00. Please plan to stay with your child(ren) during music practice so you can bring them home as soon as they are done – some students will finish earlier than others.

Christ, our Savior is born! Christmastime has a magical spirit that the children love to be a part of. What a wonderful time of year it is as we look forward to the cool weather, long winter days off and the warmth of being surrounded by our family. The preschool is bustling with exciting things. We just celebrated our annual family Thanksgiving Feast and are looking forward to showcasing our young stars for the Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 11th. Please join us at 9:00 am. You won't want to miss it!

The Preschool will be closed for the Christmas/winter holiday from December 23rd through January 3, 2014. School resumes on Monday, January 6th. We want to encourage all of you to stop by and celebrate this amazing time of year with our children.

Wish List: old newspapers, magic erasers for cleaning, 3 oz. paper cups, Christmas stickers, and bubbles. We really appreciate your help!



Sincerely in Christ,
Shiloh Murillo

December Birthdays



Frank White	1st
Denver Wyse	1st
Sheilah Dye	2nd
Louise Griffith	2nd
Linda Reeves	4th
Kay Herrera	5th
Sophia Letizia	5th
James Schwartzmann	5th
Karen Rudin	6th
Anita Ramsey	9th
Samantha Jo Woods	9th
Randy Castela	10th
Nell Evans	10th
Nancy Tordai	10th
Spencer Hoff	12th
Kevin Woods	13th
Carolyn Barber	14th
John Hee	14th
Myrna Olmstead	14th
Margaret Johnson	15th
Marie Robb	15th
Janice Williamson	16th
Bob Leonard	17th
Julia Laneville	18th
Laura Bruening	19th
Jerry Kurtz	19th
Ruth Robinson	20th
Marlene Verch	20th
Barbara Walker	20th
Maurice Belew	21st
Jonathan Martin	21st
Virginia Perkins	21st
Michael Eberhardt	22nd
Calli Kitchen	22nd
Maxine Miller	22nd
Lida Phillips	22nd
Erica Schwartzmann	22nd
Steve Durand	23rd
Chad Gray	23rd
Matthew Schnuelle	25th
Barbara Strader	25th
Herb Andreen	26th
Nancy Bockler	26th
Westley Logan	27th
Ruth Pomeroy	28th
Allan Chisholm	29th
Rosemary Goings	29th
Nicki McInelly	29th

Ruth Yurich	29th
Cassidy Ambri	29th
Matthew Cordone	30th
Ella Koopman	39th
Madeline Schnuelle	30th

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

December 3

PW Holiday Luncheon

December 9 & 10

Circles meet

December 15

Commissions & Session meet
Youth Christmas Party

December 17

Dei Gloriam at Desert Botanical Gardens

December 22

Music Sunday — Christmas Peace

December 24

Office closes at 12:00 noon
5:30 — Family Service
8:30 — Traditional Service

December 25

Merry Christmas!

December 29

Monthly Food Drive

December 31

New Year's Eve — Office closes at 12:00 noon



FPC

What Up?

December '13

You're Invited!
To a
Christmas
Party

Sunday,
Dec 15, 3:30-5:00pm
Guys: bring treats
Girls: bring drinks
All: bring a Goofy Gift (\$5 limit)
AND BE READY FOR A GREAT
TIME!

Reason for the Season!



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

Save the Date
for Save the Family!
Saturday, January 18th
9:30am-1:30pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL
With your Hoops, Todd AND
GRAY!
NEW STUDY: "The Rabbit"
Sunday Mornings, 10:30-11:20
Sunday Youth Room