

# La Palabra

September 2014

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Brant*

As part of our Acts 16:5 Initiative (a vision seeking and church vitality program), the Session of FPC has invited all of us to a 7/77 adventure in prayer—seven minutes a day for 77 days—with the goals of igniting our passion for God, and lifting before the throne of grace the life and ministry we share as a church.

I was given the task of writing a daily prayer guide for this adventure, and what a blessing it was to do so. These prayer guides will be available for you to pick up (one per family should be fine unless you have sharing issues) on Sunday, August 31st, and Sunday, September 7th, with Day 1 being Monday, September 8, 2014 (the Guides will also be available anytime in the church office). A \$5 donation is requested but not required. OR, if you prefer, you can purchase the Guide on your Kindle for only 0.99!

The prayer guide is pretty simple to use. You simply keep it in a place you know you will get to every day, such as the breakfast table, your office desk, or at your bedside. Plan on about seven minutes a day to read the meditations and pray as suggested. Finally, and most importantly, don't get defeated and give up. Better to pray 73 days, or 64, or 52, or 21, or even 8...than not at all.

Friends, we are a community, and we are a community who together need to seek God's leading and direction for our life in the coming years. Won't you please commit to give just seven minutes each day to this vital work? I promise that God will bless you in the process!



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In Christ,  
Brant

P.S. We have a work day scheduled for Saturday, September 13th, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Our goal will be to get some landscaping done around the new Fellowship Hall patio. Bring shovels, gloves, a hat, and a wheelbarrow if you can. Hopefully we can knock this project out by mid-morning.

## 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

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### Mark's Remarks

(480) 964-8606, EXT. 103; MUSIC@FPCMESA.ORG

**“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

I would like to thank our church Personnel Committee and Session for offering me a time of sabbatical this summer. The study portion of the time away was used to practice the complete organ works of American composer Vincent Persichetti (1915-87). Persichetti was also the focus of my doctoral dissertation, and while I had analyzed his organ music, I had performed only a few of the pieces. 2015 will mark the 100th anniversary of the composer's birth and the beginning of our Visser-Rowland's 25th year, so I hope to complete a Persichetti recording next year. On a side “note,” I am very grateful to Mary Jane and John Hee, Brant Baker and Dan Reeves for painting my office this summer as part of an “extreme office makeover” spearheaded by several choir members. Thank you one and all! I greatly appreciated the time of sabbatical renewal and study, and I am very proud of the “new” office!

Wednesday WRAP is now in full swing, and all are welcome to jump in! One Voice and Children's/Youth music are parts of the WRAP program. The Sanctuary Choir will begin rehearsing on September 3rd and Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir on September 9th. For information on each of the choirs, please visit the Worship area of our church website ([www.fpcmesa.org](http://www.fpcmesa.org)) and select the Worship drop-down menu.

The Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will begin its 67th season with a service of worship and installation of officers on Monday, September 29th, at 7:30 p.m. A pre-service recital will begin at 7:00. The service will be held at All Saints' Catholic Newman Center in Tempe. Service music will be led by the Valley Chamber Chorale, directed by Dr. Christopher Samuel, and the Newman Center Schola.



The Sanctuary Choir would love for you to sing with them this season. In addition to weekly musical offerings during the 9:00 a.m. service, the choir offers a lenten major work and serves as the pit chorus for the First Players' spring musical. Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays in the Choir Room from 7:00-8:30 p.m. beginning September 3rd, and childcare and transportation may be arranged. For information, please contact Mark at the church, (480) 964-8606, Ext. 103 or [music@fpcmesa.org](mailto:music@fpcmesa.org). We thank you in advance, as you join us in making a joyful noise!

*Praise Song Notebooks* are available for our 9:00 a.m. blended service. If you would like to use printed music rather than lyrics-only for our praise songs, please request a notebook from one of our ushers or pick up a copy from the credenza at the main entrance to the Sanctuary.

