

# La Palabra

April 2014

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## ***A Message from Brant***

In April our faith is renewed and recharged with the glories of Easter. Along the way we pass through Holy Week, and particularly Maundy Thursday (April 17th). The Sanctuary Choir will once more partner with the Sun Valley Choral and the Sun Valley Community Church Choir to present DuBois' "Seven Last Words." The service will include an observance of the Lord's Supper.

On Easter Sunday (April 20th), we will again have three services: 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service (followed by a pancake breakfast), and then 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Each service will feature the same sermon but will have different musical elements, as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection and the new life we have in Him!

In his book *Mortal Lessons, Notes on the Art of Surgery*, Dr. Richard Selzer, a retired faculty member of the Yale University School of Medicine shares this story of new life out of sorrow:

I stand by the bed where a young woman lies, her face postoperative, her mouth twisted in palsy, clownish. A tiny twig of the facial nerve, the one to the muscles of her mouth, has been severed. She will be thus from now on. I as a surgeon have followed with religious fervor the curve of her flesh; I promise you that. Nevertheless, to remove the tumor in her cheek, I had to cut the little nerve.

Her young husband is in the room. He stands on the opposite side of the bed, and together they seem to dwell in the evening lamplight, isolated from me, private. Who are they, I ask myself, he and this wry-mouth I have made, who gaze at and touch each other so generously, so greedily?

The young woman speaks. 'Will my mouth always be like this?' she asks.

'Yes,' I say, 'it will. It's because the nerve was cut.'

She nods, and is silent. But the young man smiles. 'I like it,' he says, 'it's kind of cute.'

All at once I know who he is. I understand, and I lower my gaze. One is not bold in an encounter with one so filled with God. Unmindful, he bends to kiss her crooked mouth, and I so close I can see how he twists his own lips to accommodate to hers, to show her that their kiss still works. I remember that God did once appear in human flesh as mortal, living and dying that such might be possible, and I hold my breath at the wonder of the resurrection.

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

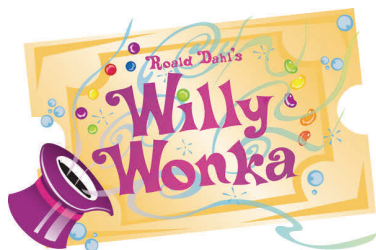
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### Mark's Remarks

(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



**WILLY WONKA**, by Roald Dahl, will be presented this month by our

First Players Community Theater; Anita Ramsey and Miki Newbry, Directors. The 18th annual First Players production will be held on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 4 & 5, as Dinner-Theaters beginning at 5:30 p.m. and repeated the following weekend, April 11 & 12. The show will feature Ian Harding as *Charlie Bucket* and John Couillard as *Willy Wonka*. Tickets are available at [fpcmesa.org](http://fpcmesa.org), in the church office during the week, and during Sunday Coffee Hours (10:00-10:30 a.m.). Suggested minimum donations for the Dinner-Theaters are \$12 General Admission, \$8 ages 10 & under, with a \$50 maximum per household. The menu will include Lasagna, Italian Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Chocolate Sundaes, and Drinks.



The Théodore Dubois “Seven Last Words of Christ” will be offered during our Maundy Thursday service (April 17th at 7:00 p.m.). The Sanctuary Choir will be joined by the Sun Valley Community Church Choir, the Sun Valley Chorale, Soloists, Organ, and Piano. The combined choirs will be under the direction of Dr. Glenn Bennett, with organist Mark Ramsey and pianist Sherin Moustafa.

We will once again have three services on Easter Sunday morning! Our Sunrise Service will be held at 6:00 a.m. on the Sanctuary Patio and will be followed by a pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall. At 9:00 a.m., our choirs and organ will accompany the Festival Service in the Sanctuary, and then at 11:30 a.m., Phil Fritschle and the Praise Band will offer special music for our HolyGrounds service. Join us on Easter Sunday as we gather to celebrate the Resurrection of our Eternal King!

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, and the Sanctuary Celebration Committee is already busy working toward this golden celebration. We have begun a series of concerts to commemorate the anniversary, and on Sunday, December 7th, the series will culminate in an all-church worship-recital on our great organ, including the sharing of hymns and readings drawn from the Sanctuary Dedication Service on Saturday, December 13, 1964.

