

La Palabra- 2013 Annual Report Edition

February 2014

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Brant

It's that time of year when we transform *La Palabra* into an Annual Report covering everything that has gone on this past year. There are so many people doing so many things that it's easy to lose track, but this report has it all in one place. As I've said before, this is one busy church!

One of the defining events of 2013 was the "electrical incident" that required us to move out of the sanctuary for the better part of five months. It was amazing to see how quickly the Session and staff responded, and how flexible we all were willing to become, in response. At the end of the day, we were never able to figure out what caused the problem—aging equipment seems mostly likely—and the damage was remarkably isolated considering what could have been the case (God was watching over us to be sure!). Despite various unexpected developments and delays we ended up in many ways better off (new fixtures and equipment), and only had to pay our \$1,000 deductible!

That being said, another problem came to light in all this having to do with our primary electrical service. Rest assured we will be taking steps this spring to remedy this issue, which happily fits together nicely with the final completion of the Fellowship Hall Extreme Make Over. To this end the church will be entirely shut down for the week of March 17th-21st (spring break for Mesa Public Schools). Thanks in advance for your patience and prayers during this time (and thanks for your continued faithful stewardship to help pay for these expenses)!

In and around all that excitement, we continued to bring our God vibrant worship (meeting in Fellowship Hall had its advantages!), do mission in the name of Christ (I-HELP, Mesa Presbyterian Ministries, the Food Cupboard, and many more all continue apace) and grow in our faith (the Truth Project was a major focus of our efforts through the fall and has blessed everyone who took part). As we head into 2014 expect more of the same, especially as our Acts 16:5 Visioning Team meets in earnest and works with the Session toward plans and programs to keep FPC strong and vital for years to come.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be on Sunday, February 9th, starting at 5:00 p.m. with a pot luck supper in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your potluck according to this schedule: Last name beginning with A-F Salad, G – L Dessert, M-R Side dish, and S – Z Main Dish. We have very little business to take care of, but a lot of fun to attend to, as we reveal **brand new chairs** for Fellowship Hall and auction off our old ones. Come prepared to bid!!

God is doing wonderful things in our midst—it's going to be a good year!

In Christ,
Brant

INDEX

<i>A Message from Brant</i>	1
<i>Worship Report</i>	2-3
<i>Mission Report</i>	4
<i>Ministry Report</i>	5
<i>Fellowship Report</i>	6
<i>Presbyterian Women</i>	7
<i>Discipleship Report</i>	8
<i>Preschool Report</i>	9
<i>Youth Page</i>	10
<i>February Birthdays</i>	11
<i>Thank You</i>	11
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	11
<i>In Memoriam</i>	11
<i>February What Up?</i>	12
<i>Financial Reports</i>	13-15
<i>Calendar</i>	Insert

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

Each of our church choirs participated in our worship services at least once each month during the spring and fall. In addition, several events highlighted our year together in ministry:

- Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir at Desert Botanical Garden *Las Noches de las Luminarias*
- Thomas Sitzler and Stephanie Ball leading 9:00 a.m. worship service
- Weekly Preschool Chapels, with Brant and Shiloh
- Music for combined Presbyteries, with Dei Gloriam, Sanctuary Choir, and One Voice, Praise Band, and Hearts Hands and Voices



- First Players: *The Music Man*, four-show production over two weekends
- Choir Retreats to Gold Canyon (Gold Canyon UMC) and Sedona (Church of the Red Rocks UCC)
- District Convener, American Guild of Organists Grand Canyon District, Las Vegas
- Fifth annual FPC "Worship in the Park"
- Cantilena Choir Concert
- Dale Wood's "A Service of Darkness," Maundy Thursday
- PW Gospel Sing, with Barb Walker, Marlene Verch, Jan Peterson, and Charlene Raikes
- Easter Sunrise Service on Sanctuary Patio (followed by breakfast prepared by Don & Jo Wilson)
- Spring Fling All-Choirs & Families Catered Dinner-Party
- VBS Music, with Miki Newbry and Karen Rudin
- Study Leave: American Guild of Organists Regional Convention, Bakersfield, CA
- Ice Cream Social and Praise Band Concert, with Fellowship Commission
- Gospel Hymnfest Service, Fellowship Hall
- Hosted Southern and Central Arizona Organ Guild chapter members in an "organ crawl" of our Visser-Rowland organ
- Music Sunday: "Christmas Peace: *Let There Be Light!*"
- Summer worship music was led by Organists Barbara Walker and Jim Norris and Director Marlene Verch. Choirs included the VBS Children, First Ringers, Vocal Octet, Soloists, Women's Ensemble, Summer Choir, Summer Bells, Chamber Choir, "Y'all Come! Choir", Praise Band, One Voice, Men's Ensemble, and a Gospel Hymnfest.



