

La Palabra

October 2013

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Brant

October means many things to many folk, but for FPC it means MISSION!

Once more we'll be taking a group down to the San Carlos Apache Reservation to build houses in what can only be called "another world." The extremes of poverty we witness as we work and move about the area are heartbreaking, and the stats are even more so: 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 sub-standard 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 and we're glad we can be a part of meeting it. The group that goes out of FPC is always quite mixed in terms of age, skill, and ability. Never fear, there's always something for everyone to do. **What is needed most if for you to sign up!** I promise it will be an experience that will grow you spiritually and connect you with others in new and deep ways (see the Mission page for more information).



But wait, there's more! On Saturday, October 26th, we have the opportunity to join with the entire city of Mesa for Make A Difference Day, working on a project to help beautify and improve our city (time and place to be determined). In years past we've cleaned up alleyways and washed trucks for United Food Bank. If you know of any projects in your neighborhood, please let mission elder Phill Pagels know as we might be interested in taking it on. No matter what we do it's bound to be a wonderful morning of taking the love of Christ out of the church and into the city!

And of course around all of this goes the ongoing work of ministry: choirs, Sunday School classes, the food pantry, I-HELP, Befrienders, WNL, Mesa Presbyterian Ministries, Scouting, and so much more. Thanks for all the ways you continue to answer God's call to joyous and faithful service, which is part of our worship of giving thanks for all God has done in our lives and the many blessings we've received!

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

The Southern and Central Arizona chapters of the American Guild of Organists will meet in our Sanctuary for an "organ crawl" on Saturday, October 5th! An organ crawl gives participants the opportunity to investigate, play, and listen to a variety of organs. This year's event will include organs of Central Phoenix and the East Valley. The approximate schedule for the day will be: 10:00 a.m. St. Agnes Catholic Church, Phoenix (Aeolian-Skinner Organ 1957); 11:00 a.m. St. Mary's Basilica (Schantz Organ 2012); 1:00 p.m. Arizona State University (Paul Fritts & Co. Organ 1991 & Dominico Traeri Organ 1742!); 3:00 p.m. Victory Lutheran Church (Bigelow & Co. Organ 1988); and 4:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Mesa (Visser-Rowland Organ 1991,1995). The day will conclude with a 5:30 dinner at Organ Stop Pizza, Mesa (Wurlitzer Organ 1927/1975/1997). Please let me know if you would like to attend any or all of the organ crawl, and I will arrange for carpooling and will get you the details.

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.



Auditions! 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 will be available Sunday, October 27th, on the Church Office counter.

If you are interested in other upcoming musical activities, please take a moment to visit www.fpcmesa.org/worship. The site includes further information about our Artist Series and various music ministries.

Humoresque

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

"Judas Asparagus" - A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible. Here is what was written: THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE IN A NUTSHELL - In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one,' but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden.....Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars. Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something. One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check. After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat. Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother. One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town. After Joshua came David.. He got to

be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them. After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.') During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead. Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

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 Reservation mission trip

Our mission trip to San Carlos is just around the corner (October 12-13). Once more we'll be working under the guidance of 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 13th, by around 6:00 p.m. For more information about this trip OR Mesa Make A Difference Day, please contact Phill Pagels, Elder for Mission, (480) 427-7254.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our small group is once again inviting all interested to join with us in providing Christmas Shoeboxes to the needy children of the world. In 1993 Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse launched the Operation Christmas Child program. The first year of the program 28,000 boxes were collected. Since then over 80 million gift-filled boxes have been distributed to children in over 130 nations. This will be our 6th year collecting boxes. Last year we reached our goal of 75 boxes and would really like to exceed that amount this year. Would you please help us reach this goal?

We are hoping to have boxes available the end of October or use an empty shoe box (standard size). Filling the box is a very simple task. You need to decide if you will be gifting a boy or girl using one of these age categories: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Gift ideas are: toys, school supplies, hygiene items, hard candy or lollipops (double bagged), socks, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), t-shirt, caps, etc.

We are asking that the shoe box be returned to the church on November 17th as we need to deliver them to the collection point between November 18th and 25th. For more information, please contact: Jack and Yvonne Oliver, 654-6348, Dave and Tammy Miller, 235-5574, Spencer and Connie Hoff 862-6509, Burt Lanstra and Lois Hildenbrand 253-7608, or Jeanne Partida 981-6149.

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 Night Live will wrap up block one in the middle of the month. We have been meeting weekly from 5:00 – 7:00 to enjoy music, recreation, dinner, discussion, games, Bible study and more. All members, friends and neighbors are invited to join us! On October 2nd, the K – 6 grade students will be learning about keeping promises and about a promise that God made to us. This will be done by incorporating Bible study, dynamic discussion and a hands-on craft. On October 9th, the students will learn about the different kinds of families by creating a family group and learning their role in the group. Each week will be filled with surprises, laughter and much fun! If you missed any or all of block 1, please plan to join us for block 2! We will kick off the second session in November!



This support group is currently being offered at FPC on Wednesdays from 3:30 – 5:30. This group is designed for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. Each is “self-contained,” so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin. You will be able to continue with GriefShare through the next cycle and view any of the videos you have not seen. Please contact Jeanne Partida or the church office for more details.

