

La Palabra

January 2014

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Brant

When I first became Pastor of PC, I determined to do a prayer walk of our campus every year on the first day of the year. It has never been a well-attended event (!) but in truth I've been pretty quiet about it.

Some years later God put it on my heart to do a prayer walk of the entire City of Mesa. It seemed like too big a vision (!) but eventually God showed me how it could be accomplished, and three years ago the first Mesa Prayer Walk was launched.



Mesa Prayer Walk

On January 5th at 3:00 p.m. the third annual Mesa-Gilbert Prayer Walk will take place (!). Churches in both communities will walk and pray for a one mile segment of the perimeter of our cities, thus *encircling* them in prayer. As you can imagine, it is a massive undertaking: last year twenty churches and hundreds of walkers hit the streets and prayed for our civic leaders, our first responders, our schools, our businesses, our families, and all that our cities contain, asking for God's protection and prosperity in the year ahead.

This year FPC will split our group and cover two of the segments. Please plan on taking part by meeting at 3:00 at the southeast corner of Brown and Country Club (park at the Mesa Student Services building, 1025 Country Club, just south of the intersection), to walk and pray with fellow church members (for more information on prayer walking go to www.mesaprayerwalk.org).

But wait, that's not all! It seemed like a natural idea to merge the Mesa Prayer Walk with the prayer walk of our campus, so I wonder if some of us, after walking and praying for the city, would like to return to FPC, spend a few more minutes walking and praying specifically for our church (its people, programs, protection, and direction) in the year ahead. THEN, let's stick around and have some kind of crock pot meal together (nothing fancy, but a few folks are working on something that will be hot and nourishing for us).

What do you say? Come on out for a little physical and spiritual exercise, and let's start the year off right!

In Christ!

Brant

P.S. We will be starting another Valiant Man course in February. This study is designed to equip men to work through the challenges of living moral and upright lives in a culture that offers constant sexual bombardment. The course is also a fantastic tool to help men in relationships with their wives (or future wives, as the case may be). Many of the lessons help men reflect on who they are and who their spouse is, with the inevitable benefit of better understanding and insight all the way around. The Valiant Man course will be offered on Monday nights, from 6:30-8:15 p.m., starting February 3rd. Please sign up by calling the church office (480-964-8606) or by e-mailing pastor@fpcmesa.org.

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>January Birthdays</i>	5
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	5
<i>Address Changes</i>	5
<i>Youth What Up?</i>	6

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 First Players will present four performances of *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, on April 4, 5, 11, 12. Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir comes to life in this musical stage adaptation of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, which features the songs from the classic family film *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. Roald Dahl's *WILLY WONKA* follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy Wonka as he stages a contest by hiding five golden tickets in



five of his scrumptious candy bars. Whoever comes up with these tickets will win a free tour of the Wonka factory, as well as a life-time supply of candy. Four of the five winning children are insufferable and unruly: the fifth is a likeable young lad named Charlie Bucket who takes the tour in the company of his equally amiable grandfather. The children must learn to follow Mr. Wonka's rules in the factory—or suffer the consequences. This scrumdidilyumptious musical is guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth. Performed by our First Players, this all-ages show is sure to have everyone dreaming of candy and singing on the way out.

Tickets will be available in March, but online will-call tickets are currently available via the Artist Series page of our church website, and the advanced orders assist with show budgeting and would be gratefully appreciated! The cast will include: John Couillard (Willy Wonka), Dylan Hickey (Candy Man), Helen Letizia (Phinalynn Trout), Ian Harding (Charlie Bucket), Karen Rudin (Mrs. Bucket), Robert Harding (Mr. Bucket), Freda Homolya (Grandma Josephine), Charlene Raikes (Grandma Georgina), Carl Jensen (Grandpa George), Brooks Newbry (Grandpa Joe), Ethan Couillard (James), Evie Couillard (Matilda), Tanya Snitzer (Augustina), Miki Newbry (Mrs. Gloop), Eliana Couillard (Veruca Salt), Bob Schulz (Mr. Salt), Carter Buck (Mike Teavee), Kate Buck (Ms. Teavee), Isobel Letizia (Violet Beauregarde), Joy Schulz (Mrs. Beauregarde), and Ashlyn Newbry, Flinn Lund, and Will Snitzer (Oompa Loompas). A few bit parts are still available, so contact Director Anita Ramsey if you are interested, and get your tickets now!

Humoresque

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

A guy walking in the desert desperately needed a drink. As he followed the dunes, he came upon another man riding a camel. He asked the man if he had something to drink. The man on the camel said "no, but if you like, I have a nice selection of ties. Would you like to buy one?" "No!", the first man replied. "Are you crazy? I need something to drink, not a tie!" So the man on the camel rode on, and the walking man continued his slow and very thirsty trek for several days. Finally he came upon a cantina. He gratefully approached the doorman at the cantina and said, "I'm so glad I made it! Can I get in and get some water?" The doorman frowned at him. "Not without a tie."