We are blessed with about 100 congregation members participating in our music program. I continue to be thankful for each singer, ringer, signer, and instrumentalist, and I pray that each is blessed by God's gift of music and joy in ministry. Special thanks go to our choir leaders: **WEDNESDAY WRAP WORSHIP SKILLS**, Miki Newbry and John Couillard, Directors, and Linda Hayball, Alice Schlak, and Karen Rudin, Assistants; **FIRST RINGERS**, Bea Towe, Director; **HEARTS HANDS AND VOICES**, Ellen Gillespie, Director; **ONE VOICE**, Anita Ramsey, Director; and **SANCTUARY CHOIR**, Bea Towe, Accompanist. Thank you also to our **PRAISE BAND** for providing musical leadership for our worship services.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Ramsey

COMING EVENTS

- 3/1 (Saturday), 7:00 p.m. Our Sanctuary Choir will sing in the Mesa Interfaith Choral Festival, FPC Sanctuary; Dr. Glenn Bennett, Director; Dr. Mark Ramsey, Organist [Participating Choirs: First Presbyterian Church, Mesa; St. Luke Lutheran Church, Mesa, Grace United Methodist, Mesa; LDS Mesa North Stake]
- 4/4,5,11,12 First Players: *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, Tickets may be purchased now via the Artist Series page of our church website (fpcmesa.org) and will be available in the Church Office beginning March 1.

- 4/17 Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Theodore Dubois “Seven Last Words of Christ”, FPC Sanctuary; Sanctuary Choir, Sun Valley Community Church Choir, Cantilena, Soloists, and Organ; Glenn Bennett, Director; Mark Ramsey, Organ

The Worship Commission serves our congregation through the planning of weekly worship services, by facilitating the church Prayer Chain, by celebrating with families as they welcomed new life, and by supporting families in times of grief. Items accomplished by the Worship Commission during 2013 include:

- Training Sessions for Communion Servers, led by Dan Reeves
- Special Services: Youth Sunday 5/5, Winter Visitor Sunday 2/24, Women’s Sunday 3/10, Ministry Fair, Pledge Sunday 11/17; Special Offerings - One Great Hour of Sharing (Easter), Pentecost 5/19, Mesa Presbyterian Ministries, and Joy Gift (Christmas Eve).
- Easter Sunrise Service on the Sanctuary Patio, with breakfast provided by Jo & Don Wilson
- Weekly Prayer Time in the Quiet Room, following the 9:00 a.m. worship service
- Prayer Chain grew to 66 members!
- Created a database of 105 potential communion services
- Bryan Tryon volunteered to serve as the Worship representative to our HolyGrounds service.
- Worship was held in Fellowship Hall during the five months of Sanctuary electrical and structural work.
- Planned Sixth Annual off-campus service as “Celebration at Superstition,” to be held in the Superstition Springs Mall Amphitheatre at 11:00 a.m. on March 23, 2014.
- Recommended serving communion by intinction during June, July, August, and September. **APPROVED.**
- Recommended moving extended communion commissioning to the end of the communion liturgy. **APPROVED.**

Items for Session Approval

- Proposed 2014 Communion Dates: The first Sunday of each month, excluding April and December, plus Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve. **APPROVED.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Ramsey, (Chair) Director of Music Ministries
 (Deacon) Carol Webster, Worship
 (Deacon) Karyn Weaver, Funerals/Memorials
 (Deacon) Bev Goff, Prayer
 (Elder) Dan Reeves, Worship
 (Elder) Bryan Tryon, Youth
 Bryan Tryon, Worship – HolyGrounds
 Susan Durand, Greeters
 Don Wilson, Ushers
 Jo Wilson, Liturgists



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

Mission

Phill Pagels

We once more headed out to the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation near Globe, where we built a home for a needy family. A combined group of youth and adults spent two tiring and rewarding days doing this work.