Following our worship celebration, we will gather for a catered brunch in Fellowship Hall and share memories and pictures of the first Sanctuary services. The Celebration Committee would appreciate receiving any memories you may have surrounding the first days of our Sanctuary. The memories may be in writing or in pictures, serious or humorous, trivial and profound. The memories will be included in a Memory Book. If you have moved away from the area and were an FPC member during the time of Sanctuary construction, we would love to have you join us for the Celebration. Please call me at the church, (480) 964-8606,

Ext. 103. Also, please share any information you may have regarding the Sanctuary cornerstone. I am looking forward to a great Celebration and to having you share your Sanctuary memories with our congregation. Watch for Celebration updates in the next issue of *La Palabra*!

— Mark Ramsey, for the Sanctuary Celebration Committee:  
Carol Gerlach, Charlie Golden, Mark Ramsey, and Barbara Walker.

During the FPC *Cinco de Mayo* Salsa Challenge, the Sanctuary Celebration Committee will present a Silent Auction as a fundraiser for our December catered brunch. If you would like to contribute items for the auction, please contact me to have them approved by our auction committee. Suggested items include gift certificates, food baskets, restaurant and movie gift cards, sports tickets, and collectibles. Items need to be received by April 15th, so you're invited to save a bit of your tax refund and donate something to the silent auction!

### Humoresque

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

A little old lady answered a knock on the door one day, only to be confronted by a well-dressed young man carrying a vacuum cleaner. "Good morning," said the young man. "If I could take a couple of minutes of your time, I would like to demonstrate the very latest in high-powered vacuum cleaners." "Go away!" said the old lady. "I haven't got any money!", and she proceeded to close the door. Quick as a flash, the young man wedged his foot in the door and pushed it wide open. "Don't be too hasty!" he said, "Not until you have at least seen my demonstration." And with that, he emptied a bucket of horse manure onto her hallway carpet. "If this vacuum cleaner does not remove all traces of this horse manure from your carpet, Madam, I will personally eat the remainder." "Well," she said, "I hope you've got a good appetite, because the electricity was cut off this morning."



## Holy Week Schedule

April 13 — Palm Sunday  
April 17 — Maundy Thursday Service  
7:00 p.m. — Seven Last  
Words of Christ  
April 18 — Good Friday — Office closed  
April 19 — EggsTravaganza & Brunch  
at 9:00 a.m.  
April 20 — Easter Sunday  
Services at 6:00, 9:00 &  
11:30

## 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

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# Wednesday WRAP

Only 4 nights of Wednesday WRAP left in the 2013-2014 year! Everyone aged 5 – 105 is invited to join us on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. for music, dinner, Bible study and more. Cost is only \$3 per night. Our themes for April are:

April 2 — Cool Shades  
April 9 — Hawaii  
April 16 — Italian Night

On April 23rd, we will celebrate the end of the WRAP year with an exciting night of dinner, science show/experiments and ice cream! Join us at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for dinner followed by a demonstration by Sub Zero ice cream at 5:30. Donations to balance our budget for the year are greatly appreciated!



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Thank you to all the volunteers that helped to make Wednesday WRAP successful!!

- Thank you to our registrar – Ellen Hickey!
- Thank you to our kitchen crews – Susan McMichael, Karyn Weaver, Jennifer Martin, Brent Gregory, Patty Carnes, Anthony Vitale, David Miller, Tammy Miller and many more assistants!
- Thank you to our music teachers – Karen Rudin, Miki Newbry, Bev Goff, Bryan Tryon, Mark Ramsey, Linda Hayball, John Couillard, Alice Schlak!
- Thank you to our table parents – James Norris, Alice Schlak, Marcy Snitzer, Denise Worden, Miki Newbry, Linda Hayball!
- Thank you to our Bible study teachers – James Norris, Susan Durand, Denise Worden and Linda Hayball!