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

Habitat for Humanity, a Mission project of FPC, will begin their next build in January 2014. We need to have you consider volunteering for this project. The family is Bernardino and Ana Luisa Soto and their six children. The address is at 1459 6th Place, Mesa. The house is located near Mesa Riverview, west of Alma School and South of Rio Salado Parkway.

The build will start on January 18th and run through March 22nd. Start time on all days is 7:30 am. We are committed to help on the following three days:

- January 18th – We need 2 or 3 people to work. This is the wall signing and framing date.
- March 1st – We need 15 people to work. Plans are to paint the exterior of the house. Lunch will be served by a group from our church.
- March 15th – We need 2 or 3 people. This is final clean-up day. We need volunteers to provide coffee, donuts and sweet rolls at the beginning of the build day.



FPC Habitat Build

If you have any questions call either Jeanne Partida, 480-981-6149 or Sheilah Dye, 480-306-4946.

Dear FPC Family,

Thanks for letting the LORD'S goodness flow through you. The Lord has used you all to bring fresh hope to the hopeless survivors who still remain homeless. We appreciate your continued prayers for the rebuilding of lives, and we express our heartfelt thanks for your generosity. You helped our mission, and now we have seen the expression of your love and compassion to the victims of typhoon Haiyan. The entire island of Leyte, where I am from, was hit hard including neighboring towns and villages. Thank you for supporting Esther. God's abundant blessings to everybody. Wishing you all a fruitful NEW YEAR!

Nate, Ruth, and Esther Robinson



As part of a larger network of Presbyterian Women nationwide, PW Circles use the Horizons Study Guide, *An Abiding Hope: The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy* for the basis of their 2013-14 Bible study. Four circles meet monthly and welcome new members.

Circles Meet:

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

If you need help connecting with a circle contact Susan McMichael, 480-969-6482.

Next PWCT meeting: January 7, Tuesday, 1:00, library.

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 Block 3 is kicking off this month! Please join us, even if it is your first time or you have taken a break! We meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 — 7:00 p.m. for music, dinner, Bible study and more! Cost is only \$15 per 6 week block or \$3 per night. Ages 5 – 105! Invite your neighbors and friends! This month we will help the K – 6th grade students understand that God deserves first place in their lives, Jesus is their shepherd, God hears and answers their prayers and God wants them to be at peace. Our themes for block 3 will be:

January 8—Pajama Party
January 15—Mexican Night
January 22—Bring-a-Friend & Beach Night
January 29—Sports Night
February 5—Prince/Princess Night
February 12—Valentine's Day

The church nursery (open each Sunday for children from 0 – 5 years old) is in need of additional volunteers. We need two different types of volunteers. We need volunteers that are willing to assist in the nursery from 8:55 – 11:20 on a rotating basis (less than once per month). We also need one person willing to be a weekly “back-up” volunteer. The back-up volunteer would be on-call to assist in the nursery weekly, if needed. The back-up person could be a volunteer or a paid position could be discussed. Please contact Carol Anderson or Jasmine Couillard with any questions you might have.

The Y'all Come class meets in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. We are always looking for new people to lead this class and are open to suggestions for subjects you would like to see offered. We are currently using “These Days” devotional. You can find copies at the back of the sanctuary. This class is open to anyone, and we would love to have you come join us.

Rev. Lee Martin McDonald, Ph.D. will be leading a study, “The formation of the Christian Bible” in our Y'all Come class from February 16th to March 23rd. Dr. McDonald is author and/or editor of 31 books and many articles and essays on biblical subjects and is a noted scholar in canon formation. He also served as President of the Institute for Biblical Research, a society of some 1100 Old and New Testament biblical scholars from around the world. He was a member of the General Board for the American Baptist Church USA. He and his wife Mary are currently residing in Mesa.

Grief Recovery Support Group is starting up at FPC on January 15th! Your journey from mourning to joy may start here! GriefShare is a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. At GriefShare, you'll learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life. For additional information, please contact Jeanne Partida or the church office.



Happy New Year from our little preschool! We hope that you and your family were able to celebrate the grace of our Lord's birth together. It has been a beautiful time for us to share our joy with you and the families of the preschool.

This month we will be learning about winter, transportation and community helpers. We will have special visitors coming from the Mesa Fire Department and Mesa Police Department who are nearby to teach us about what they do for us in the community. If you would like to come and share how you contribute to our community, please let me know. We would love to have you as our guests!

We want to thank all of the families for their sweet gifts that helped to make the teachers feel special. We feel very blessed to have such a wonderful community here at FPC.