Evangelism

Jim Norris

Most of our efforts this year have been on maximizing our online presence. We have also been trying to do more with Facebook as a way of getting the word out about FPC. The best evangelism, however, happens as we invite our friends and neighbors!



Assimilation

Carol Holdhusen

The Assimilation Deacon is responsible to contact second time visitors to our church. Phone calls welcome them to our church and answer questions. I also watch for new faces in the congregation on Sunday morning and try to welcome them to our church family. The other responsibility is assisting with the new member class, telephoning the list of potential attenders reminding them about the class.

Seasonal Ministries

Sue Eisenklam

Blood drive: The April blood drive had 21 appointments but there were 6 no-shows and 1 walk-in. Of the total of 16 who stepped up to give blood there were 13 successful draws. For the November blood drive we moved our partnership to the American Red Cross. Thirty three donors registered. Thirty one blood products were successfully collected. Having the Blood Drive Unit close to Fellowship Hall for those donating and for the congregational support of those giving made a difference.

Angel Tree: We sponsored three neighborhood families this year. Once again, as is a tradition of FPC, we provided gifts to each of family members, as well as a holiday meal, other food stuffs, and an assortment of household and personal items.

Labauch Literacy

Patricia A. Pyle

Over 57 served as tutors this past year, giving over 2,500 hours of service. Tutors and support staff spent another 2,600 hours driving, training, and tracking tutors. We had have served 91 students from primarily Asian and Hispanic backgrounds. Once more, two students became U.S. citizens, and three conversations classes helped many others learn how to interact with people of another culture. All in all, a very productive year! The support of FPC is greatly appreciated.

Mesa Presbyterian Ministries

Jane Potyka

Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (MPM) had a busy year in 2013. The total number of calls when the MPM phone line was open continues to exceed 500, with about 1/3 of those receiving assistance of some sort: utilities, rent, food, meals, medical, transportation, and other miscellaneous items.

Deacon's Food Cupboard

Sandy Clark

The Food Cupboard continues to have high demand, with approximately 60 bags being given out each week. If each of these 3000 bags goes to a family of four, there is an impact of 12,000 people served, and an estimated dollar value of nearly \$120,000!

MINISTRY

Clerk of Session (Chair) — Carol Gerlach
Property (E) — Sam Thielke
Personnel (E) — Jo Wilson

Personnel (D) — Tammy Miller
Nominating (E) — Barbara Walker

Nominating (D) — Mary Jane Hee
Stewardship/Finance (E) — David Frederick

The Ministry Commission is the “business arm” of the church. It oversees Property and Grounds, Stewardship, the Finance (and Endowment) committees, Personnel, Nominating and Session.

Property

Sam Thielke

2013 was a year drastically different from any other we have ever experienced! Ever since the fire last spring, the majority of our time and effort was devoted to working with contractors, suppliers and insurance adjusters to get the Sanctuary back up and running in a timely fashion. As a result of the fire, there were numerous items discovered (though not directly related to the cause) which had to be addressed before we could get approval to re-occupy the Sanctuary. While the insurance settlement was very fair, there were extra costs for material and labor that we incurred to bring the campus into compliance with current building codes. We did our best to exercise extreme fiscal responsibility, especially until such time as our insurance claim was resolved.

There was a new A/C unit installed in the kitchen area but other than that, most everything else was normal maintenance and absolutely necessary repairs. Major repairs were in the kitchen for the freezer and the fire suppression system. We also experienced a sizeable water leak in the Preschool area that required an additional unanticipated expenditure.

My utmost appreciation goes to our Building Manager, Don Krill. Without Don’s expertise and diligence, 2013 would not have turned out nearly as well as it did. Thank you, Don!