## Humoresque

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

A man is driving along a highway and sees a rabbit jump out across the middle of the road. He swerves to avoid hitting it, but unfortunately the rabbit jumps right in front of the car. The driver, a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulls over and gets out to see what has become of the rabbit. Much to his dismay, the rabbit is dead. The driver feels so awful that he begins to cry. A beautiful blonde woman driving down the highway sees a man crying on the side of the road and pulls over. She steps out of the car and asks the man what's wrong. "I feel terrible," he explains, "I accidentally hit this rabbit and killed it." The blonde says, "don't worry." She runs to her car and pulls out a spray can. She walks over to the limp, dead rabbit, bends down, and sprays the contents onto the rabbit. The rabbit jumps up, waves its paw at the two of them, and hops off down the road. Ten feet away the rabbit stops, turns around, and waves again; he hops down the road another 10 feet, turns, and waves; hops another 10 feet, turns and waves; and then repeats this again and again and again, until he hops out of sight. The man is astonished. He runs over to the woman and demands, "What is in that can? What did you spray on that rabbit?" The woman turns the can around so that the man can read the label. It says... "Hair spray — Restores life to dead hair, adds permanent wave." [from Bob & Barbara Strader]

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### MISSION

Pastor (Chair) — Brant Baker  
Mission (E) — Phillip Pagels  
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

Assimilation (D) — Calli Kitchen  
Evangelism (E) — Bill Anderson

Seasonal Ministries (D) — Sue Eisenklam  
Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (D) — Jane Potyka

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### SEMI-ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Save the date! The semi-annual blood drive is fast approaching! Mark your calendars for Sunday October 19th. It will be from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sign-ups will begin in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 5th.



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It isn't too soon to begin collecting items for Operation Christmas Child shoe box. Our small group has sponsored this project for six years and will be doing so again this year. The collection week is the 3rd week in November. Stay tuned for more information in the October La Palabra.

— Jeanne Partida

## DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. — Jasmine Couillard  
Adult (E) — Martha Bienert

Children's Ministries (E) — Carol Anderson  
Family Ministries (E) — Alice Schlak

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Jennifer Martin  
Youth Elder — Kyle Posthumus

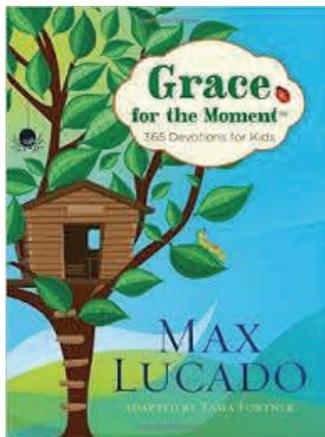
**Wednesday WRAP** is in full swing! All kids age kindergarten and up are welcome for worship skills, recreation, fellowship, dinner, games and Bible study! Themes for September are:

September 3 – Mustache Night

September 10 – 60's Night

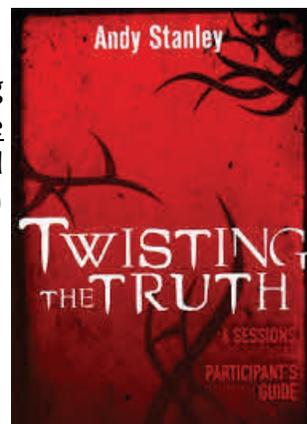
September 17 – Pirate Night

September 24 – Lego Night



Fall Children's Sunday School classes (preschool – sixth grade) kick off this month on September 7th. Teachers are excited to welcome their students to a new year of learning Biblical truths. If your child has never attended Sunday School (or has not in quite some time), we have an additional incentive – a free book! Sign up for children's Sunday school and your child will receive a hardback copy of Max Lucado's Grace for the Moment: 365 Daily Devotions for Kids!

Adult Bible study meets each Wednesday night during WRAP! We are studying Andy Stanley's Twisting the Truth. This small group study will help you understand how truth gets twisted and distorted, and how that impacts our lives. Join us for dinner at 5:45 (\$4) or just show up for the study at 6:15 (free!).



What a wonderful start to the school year at the Preschool! As you know, we began on August 25th, and we changed the hours of the preschool. The new preschool hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We have 28 kids enrolled in the two classrooms and have plenty of room to grow. If you know of any families that are looking for a high quality preschool, please send them our way!

We ask for your prayers for this year as we get ready to bring Christ into the lives of these families. We look forward to working as a community to build up our shared faith.

With sincere blessings,  
Shiloh Murillo,  
Director

## FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Charlie Golden  
Parish Visitor (Staff) — Lois Hildenbrand  
Cards (D) — Gretchen Frederick  
Older Adult (E) — Steve Muth

Transportation (D) — Doug McInelly  
Parish Deacon 1 — Peggy Baker  
Parish Deacon 2 — Denise Worden  
Parish Deacon 3 — Dale Gibson

Parish Deacon 4 — Erin Skarphol  
Parish Deacon 5 — Heidi Blincoe  
Presbyterian Women — Jeannette Laurie



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

A new season is unfolding for Presbyterian Women FPC. The Bible study for the year is focused on the Horizon's Curriculum, *RECONCILING PAUL: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians*. 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.