Sincerely, Shiloh Murillo, Director

January Birthdays



Stephanie Gerlach	1st
Jenna Towe	1st
Elaine Weatherford	1st
Ryan Posthumus	2nd
Alyene Trimble	3rd
Dale Baker	4th
Liberty Swartz	4th
Robert Stickney	5th
David Bozmoski	6th
Callista Schwartzmann	6th
Taylor Skarphol	6th
Courtney Ambri	7th
Tammy Miller	8th
Joan Still-Woods	8th
Nate Robinson	9th
Kelly Woods	10th
Nancy Woods	10th
Susan Logan	14th
Kim Laneville	15th
Stan Snitzer	15th
Jan Montgomery	16th
Dan Davenport	17th
Helen Letizia	18th
Cameron Hee	20th
Bill Anderson	21st
Jason Reeves	21st
Polly Betterton	23rd
Bea Towe	23rd
Laura Cone	25th
Ashlyn Newbry	25th
Alma Oberly	25th
Patricia Miller	26th
Charles Gibson	29th
David Jurgensen	29th
Adalyn Sitzler	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

January 1

New Year's Day — Office Closed

January 4

Willy Wonka Rehearsals begin

January 5

Mesa/Gilbert Prayer Walk

FPC Prayer Walk

Crockpot Dinner

January 13 & 14

Circles meet

January 19

Commissions & Session meet

January 21

Befrienders meet

January 26

Monthly Food Drive

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Hanson, Ted & Sandy
39805 N. Zampino St.
San Tan Valley, AZ
85140

Pomeroy, Kathryn
108 N. Greenfield Rd.,
#1080
Mesa, AZ 85205



The Hot Chili's small group would like to thank everyone that donated a filled shoebox for the Operation Christmas Child project that we have supported for the past six years. We are pleased to inform you that we collected and delivered a total of 73 boxes. The Southeast Valley collected a total of 18,016 shoeboxes. These boxes are being delivered to children in Indonesia, Madagascar, Mongolia, Philippines, Nepal, Panama and the Ukraine! THANK YOU!

FPC

3RD YEAR HAPPENINGS

What Up?

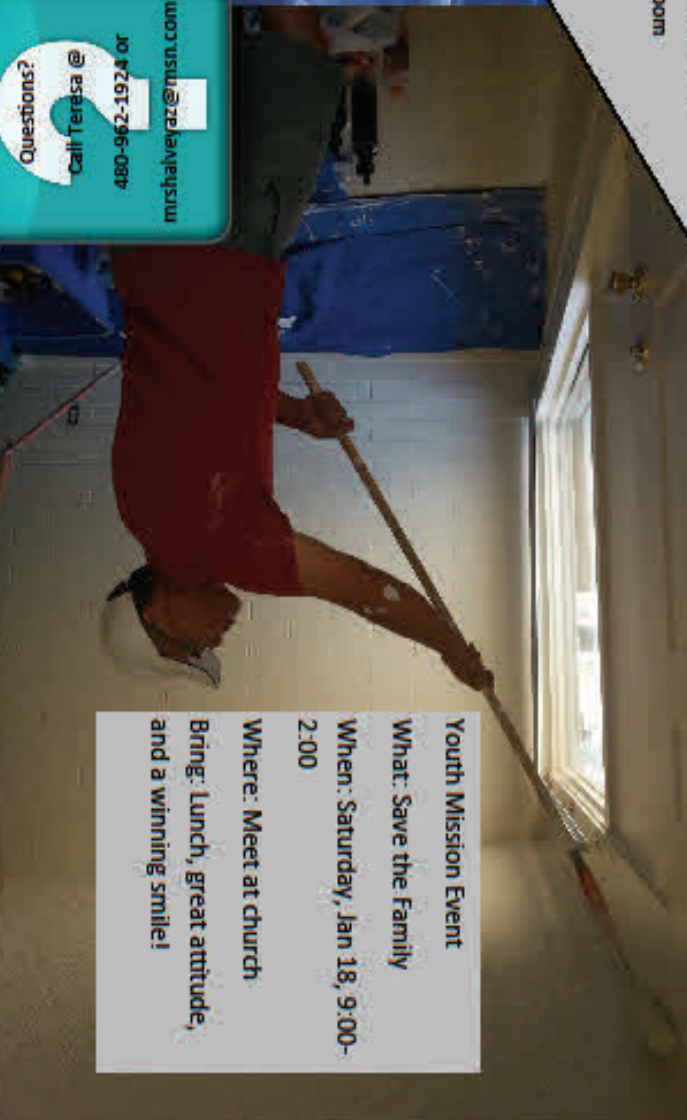
January '14

SUNDAY SCHOOL
With GRAY and TODD!
Sunday Mornings, 10:30-11:20,
Youth Room

Come help get a house ready for a homeless family.
Tasks will include cleaning, painting, and such.
all supplies provided.

Youth Mission Event
What: Save the Family
When: Saturday, Jan 18, 9:00-2:00
Where: Meet at church
Bring: Lunch, great attitude, and a winning smile!

Wednesday WRAP kicks off again on January 8th. Come and hang out in the Youth Room, have dinner, and then be ready for epic silliness and deep reflections with Jason and John!



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