Stewardship and Finance

David Frederick

The Finance Committee consists of Stewardship Elder and Church Treasurer David Frederick; Property Elder Sam Thielke; Endowment Chair Jack Gunter; Ex-officio Finance Chair Jim Schwartzmann, and at-large members Brent Gregory, Mary Jane Hee and Jan Montgomery. The committee meets monthly to review the church’s financial reports and took the following actions in 2013:

- Proceeds from the sale of a donated vehicle (\$4,000) were used to pay down church debt.
- Tracked expenses involved in electrical system damage.
- David Frederick spoke to the congregation with an update on the Fellowship Hall makeover projects. Thanks to everyone’s faithful giving, there is enough money on hand to move the electrical transformer and install a patio space. This will be completed in 2014.
- Recommended to the Session reducing church debt and increasing capital reserve balance, which was approved.

Endowment

Jack Gunter

The Endowment Committee consists of Jack Gunter, Brent Gregory, Mary Jane Hee, Jim Schwartzmann and Skeets Throckmorton, with David Frederick, Stewardship Elder, serving as an ex-officio member. The committee met four times during 2013 and has undertaken the following actions:

- Continued oversight of the Endowment Funds including the Kissinger, Mehlhop, Stubblefield and Montlure Funds with a total value of \$97,998.17 as of December 31, 2013. In addition, the General Endowment Fund value as of December 31 was \$100,894.87 and the Capital Endowment Fund value as of December 31 was \$36,177.03.
- Disbursed \$1,381 of the Montlure Fund income for camp scholarships, disbursed \$204 of the Stubblefield Fund income for a Teaching Elder credential fee and \$565 for a Seminary scholarship, disbursed \$250 of the Kissinger Fund income to Frontiers, \$250 to Oasis Micro Finance, \$600 for the FPC mission trip, \$500 for a seminary scholarship and disbursed \$600 of the Mehlhop Fund income for a Grief Support class.
- Continued to interpret the endowment concept to the congregation in conjunction with an Endowment Fund brochure, Minutes for Mission and Fall Endowment luncheon and brunch presentations, conveying the need for further contributions to the Endowment Fund.
- Received \$1,000 to establish a Music Endowment Fund. The value of the fund as of December 31, 2013, was \$1,005.13.

Personnel

Jo Wilson

All church staff reviews were completed and they have been placed in their files. We have changed the duties of Jason Reeves to work with John Hee on Wednesday. The Youth Mentor position was offered to Katelyn Eberhardt.

(continued on page 7)

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

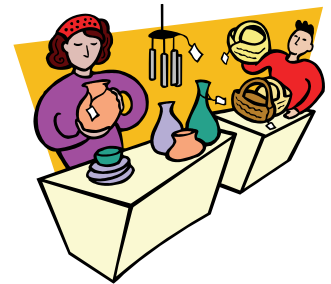
Parish Deacon 4 — Darlene Sitzler
Parish Deacon 5 — Erin Skarphol
Presbyterian Women — Jeannette Laurie



The Fellowship Commission puts on, or assists with, many social activities during the year to provide opportunities for our congregation to enjoy each others' company, provide some fun events to attend, AND to encourage our congregation members to invite their friends to come and see our church, meet our church family here at FPC, and have fun participating in the events with us.

Activates in 2013

- January – Fellowship assisted with the Presbytery meeting dinner.
- February – Fellowship sponsored the Chile cook-off dinner.
- March – Fellowship sponsored the Barbeque Lunch at Worship in the Park.
- April – Fellowship assisted with the EGGStravaganza event & breakfast.
- May 5 – Fellowship sponsored a Salsa Challenge dinner.
- August 11 – Fellowship hosted the Ice Cream Social.
- September 22 – Fellowship provided servers for Mission Fund Raising Dinner.
- October 26 – Fellowship sponsored a Road Rally and dinner.
- November 9 – Fellowship sponsored our largest Craft Fair yet. (profit \$375.00)
- November 28 – Fellowship along with Flinn Lund sponsored a Thanksgiving Dinner for those with no local family. (20 people participated)
- November 24, December 1, 8 & 15 – Fellowship conducted sign-ups for new coffee hosts, baked goods providers and name tags. (8 full teams for coffee and baked goods)



Fellowship Plans for the future

Your Fellowship Commission members are busy making plans for the events we'll hold in 2014.