### **MONTLURE**

Montlure summer camp is owned by the two Presbyteries of Arizona. Montlure is a special place for children, youth and adults in the ministries of the church. It provides the opportunity for a Christian experience in a setting that places it apart from the everyday world. Registration is now open for children in 4th – 12th grade at [www.montlure.org](http://www.montlure.org). Each child of the church is eligible for a \$140 campership. 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.



## 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

### PW SPRING LUNCHEON

Tuesday, May 6, 11:30

Fellowship Hall

Hostesses: Eve and Rachel Circles

Our honored guest, Major Candi Fizzel, will tell us of the role of the Salvation Army in the world. All women of the church are invited. Please bring a dish to share (main dish or salad).

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**PW HONORARY LIFE MEMBER AWARD** was presented to Bea Towe in recognition of her years of faithful contributions to the music program at FPC.

Congratulations, Bea!

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**Next PWCT meeting:** April 1st, 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

We would like to thank all those people who have volunteered to work on the Habitat for Humanity build this year. In addition to workers, special thanks go to:

- Dr. Baker, who participated in the Wall Signing,
- The Hot Chili's small group who prepared a great chili lunch for the workers,
- Lois Hildenbrand and Bert Lanstra who got Starbucks to donate coffee and tea, and
- Jennie Henry (a winter visitor) who provided the donuts.



## FPC Habitat Build

Jeanne Partida and Sheilah Dye

## April Birthdays



Karen Baker	2nd
Michael Gerlach	2nd
Carol Holdhusen	2nd
Dan Sitzler	6th
Susan Durand	8th
Jeanne Partida	9th
Dalitso Sakala	12th
Allan Schultz	12th
Jo Wilson	12th
Amy Woods	12th
Sedona Verch	13th
Patricia White	13th
Diane Byerly	15th
Andy Chesko	15th
Kelly Clark	15th
Hal Engman	15th
Robert Harding	15th
Ron Payton	15th
Darin Schwartzmann	15th
Krista Leichtman	16th
Debbie Rosen	16th
Dave Weaver	16th
David Frederick	19th
Glenn Gussak	19th
Kay Lutman	19th
Mary Martin	19th
Tanya Snitzer	19th
Don Wilson	19th
Emily Bero	23rd
Robert Brause-Crame	23rd
Brooks Neill	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.



Thank you for all the thoughts, phone calls, concerns, visits, cards, flowers, and prayers at the passing of my mother Helene Keller. Once again our church family was there for us at every turn. It means so much during the times when support is so helpful and needed. Thank you so very much!

Warmly,  
Renita and David Jurgensen

### Calendar Notes

#### April 4 & 5, 11 & 12

Dinner Theater —  
Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory

#### April 5

Preschool Carnival

#### April 8 & 14

Circles meet

#### April 13

Palm Sunday

#### April 17

Maundy Thursday

#### April 18

Good Friday — Office closed

#### April 19

Eggs Travaganza & Brunch

#### April 20

Easter  
Services at 6:00, 9:00 & 11:30

#### April 23

WRAP banquet

#### April 26

New Member class

#### April 27

Monthly Food Drive  
Youth Sunday





FPC

# What Up?

April '14

## Ready to have some fun???

Once more the FPC Youth are being asked to help serve meals at the upcoming church musical.

**What a great mission project and fun way to serve our church!**

Sign up with Momma MJ!

**Dates: April 4-5, 11-12, 5:00-6:30pm**

(Black pants, white shirt/blouse: Need up to 5 servers per night)

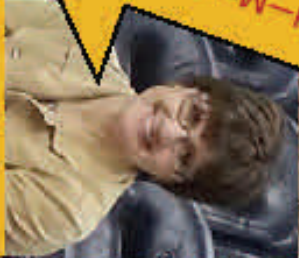


Sunday Mornings @ 10:30  
Sunday School with Gray and Todd



WRAP  
Closing Banquet  
April 23rd :-)

Looking ahead—May 17th  
Jump Street II



We're so glad to have a new "momma!" As Teresa moves away to be closer to her grandchildren we welcome Mary Jane Hee to take her place. Call Momma MJ if you have any questions about what the youth are doing!

YOUTH TEAM: John —(602) 284-7311, Gray —(480) 459-8071, Katelyn — (602) 790-0373, Todd —(480) 495-6109, Mary Jane — (480) 586-7263