The elementary Sunday school program kicked off to a great start this fall! Thank you to our dedicated teachers. These teachers have been (in some cases) continually serving the children they teach for over a year! What a blessing they are: Lanai Mills & Stephanie Gerlach (preschool – kindergarten), Miki & Brooks Newbry (1st – 2nd grade), Anita Ramsey (3rd – 4th grade), Ruth Letizia & John Couillard (5th – 6th grade). These teachers (and many others that have taught for a season or have substituted) put so much of themselves into their lessons and building relationships with the children. Anita even sends a letter to each of her students if they miss a week of class! The letter lets the student know they were missed as well as lets them know what was studied and what they will learn the following Sunday!

Men's Fellowship will begin their fall meetings on Wednesday, October 2nd, at 7:30 a.m., in Fellowship Hall. Men interested in Bible Study, fellowship and a cup of coffee with donuts are invited to participate. Jim Bruening will lead the study, but your participation is important as well as appreciated.

The next FPC New Member Class will be held in the Parlor on Saturday, October 5th, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to get to know the church better in terms of its mission, teaching, and people. Please call the church office at 480-964-8606 to register (snacks included!).

What a Great beginning to the new school year at the preschool! We have 44 children enrolled in our three classrooms, and we have been blessed with our weekly family Chapel time with Pastor Brant. The children are growing in their young faith for the love of Christ. Praise God!

There are a few things going on at the preschool during the month of October. We will be closed for the Fall Break from October 7th-11th. We will resume class on October 14th. We will have our annual Halloween Parade on October 31st at 10:30 a.m. and would love your help passing out the candy to the children. They love to dress up as their favorite characters and it is a wonderful time to share in their joy! Please come and enjoy the festivities!



October wish list: We would appreciate donations of bags of candy to pass out for the parade, 3oz or 5oz paper cups for outside on those hot days, and Prayers for our little school.

We feel so blessed to have the support and prayers of the wonderful congregants here at FPC. We celebrate the community of Christ's followers and appreciate all of your love. Thank you!

Shiloh Murillo - Director

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.



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.

To All Women: Please keep your ovens set for the bake sale sponsored by FPC Presbyterian Women during the Craft Fair on November 8th in Fellowship Hall. We will accept all cookies, cakes, pies, favorite Christmas baked goods, candy and brownies, etc. at the kitchen from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Friday, November 8th or Saturday, November 9th, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Monies received will be going to one or more mission projects supported by PW. Question? Call Jeannette Laurie, 480-962-0527.

Next CT meeting: October 1st, 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

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. The first meeting will be held on October 1st.

Just for Laughs

A 54 year old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God she asked "Is my time up?" God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live." Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color and brighten her teeth! Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance. Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 43 years? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance?" God replied: "I didn't recognize you."

October Birthdays



Jennifer Martin	1st
Dylan Hickey	2nd
Mary Beth Berry	3rd
Carter Buck	3rd
Andrew Kaufmann	5th
Irene Lenke	5th
Sandy Garpner	6th
June Gibbons	7th
Elinore Koch	7th
Steve Wylie	8th
Carol Baird	9th
Connie Chisholm	11th
Brooks Newbry	12th
Sam Thielke	12th
Bob Mallia	14th
Dale Gibson	15th
Penelope Sitzler	16th
Fran Watson	16th
Kenneth Verch	18th
David Woods	19th
Brooklyn Bero	21st
Mary Jane Hee	21st
Andrew Gailfus	22nd
Dan Reeves	23rd
Dillon Waters	23rd
Dana Pilon	24th
Lincoln Saulsby	26th
Zac Williams	26th
Diane Brause	27th
John Couillard	27th
Katherine McMichael	27th
Cary Preston	29th
Janet Verch	29th
Luke McInelly	30th
Chuck Michel	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.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Ghubril, Nuha 2645 E. Southern, #A216 Tempe, AZ 85282 480-831-3436	Post, Karen 123 W. Indigo St. Mesa, AZ 85201
Johnson, Margaret 5933 E. Main St., Lot 109 North Mesa, AZ 85205-8834	Price, Kay 802 S. Reseda Mesa, AZ 85206
Phillips, Lida 809 W. Longhorn Rd., #D-1617 Payson, AZ 85541	

Calendar Notes

October 5

New Member Class

October 8 & 14

Circles meet

October 12 & 13

Mission Trip

October 15

Befrienders

October 20

Commissions & Session meet

October 26

Mesa Make a Difference Day
Road Rally

October 27

Monthly Food Drive

October 29

PW Luncheon



Dear Family and Friends at FPC,
Thank you for your loving care during the illness and death of our husband, father and grandfather. Your cards and food are appreciated. Thank you again.
Leon Kambak Family

FPC

What Up?

Oct '13

ALL CHURCH MISSION TRIP!

When: Sat-Sun, October 12-13

Cost: probably around \$75 per person

Where: San Carlos Apache Reservation

What: building houses to help alleviate overcrowding and the social problems it creates

WHAT YOU MUST DO: Let the church office know you want to come or sign up after church



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



Can't be on the mission trip?

Then come and help paint the Youth Room!!!
Saturday, Oct 12
9:00am-noon
Wear old clothes and come ready to



Sunday Mornings
10:30-11:20
Youth Room

PLUS:
WNL BLOCK 1
continues:
Oct 2 & 9

STARTING OCT 20th
"PURE SEX"

SUNDAY SCHOOL
With your Hosts
TODD AND GRAY!

Youth Team: Gray Baker—(480) 459-8071 Teresa Halverson—(480) 962-1924 John Hee—(602) 284-7311

Todd Ramsey—(480) 495-6109

Jason Reeves (480) 229-9387