- We will sponsor a chili and soup supper at the Annual Meeting
- We'll have plans for the food at Celebration at Superstition.
- We will plan EGGStravaganza event on Saturday April 19.
- The Music teams are putting together the annual church musicals in April. Fellowship will no doubt assist with the dinners preceding these shows.
- We'll host a Cinco de Mayo Salsa Challenge Dinner in May, where contestants vie for prizes for the best home-made Salsa.
- We plan on hosting an Ice Cream Social in August.
- We will put on another Road Rally in October where teams receive clues and travel the city to locate their destinations and next clues on the route. Prizes are awarded for the team finishing closest to the desired course navigation time, with a dinner at the end of the event.
- We'll have another great Craft Fair in November.



LOTS of fun events will be happening at your church this year. Are there other events that you would like to see us sponsor this year? If so, LET US KNOW. New ideas are welcome and needed. We are always looking for new events to provide an opportunity for our congregation and their friends to get together, socialize, and have some fun!

FELLOWSHIP



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian women weave an indelible thread through the fabric of FPC both mission-wise and fellowship-wise. In addition to supporting churchwide missions through PW of the Presbytery (Thank Offering, Birthday Offering, Least Coin Offering and the General Churchwide Mission fund), PWFPC supports regional missions (Montlure Camp, Menaul School), local community missions (New Leaf Autumn House, Child Crisis Center, Salvation Army, Laubach Literacy, FPC Preschool), and missions within FPC (Kitchen memorial fund, Sewing Circle that provides lap quilts and prayer shawls to the infirm). PW collected household items for people who lost homes in the devastating Yarnell Fire. And Eve Circle has pledged specific support for the international mission "Change of Hope." PW's financial base comes through yearly pledges and an annual bake sale conducted during the fall Craft Fair.

Members of PWFPC serve on regional boards. Susan McMichael is treasurer of PW Synod of the Southwest. Helen Lents is treasurer of PW Presbytery of Grand Canyon. Flinn Lund, an active member of Church Women United, keeps us connected with a community-wide association of Christian women.

Through Jeannette Laurie, liaison to the fellowship commission, PW assists with church dinners and craft fairs, as well as other social functions. PW served a continental breakfast for members of Presbytery at the meeting where Bob Schultz was installed as Moderator of Presbytery of Grand Canyon. Other PW sponsored social events have included spring and holiday luncheons where we invited PW groups from neighboring churches to join us.

PW plans and presents a worship service for Women's Sunday, an annual March event. In 2013 Lois Hildenbrand, gave the Woman's Sunday sermon. During the service she was presented with the PW Honorary Life Member Award for outstanding service to the church.

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 October-May and welcome new members:

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

Susan McMichael,
Moderator, PWFPC

(Continued from page 5)

Nominating

Barbara Walker

The Nominating Committee has the responsibility of presenting qualified candidates for nomination to Elder and Deacon offices each year and for filling any vacancies which may arise. Usually the terms of these positions are three years. In addition to myself, Barbara Walker, as chair, during the first half of 2013, the committee was composed of Bill Anderson, Deacon; Randy Gray, Robert Harding and Phill Pagels as members of the congregation at large, with Brant, as Pastor, ex-officio. Starting in June 2013, Mary Jane Hee is the Deacon member of the committee and Randy Gray, Ellen Hickey and Renita Jurgensen are the members of the congregation at large. We are presently putting together a slate of officers to present to the congregation for the Class of 2017. Please continue to hold us in your prayers as we seek potential candidates who will faithfully serve our congregation.

Session

Carol Gerlach

During 2013, Session met in ten Stated Meetings and three Called Meetings. In addition to the Annual Congregational Meeting in February, there were three Called Congregational Meetings. We met with the Deacons and church staff for our Annual Retreat in August. Nine new members were added to the Active Roll and 26 members were transferred or removed. Membership as of December 31, 2013 is 363. The following members were transferred to the Church Triumphant in 2013:

Maxine Miller, January 7
Jay Nelson, February 20
Ruth (Skippy) Muth, March 18
Howard D'Spain, June 16

Carole Flores, June 16
Leon Kambak, July 29
Delphine DeMasi, December 18

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

I would like to point out some of the fun changes in Christian Education at FPC in 2013!