### 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

The next PWCT meeting will be on Tuesday, September 2nd, at 1:00 p.m. in the library.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PRESBYTERY OF GRAND CANYON FALL GATHERING** will be at Sunnyslope Presbyterian Church on October 11th. The guest speaker will be Patti Luttrell from the Children's Cancer Network on the topic "One Can Make a Difference." Registration forms will be available through Circles or in the church office.



❖ The Third Annual FPC Road Rally is scheduled Saturday, October 18th, at 3:00 p.m. Watch for details to be announced soon!

❖ The 2014 Arts & Crafts Fair will be Saturday, November 8th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Tables can be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis at a cost of \$25 per table.



Applications are available in the church office.

### *Just for Laughs...in honor of Brant's sermon series:*

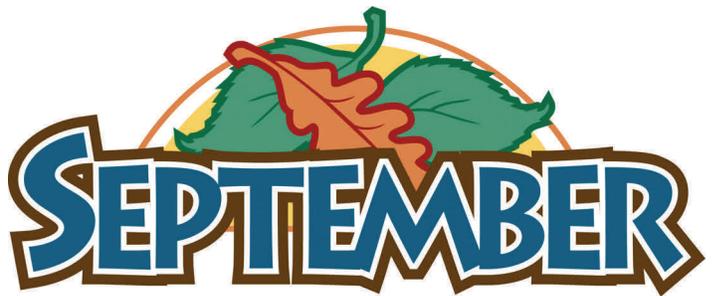
A man bought a donkey from a preacher. The preacher told the man that this donkey had been trained in a very unique way (being the donkey of a preacher). The only way to make the donkey go is to say, "Hallelujah!" The only way to make the donkey stop is to say, "Amen!" The man was pleased with his purchase and immediately got on the animal to try out the preacher's instructions. "Hallelujah!" shouted the man. The donkey began to trot. "Amen!" shouted the man. The donkey stopped immediately. "This is great!" said the man. With a "Hallelujah", he rode off very proud of his new purchase. The man traveled for a long time through some mountains.

Soon he was heading toward a cliff. He could not remember the word to make the donkey stop. "Stop," said the man. "Halt!" he cried. The donkey just kept going. "Oh, no... 'Bible...Church!...Please Stop!'," shouted the man. The donkey just began to trot faster. He was getting closer and closer to the cliff edge. Finally, in desperation, the man said a prayer..."Please, dear Lord. Please make this donkey stop before I go off the end of this mountain, In Jesus name, AMEN." The donkey came to an abrupt stop just one step from the edge of the cliff. "HALLELUJAH," shouted the man.

# September Birthdays



Monte Nelson	1st
Chakiwe Patricia Sakala	1st
Mark Ramsey	3rd
Bryan Tryon	3rd
Amber Post	4th
Ruth Rummler	5th
Tyler Post	6th
Charlie Golden	7th
Diana Johnson	7th
Gregg Gerlach	10th
Gabe Homolya	11th
Suzanne Engman	13th
Rosalie Lowe	13th
Sam Smith	13th
Skeets Throckmorton	13th
Beverly Snitzer	14th
Adam Williams	14th
Paul Green	15th
Miki Newbry	16th
Nuha Ghubril	17th
William Rummler	17th
Mildred Kimbrough	18th
Jeff Sitzler	18th
Helen Thielke	18th
David Tobey	18th
Kathryn Pomeroy	20th
Rediet Gerlach	21st
Kyle Harding	21st
Henry Woodrum	21st
Paul Harding	22nd
Andrea Schultz	22nd
Richard Lowe	24th
Steve Post	25th
Susan Sylvia	25th
Sandra Clark	26th
Don Wallen	26th
Richard Hawkins	27th
Bev Goff	28th
Jeanette Chaney	29th
Edward Cordone	29th



**Calendar Notes**

September 1  
Labor Day — Office Closed

September 2  
PW Coordinating Team

September 7  
Kick-Off Sunday

September 13  
Work Day — Patio Project

September 14  
Youth Kick-Off Event

September 16  
Befrienders meet

September 21  
Commissions & Session meet

September 28  
Monthly Food Drive



## IN MEMORIAM

Mary Ellen “Calli” Kitchen — August 13, 2014



**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.

# FPC Youth—What Up?

September 2014

## GAME EXTRAORDANZA

### Big Screen Wii

### Jenga

### Shaolin

### MTG Mario

Wednesday  
WRAP  
Every  
Wednesday  
this  
month!  
5-7pm

Sunday, September 14  
12:30-2:30 in the Youth Room  
Lunch provided—\$3  
PRIZES!



Some scenes from last year!

