

La Palabra

March 2014

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Brant

In his very readable book, *Me, Myself and Bob* entrepreneur Phil Vischer tells the tormented tale of the rise and fall of Big Idea, the company behind the wildly successful *Veggie Tales* of a few years ago. “Have you ever had a dream?” asks Vischer. “Boy, I sure have. I wanted God to use me to make a difference in the world. I wanted to single-handedly offset all the lousy messages packed into MTV music videos ... I wanted to be the next Disney. And my dreams were all going swimmingly for a while. Letters poured in from around the world, telling stories of the impact *VeggieTales* was having... Inside Big Idea, however, things were not so rosy... Time and time again I sat down to journal, and invariably I began by writing, ‘What am I doing wrong?’ And then, finally, it was all over. Finished.”

The company ended up going bankrupt through a series of mis-steps and over-reaches. It is both a sad and informative story, one that at the very least bursts the bubble that good Christians doing good things are somehow going to be immune from failure.

In the book Vischer unfolds the life lessons learned, and deals especially with the seductive power of dreams. “Why would God want us to let go of our dreams?” he asks. “Because anything I am unwilling to let go of is an idol, and I am in sin. The more I thought about my intense drive to build Big Idea and change the world, the more I realized I had let my ‘good work’ become an idol that defined me. Rather than finding my identity in my relationship with God, I was finding it in my drive to do ‘good work.’... I had grown up drinking a dangerous cocktail—a mix of the gospel, the Protestant work ethic, and the American dream. My eternal value was rooted in what I could accomplish. The most important thing, though, was to be busy. Industrious. Hardworking. A self-made Christian. The Savior I was following seemed, in hindsight, equal parts Jesus, Ben Franklin, and Henry Ford.”

Beware of your dreams.... We all have them—longings for a better life, a healthy child, a happy marriage, rewarding work. But dreams are, misplaced longings. False lovers. Why? Because God is enough.

Me, Myself, and Bob is a great read for anyone who has had a dream. Vischer writes, “Beware of your dreams, for dreams make dangerous friends. We all have them—longings for a better life, a healthy child, a happy marriage, rewarding work. But dreams are, I have come to believe, misplaced longings. False lovers. Why? Because God is enough. Just God. And he isn't "enough" because he can make our dreams come true—no, you've got him confused with Santa or Merlin or Oprah. The God who created the universe is enough for us—even without our dreams. Without the better life, the healthy child, the happy marriage, the rewarding work.

“God was enough for the martyrs facing lions and fire—even when the lions and the fire won. And God is enough for you. But you can't discover the truth of that statement while you're clutching at your dreams. You need to let them go. Let yourself fall. Give up. As terrifying as it sounds, you'll discover that falling feels a lot like floating. And falling into God's arms—relying solely on his power and his will for your life—that's where the fun starts. That's where you'll find the "abundant life" Jesus promised....

“I realized,” Vischer concludes, “that God had let my dream die, not because he didn't love me, but rather because he loved me so much—because I was actually more important to him than any “good work” I could possibly accomplish.”

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

Our church will host the **Mesa Interfaith Choral Festival** on Saturday, MARCH 1ST, with a combined choir concert in our Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Participating choirs will include First Presbyterian Church, Mesa; St. Luke Lutheran Church, Mesa; Grace United Methodist, Mesa; and LDS Mesa North Stake. The concert will be offered free of charge, and members of all four congregations are encouraged to attend. In addition to enjoying great choral music, the congregation will join with the choirs in the singing of several hymns. The combined choirs will be under the direction of Dr. Glenn Bennett, with accompanist Dr. Mark Ramsey. Come take advantage of this great opportunity to get to know and share the music of faith with our community. An outdoor cookie potluck will follow the concert!

CELEBRATION AT SUPERSTITION

Sunday, March 23, 2014

Worship on Sunday, March 23rd, will be held in the Outdoor Amphitheater at Superstition Springs Mall, Mesa, which features several shade trees, benches, and large lawns for chairs and blankets.

Address: 6555 E. Southern Ave., Mesa, AZ 85206, 480-396-1128

Location: Lower Level between The Cheesecake Factory and T.J. Maxx

Amenities: Plenty of short walking trails and a slide for the kids

Food: Following worship, we will gather for lunch in the Mall Food Court.

Cost: Lunch will be on our own, but we will sit together!

The 2014 Artist Series features many outstanding artists, including a series of concerts in celebration of our Sanctuary's 50th Anniversary beginning with **Organist Charles Sedgwick III who will play a postlude mini-recital on our great Visser-Rowland organ at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 16th.** Artist Series concerts are made possible by the generous contributions of our donors. Please consider helping to underwrite the concerts by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Artist Series. We have five notable levels of donation:

Whole Note - \$500 & Up

Half Note - \$200-\$499

Quarter Note - \$100-\$199

Eighth Note - \$50-\$99

Sixteenth Note - \$25-\$49

Artist Series concert fees range from \$300 - \$2,000. If you would like to contribute financially, checks should be made payable to "First Presbyterian Church," with memo notation "Artist Series" and sent to: Mark Ramsey, First Presbyterian Church, 161 N. Mesa Dr., Mesa, AZ, 85201-6794. Contributors will be listed in future concert programs or, if requested, will remain anonymous. For more information on our Artist Series, please contact the Music Office, (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103.