Each Sunday at FPC we now offer a Sunday school sing-a-long before classes for children in preschool through sixth grade. The sing-a-long takes place at 10:30 under the tree on the playground. All are welcome to join us and learn a new song or rediscover some of your favorite from childhood. If you have not attended Sunday school yet, consider making a New Year resolution to increase the amount of Biblical study you do weekly—and start by attending a class. Each week you have the choice of participating in study either after or before your chosen Worship service. I would like to extend a big thank you to our Sunday school teachers – Lanai Mills & Stephanie Gerlach (preschool/ kindergarten), Miki & Brooks Newbry (1st & 2nd grade), Anita Ramsey & Deborah Rosen (3rd & 4th grade), Ruth Letizia & John Couillard (5th & 6th grade), Jack Oliver and many other small group leaders and substitutes.



The church Nursery is open each Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This allows parents with children 5 years of age and under to attend Church service and/or Sunday school while knowing their child is being lovingly cared for. Each week there is 0 – 1 child in the nursery between first service and Sunday school. The Nursery staffs 9 regular volunteers on a 5 – 7 week rotational basis.



We decided to rename our Wednesday night program designed for children in kindergarten through adult Wednesday WRAP. We gather in four 6-week blocks during the school year from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Sign up now to participate in block 3 which began January 8th and runs through February 12th. Cost is only \$15 per person for the entire block. Please pre-register by downloading the form from the church website. So far this year we have 75 children and adults attending each block. We have over 30 adult volunteers, participating weekly or monthly! Thank you, Jennifer Main-Martin, for your willingness to serve the church as the Family Ministries Elder (directing Wednesday WRAP and

Vacation Bible School amongst other duties) since June of 2012!

Vacation Bible School 2013 was SonWest Roundup. Patty Carnes was the assistant director, and we registered 46 children, age 3 -12, to attend Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. VBS had 45 adult and youth volunteers help with all the children! Vacation Bible School 2014 is already in the planning stages. The theme will be Son-Treasure Island and will be held *in the evening* from June 16 - June 23.

Bibles were presented to children in 7th grade, 3rd grade and kindergarten, as well as to children (and adults) that didn't own a Bible. We placed 13 new Bibles into needing hands this year.

Montlure Presbyterian Camp was held in Tuscon, Arizona at Mt. Lemmon in summer of 2013. Thirteen of our church children attended, and we were able to sponsor them with \$1,481 in scholarship funds!



If you are looking for a new and fun way to use your talents at FPC, please let me know. In order to continue offering such excellent programming in Christian Education, we are always in need of volunteers. I would be happy to find a position that fits your schedule and abilities. God bless!

Jasmine Couillard,
Christian Education Director



We truly feel blessed at our preschool as we look back at what 2013 has given us! There have been many new things happening that are bringing new families from the community to join us. We are pleased to announce that we had all 9 of the staff return for another year. A special note of celebration for Nicki McInelly for starting her 10th year here at First Presbyterian Preschool! She and all of the staff are highly qualified individuals who bring skill and expertise to the everyday experiences of the children we serve.



A huge Thank You goes out to all of the church staff for supporting the efforts behind the scenes. This really makes a big difference to keep the operation of the preschool going. We have had a beautiful partnership with Pastor Brant Baker and Dr. Mark Ramsey this past year during our weekly chapel time with the families. They have encouraged the children to grow in their faith and love of God. There are many families who join us as we worship each week.



Our facility is licensed through the State Department of Health Services to provide services for 59 children. The 2012-13 school year ended with 51 children enrolled and 29 of those kids went on to Kindergarten in August 2013! We also are a Department of Economic Security certified site which means that we are able to support those families in the community who are receiving services for childcare coverage so that they can work or go to school. We have three

children utilizing the DES childcare program.

We are still receiving the benefits of participating in the First Things First Quality First scholarship program. There was a change from last year's participation to this year. We still participate in our bi-monthly coaching services that we receive from Southwest Human Development. Our coach comes in to help support the work of our teaching staff by providing quality resources, support and trainings for the entire center. The difference that has occurred is that we no longer receive the FTF Preschool grant, but instead they increased the scholarships that they have allotted to our preschool for the Quality First Child-care grant. We now receive 18 full-time slots that can be used for 18 students or we can split them and provide some scholarship assistance to up to 36 children. We are currently using some of them for full-time and some for part-time scholarships for the students. These funds equal a total income of \$108,000.



