

La Palabra

August 2014

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Brant

Why go to church on Sunday mornings?

A recent survey by the Barna Group (March 25, 2014) asked Americans what, if anything helps them grow in their faith. People offered a variety of answers—prayer, family or friends, reading the Bible, having children—but going to church did not even crack the top-10 list. Although going to church was once a mainstay of American life, adults today are almost evenly divided on the question, with about half saying church attendance is important, while the other half say it isn't.

*Worship may
ground us,
grow us,
or gratify us,
but ultimately
it's not about us
at all.*

What I find interesting is the “me-centeredness” of both the question and the answers. Worship isn't about having us grow spiritually (although sometimes we do, and that's always nice), or about having us feel better (ditto), or even about what we get out of it (about as much as you put into it). **Worship is about bringing God our thanks and praise.** It's about acknowledging that everything we are, and everything we have, comes from God's gracious hand. Worship may ground us, grow us, or gratify us (“Wasn't the choir great today?!”), but ultimately *it's not about us at all.*

Those of us involved in our worship here at FPC work pretty hard to bring quality, honor, and joy to what we do each week. But of course doing so runs the risk that in our entertainment-oriented culture, people too often start asking the wrong questions and having incorrect assumptions. If you are one who has slipped away from regular worship, I would invite you to examine yourself: have you made worship more about yourself and less about giving honor to God? Have you treated worship as a duty rather than as a privilege (“What, I get to stand before the Maker of the Universe??!!”)? If so, it might be a good time to have a change of heart!

In Christ,
Brant

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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

Sunday School teacher training! All Sunday School teachers & assistants for preschool through sixth grade – please mark your calendars. We will meet on August 10th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Christian Education office. We will be planning a kick off and classes for the fall session.

Wednesday WRAP begins this month on August 27th! Register yourself and your kids. Cost is \$20 per block or \$4 per night! Adults are welcome to join us for social time, dinner and Adult Bible study. We will be studying Andy Stanley's *Twisting the Truth: Learning to Discern in a Culture of Deception*. Elementary students will start the night at 5:00 p.m. with music, dinner, games, Bible study. This is two hours of your week that your family doesn't want to miss out on. Register now! See you on August 27th for a Hawaiian Luau. Aloha!

Vacation Bible School update: The numbers are in and this was such a successful year! 46 children attended SonTreasure Island and 37 people volunteered to assist in Bible study, games, snack, music, crafts and opening/closing ceremonies. This was a very fun year where students ages 5 through 14 made new friendships, learned about Jesus (some for the first time) and felt God's love at FPC. Thirteen of the attending children do not go to church at all. Twenty-one of the children that attended are not members or regular attenders of FPC. Praise God!

If you volunteered at Vacation Bible School this year and have not yet completed and submitted an evaluation form, please do as soon as possible. In addition to your input we are very interested in the negative/positive response to having VBS in the evening versus in the morning. (Attending families are welcome to weigh in as well!) If you need a form, please contact Jasmine Couillard.

If you donated an item to Vacation Bible School, would like it back and haven't yet picked it up, please visit the Christian Education Office as soon as possible. Thank you!

Y'All Come Class: On Sunday, August 24th, the Y'All Come Class will launch a new study entitled "Bible Study Basics." The class will be taught by Phil Fritschle, who is the equivalent of commissioned lay pastor in the Christian Reformed Church (CRC), and occasional lead guitar substitute at HolyGrounds.



Our first day of school will be August 25th. We still have openings in both classrooms and would love to welcome you to the preschool family! Stop by today for a tour, refer a friend or just see what is going on!

As the new school year approaches, we are looking forward to many new changes. Let me outline them for you so that you may have the most current information to help us promote the preschool. First, the preschool hours of operation will be changing to 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. starting on August 25th. This change will affect all of the staff in some way, mostly with different work hours. Second, we will have two full classrooms for Pre-K and 3 year old children. We will still welcome children who are 2 1/2 years old that are potty trained, but we will not have a 3rd classroom open unless we have a greater need later in the school year. Third, we will not be open next summer with a summer program. This will help ease our budget a bit. Lastly, we had to say goodbye to three of our beloved teachers, Ms. Gloria, Ms. Tiffani and Ms. Jolene. We wish them well and know that they are outstanding teachers who will be missed dearly. We are gearing up for another fantastic year and we look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Sincerely,
Shiloh Murillo, Director

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

PATIO PROJECT —

Dear Brant,

Thank you for letting me use this project as my Eagle Scout Project. I also thank you for helping me with my Eagle Scout project. I am especially thankful that you took time out of your day to come and do heavy labor in the summer heat. By the end of the project, I recorded 170 working hours, and about 30 tons of concrete broken and moved. Thank you!

Gregory Gerlach, Future Eagle Scout



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



On **Sunday, August 10th**, your Fellowship Commission and the FPC Music team are sponsoring a good old-fashioned **ICE CREAM SOCIAL!** It will be held in the Fellowship Hall from **4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** There will be LOTS of ice cream, assorted toppings, etc.... just like last year. There will be “open microphone” entertainment provided by various folks from our church and other friends. It promises to be another “Don’t Miss” event at FPC – and wait! There’s MORE! IT’S FREE! Plan on attending and BRING YOUR non-Churched FRIENDS to introduce them to our friendly congregation! Watch the bulletins for further details!

August Birthdays



Marie Nelson	1st
Frank Thompson	1st
Charlotte Roberts	3rd
Jake Bero	5th
Verna Green	5th
Cheryl Cordone	6th
Todd Verch	6th
Carl Jensen	7th
Susan McMichael	7th
Ted Hanson	8th
Ayden Hickey	8th
Frackson Sakala	8th
Tom Dye	9th
Michele Roberts	9th
Mike Chesko	10th
Rosemary Chisnall	10th
Ndekela Sakala	10th
Gary Marshall	11th
Jo Beth Walstrom	11th
Amy Bero	12th
Ken Berry	12th
Carol Webster	12th
Susan Chesko	14th
Samuel Wells	15th
Brent Gray	17th
Lora Vitale	18th
James Bruening	19th
Eliana Couillard	19th
Lynette Belew	20th
Bettylou Edwards	20th
Robert Gerlach	20th
Kylie Hall	21st
Patricia Woodrum	23rd
Wayne Carns	25th
Lanai Mills	25th
Tricia Ramsey	25th
Sean Smith	25th
Douglas McInelly	26th
Mary Rugg	26th
Ardith Shaffer	26th
Mark Waters	26th
Burton Newbry	28th
Kimberly Castela	29th
Joseph Preston	29th
James Norris	30th
Evangelina Couillard	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.

Calendar Notes

August 10
Sunday School Training
Ice Cream Social & Talent Show

August 17
Commissions & Session meet

August 19
Befrienders meet

August 23
Officers' Retreat, Las Sendas

August 24
Small Group Leaders Retreat

August 31
Monthly Food Drive



friendship and caring.

To our friends at FPC,
Thank you for your prayers, cards, and phone calls on the loss of Andrea's sister Judy. We are both very grateful for your
Allan & Andrea Schultz

Graham and I are so grateful to you for your prayers for my cancer surgery and radiation therapy. All that is now in the past and I praise God that He has answered them. Thanks too for all your cards and phone calls. How blessed to be surrounded by such loving and caring friends.

Barb Walker



IN MEMORIAM

Avonelle Marshall — July 16, 2014