Arizona Masterworks Chorale Concert: Friday, March 14th, 7:30 p.m., featuring the exciting John Rutter *Gloria!*, for choir and organ. Tickets are \$15 at the door, Children 12 and under, Free. Tickets will be available at the door and in advance from Mark Ramsey. For over 30 years, The Arizona Masterworks Chorale has thrilled audiences with their devotion to – and love for – excellent choral music. In London, Munich, Carnegie Hall, Washington, DC and Valley-wide, they have been recognized for both the quality of their performances and the breadth of their presentations. The Chorale was affiliated with the Phoenix Symphony from 1979 to 1996, and for ten seasons performed with the Flagstaff Festival of the Arts Orchestra. Other significant venues included the BBC Concert Orchestra at Royal Festival Hall and the

Bavarian State Radio Orchestra in Munich, both concerts broadcast throughout Europe. On three occasions, the Chorale performed in New York City's Carnegie Hall at the invitation of New York Pops' founder and musical director, Skitch Henderson. One special performance was at the celebration commemorating Carnegie Hall's 100th anniversary. More recently, in May 2004, the Chorale was proud to represent the State of Arizona at the Dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. And in May 2006, the group traveled to Prague, Krakow and Vienna in celebration of the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth.

Tickets to the First Players' Production of
WILLY WONKA & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (April 4,5,11,12)
are available on the Artist Series page of our church website (www.fpcmesa.org),
on weekdays in the Church Office (480-964-8606),
and during Fellowship Time on Sundays.

If you do not have email access but have a phone and like to pray, you are invited to join the FPC Prayer Chain! Please call Bev at 712-326-4635, leave your home and/or cellphone number, and tell her you would like to participate! To limit the number of calls for the telephone crew, those with email access are encouraged to join the Prayer Chain's email group. To join, send a note to iambusy1@yahoo.com. By phone or email, please add your link to the FPC Prayer Chain!

Humoresque

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

PASTOR: "Praise the Lord!" CONGREGATION: "Hallelujah!" PASTOR: "Will everyone please turn on their tablet, PC, iPad, smart phone, and Kindle Bibles to 1 Corinthians 13:13. And please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon." P-a-u-s-e..... "Now, let us pray, committing this week into God's hands. Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter, and Facebook, and chat with God." S-i-l-e-n-c-e "As we take our tithes and offerings, please have your credit and debit cards ready." "Please log on to the church wi-fi using the password 'Lord909887.'" "Please use your iPad to make your electronic fund transfers directly to the church account. Or if you prefer, the ushers will circulate mobile card swipe machines among the pews. If you forgot to bring an electronic device, you are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church. Those who prefer telephone banking, take out your cellphones to transfer your contributions to the church account." The holy atmosphere of the Church becomes truly electrified as ALL the smart phones, iPads, PCs, and laptops beep and flicker! Final Blessing and Closing Announcements: "This week's ministry cell meetings will be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please log in and don't miss out. Thursday's Bible study will be held live on Skype at 1900hrs GMT. Please don't miss out. You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counseling and prayers. God bless you and have a nice day. [from David Miller]

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

Don't miss out on the fun of our final block of **Wednesday WRAP** for the 2013-2014 year! We have so much fun each week with music, dinner, Bible study and more! In this block the K – 6th grade students will dive deep into learning and discussion about discouragement, tough times, and forgiveness, followed by lessons on Palm Sunday and Easter! Our themes for block 4 are:

3/5 — Ash Wednesday
3/12 — St. Patrick's Day
3/26 — Bring - a - Friend/Safari
4/2 — Cool Shades
4/9 — Hawaii
4/16 — Italian Night

Sunday School teacher meeting for preschool through sixth grade teachers and assistants will be on Sunday, March 2nd, from 2:00 — 4:00 p.m. in the Christian Education office. Anyone interested in getting more information on teaching regularly (or occasionally) is invited to attend. Please contact Jasmine Couillard with any questions.

Please keep the Sunday school program, teachers and students in your prayers. Pray for inspired lessons, refreshed teachers and students growing in faith and numbers. A big thank you to our dedicated teachers:

- Preschool/Kindergarten: Lanai Mills & Stephanie Gerlach
- First/Second Grade: Brooks & Miki Newbry
- Third/Fourth Grade: Anita Ramsey & Deborah Rosen
- Fifth/Sixth Grade: Ruth Letizia & John Couillard

Montlure summer camp is open for registration at www.montlure.org. The primary emphasis of this ministry for children in 4th – 12th grade is to offer a Christian experience through a carefully developed curriculum and competent directors and counselors who staff the camp each week. Each child of the church is eligible for a \$140 campership to help defray the cost of camp. Please submit your campership request form (available on the church website or in the office) no later than 4 weeks prior to the start of your child's camp.