Participating in the QF childcare program has increased our presence in the community. Because of our participation, we are automatically added to the azftfscholarship.org website where individuals can search from providers within their zip code. It is a powerful tool for us at no cost! We are anticipating the new assessment cycle to begin in the next two months that re-qualifies us to participate for the next school year. As soon as that is complete, they will let us know what our allotted scholarships will be for the coming year.

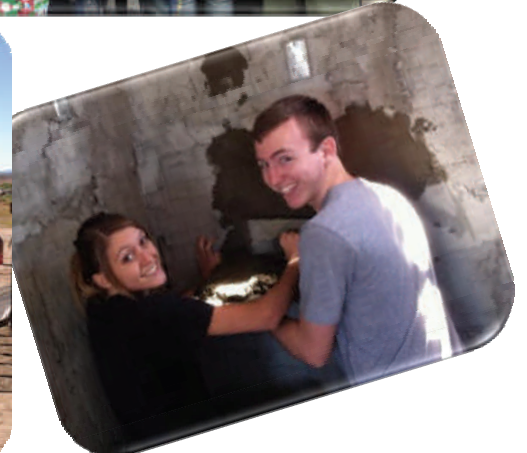
There have been a few physical changes around the preschool as well. We were able to replace all of the countertops in each classroom and replace some of the cabinet doors that needed updating. This has modernized the classes to look more professional and welcoming to the families.

We also completed a total remodel of the Preschool Office this last summer. It has been repainted and new shelves have been added to make the professional resources more accessible to the staff as they develop their lesson plans. These changes are welcoming and engaging for the students, families and teaching staff.

As we look forward to 2014, we are working on partnering with the church to budget for a total remodel of the playground bathrooms. This would mean replacing the toilets, countertops, sinks, paint and partitions. We are asking for your prayers and financial support to make this possible in the next school year. We appreciate all of your love and continuing to make the Preschool a ministry of the church. We are very blessed and know that God has so much in store for these children, families and the staff that work with them.

Respectfully submitted, Shiloh Murillo

FPC 2013 Youth Group at work and play!



February Birthdays



Peggy Anderson	1st
Patty Carnes	1st
Alma Post	1st
Jen Sitzler	1st
Kara Gregory	2nd
Will Snitzer	2nd
Alexander Wells	4th
Josh Leichtman	6th
Gary Clark	7th
Ada Schwartzmann	7th
Nate Buck	9th
Carter Herod	9th
Isobel Letizia	9th
Bob Trimble	9th
Aaron Chesko	10th
Ginny Mallia	11th
Karen Williams	12th
Kate Buck	14th
Stacia Koopman	14th
Sherry Masters	14th
John Peterson	15th
Robert Schulz	15th
John Goings, Jr.	16th
Brock Hoyman	16th
Sharon Brause	19th
Abby Patton	19th
Richard Schroeder	19th
Storm Johnson	21st
Clara Padelford	21st
Kim Roberts	21st
Lucy Carlyon	22nd
Gavin Mallia	22nd
Lillian Radebaugh	22nd
R.J. Watson	22nd
Bryan Hickey	25th
Shelby Castela	26th
Elly Weinel	26th
Lee Tobey	27th
Andrew Cordone	28th
Linda Free	28th
Bob Strader	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.



Dear friends at FPC,
I want to thank you for the prayers, phone calls and cards during my recent surgery.
With a thankful heart and blessings to all,
Gail Wylie

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Conner, Dorothy 701 S. Dobson, #356 Mesa, AZ 85202	Phillips, Peggy 715 N. Nevada, #2 Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Pearson, Gary & Gail 5535 E. Arbor Ave. Mesa, AZ 85206	

Calendar Notes

February 2

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 9

Potluck Dinner and Annual Meeting

February 10 & 11

Circles meet

February 15

Youth to Renaissance Fair

February 16

Tony Montoya at HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse
Commissions and Session meet

February 17

President's Day — Office Closed

February 18

Befrienders

February 23

Monthly Food Drive



IN MEMORIAM

Delphine De Masi — December 18, 2013



Financial Reports are not published on-line.
Copies of the reports are available in the church office.