Spring has Sprung at the Preschool and that means everything is new! New themes, new adventures and maybe even new toys! We are celebrating new life, too, by studying plants, insects and bugs. Our latest discoveries include having live chickens and a puppy come for a visit.

We need your help getting the word out about our little patch of heaven, our Preschool. Did you know that our preschool has an 80% referral rate? That means that people know how great our program is because of voices like you in the community. We are taking enrollment registrations from the community and have plenty of space for everyone in both of our Pre-K classrooms. Please send family, friends and people you see playing in the park or at McDonalds our way. Thank you!

We hope you have a wonderful spring season and may God bless your family.

Shiloh Murillo
Director
480-835-7877
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



PW Presbytery of Grand Canyon Spring Gathering — Franciscan Renewal Center, March 1, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Women's Sunday — A service celebrating the gifts of women. March 16, 2014. Lydia and Deborah Circles are coordinating

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

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

Next PWCT meeting: March 4, Tuesday, 1:00, library.

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

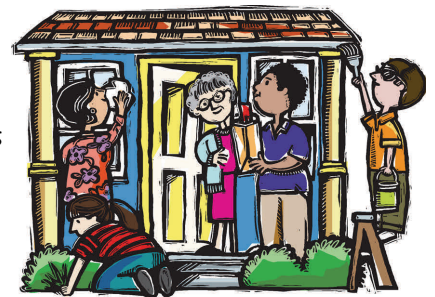
Habitat for Humanity

We need workers for the following Saturdays:

- March 1st, we need 15 people. This is our big push for this year's build.
- March 15th, we need 4-6 people; and
- March 29th, we need 3 people.

The start time is on each of these Saturdays is 7:30 a.m., and the address is 1459 6th Place, Mesa. This is near Mesa Riverview Center, west of Alma School and South of Rio Salado Parkway.

For more information, please call Sheilah Dye at 480-306-4946 or Jeanne Partida at 480-951-6149.



FPC Habitat Build

Food Cupboard

Taking into consideration the national average price of food on the commercial market, Feeding America has assigned a value of \$1.69 for each pound of food received. This is the dollar value (not cost) of the total of food received by the food cupboard in 2013:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Pounds Received</u>	<u>Dollar Value</u>
Donated	11,341	\$19,166.29
FEMA	1,051	1,776.19
Purchased	1,790	3,025.10
TEFAP	<u>15,919</u>	<u>26,903.11</u>
Total:	30,101	\$54,068.58

March Birthdays



Milan Carnes	1st
Cleta Larson-Enck	1st
Mary Patton	1st
Joyce Baum	6th
Paige Castela	6th
David Letizia	6th
Sean Snitzer	6th
Darlene Sitzler	7th
Helen Lents	11th
Marilu Thompson	12th
Joan Carns	13th
Jasmine Couillard	15th
Brandon Castela	16th
Pam Godfrey	16th
Marvin Luntz	16th
Anthony Vitale	17th
Dick Baird	18th
Carter Herrera	19th
Nelly Nobis	19th
Peter Eisenklam	20th
Lillian Leichtman	22nd
Dan Gibbs	23rd
Gray Baker	24th
Caroline Cline	25th
Cindy Davenport	25th
Alice Peterson	25th
Earl Visser	25th
Thirza Wesselius	27th
Mark Bockler	28th
Joshua Anderson	29th
Carmen Haynes	29th
David Miller	29th
Kyle Posthumus	29th
Becca Brause	30th
Frances Kaufmann	31st
Bill Lents	31st
Melissa Pomeroy	31st

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 Caring Church Family,

Thanks for your loving prayers and concerns during and following my recent hospitalizations. My family and I greatly appreciate the support and strength you all bring to us. May Christ's loving spirit be shared by all.

Gary Clark

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Rosario, Antonio &
Wesselius, Thirza
510 S. Extension, #2006
Mesa, AZ 85210

Calendar Notes

March 1

Habitat Build
Officer Training
Mesa Interfaith Festival Concert

March 3

Valiant Man study begins

March 5

Ash Wednesday

March 10 & 11

Circles meet

March 15

Habitat Build

March 16

Women's Sunday

March 18

Befrienders meet

March 23

Celebration at Superstition

March 29

Habitat Build

FPC

What Up?

March '14

GOODBYE!

Come and say a special farewell to Teresa Halverson on Wednesday, March 26th. Teresa (and John) are moving to Idaho to be closer to family. We're going to miss Momma T!

Allskate!

March 22nd 4:30-6:30

Meet and pickup at Skateland (7 E. Southern Ave., Mesa)
\$6 per person - includes skate rental and admission
(also ok to bring your skates, but still 6 bucks)
Well of course you should bring a friend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL
With your Hosts
TODD AND GRAY!
Sunday Mornings
10:30-11:20
Youth Room

PLUS:
WNE BUCKA
MARCH
6-12-26

Youth Team: Gray (480) 459-8071

Teresa (480) 962-1924

John (602) 284-7311

Todd (480) 495-6109

Katelyn (602) 790-0373