

# La Palabra

November 2014

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Lois*

*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)*

God’s got this! Just as these words have provided comfort for thousands of years, may they comfort us as well. Even though the Lord doesn’t necessarily share the plans with us, the Lord knows the plan. And, the plan is to prosper and not to harm, to give hope and a future.

Change can be scary. Change can be uncomfortable. Change can be challenging. Change can be invigorating. Change can be fun. And, like it or not, change happens. Pastor Brant’s retirement from ministry at FPC Mesa is a big change. But let’s thank God for the time we had with Pastor Brant, acknowledge the good work he’s done and the sadness we feel in his departure. Then let us send him off with our heartfelt prayers and well wishes to continue to do God’s work in another arena.

Some may feel frightened for the church. But, God’s got this! Some will be uncomfortable and that’s not all bad. When we’re uncomfortable, it motivates us to make things better. I hope most are up for an invigorating challenge. Let’s trust God and see what God’s plan is for us.

We have so much to be thankful for: a wonderful church facility, great staff, faithful and competent leadership in the session, you – the church family and, most of all, the goodness of God in our individual lives and the life of our church.

November is Stewardship Month. It is a time for each of us to show God our thanks for that goodness in the giving of our time, talent and treasure. Because we are Presbyterians and like to do things “decently and in order,” we also ask you to indicate your giving by pledging to the church. Shortly you will receive a stewardship letter with a pledge form. Please, prayerfully consider your support of the church. Especially during this time of transition, your support is critical. Traditionally, biblically, God asks us for one-tenth of God’s provision to each of us. If you’re not there, don’t worry. There are no pledge police. Perhaps you can increase your giving by one percent of your income. That would be an additional \$10 for every \$1000 of income.

Dedication Sunday is November 23rd. Pledges will be received at worship that day. If you won’t be in worship that day, please return your pledge form to the church office.

Session is already at work with the Presbytery to move forward in our transition between pastors. Yes, it is a big change and yes, it might be uncomfortable but God’s got this! Let’s look forward to the future that God has planned...it’s gonna be good!

Blessings...  
Lois Hildenbrand,  
Parish Visitor

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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

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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

**Let's Celebrate!** The FPC Sanctuary was dedicated during a special worship service on Sunday, December 13, 1964. We will celebrate its 50th anniversary this November and December! In addition to our December 7th Concert and Brunch with guest organist Dorothy Young Riess, we will feature special music during the 9:00 a.m. service on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23rd, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We'll offer a special anthem, *Bless This House*, by Allan Robert Petker. The piece is based on II Chronicles 7:15-16 and will include our Sanctuary Choir, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, One Voice, Choristers, Organ, and Praise Band and is a beautiful setting of an original tune along with “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” and “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee.” Our guest pastor that morning will be Presbytery Pastor (Moderator) Dr. Brad Munroe.

**Auditions!** On April 10,11,17,18, the First Players will present their production of Music Theatre International's blockbuster musical “Disney's Beauty and the Beast.” Auditions will be held in the Choir Room on Saturday, November 15th, 1:00-3:00 p.m. For audition information, contact Mark Ramsey, (480) 964-8606. Audition materials will be available Sunday, November 2nd on the Church Office counter. You're invited to join the First Players, as we step into the enchanted world of Broadway's modern classic, *Disney's Beauty And The Beast*, an international sensation that has played to over 35 million people worldwide in 13 countries! Based on the Academy-Award winning animated feature, the stage version includes all of the wonderful songs written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Alan Menken and Tim Rice. The original Broadway production ran for over 13 years and was nominated for 9 TONY Awards including Best Musical. The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed to his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.



**Ministry Fair on November 23rd:** Drop by the Worship Commission table for a *sweet* cream puff and to try our friendly competition, “Name That Tune!” The annual Ministry Fair will be presented in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 23rd, from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. Each Commission will display and advertise the activities of their various ministries!



1964-2014  
**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS  
OF OUR CHURCH SANCTUARY**

First Presbyterian Church of Mesa will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its Sanctuary on Sunday, December 7th. There will be one special service that Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary. You will want to mark your calendar as not to miss this unique celebration. Please invite any former members you know and also inform your children if they no longer are members.

There will be a delicious catered brunch in the Fellowship Hall following the service, and it will be free to all. The celebration will continue at the brunch as we recall memorable times and events. Tickets will be required and will be available beginning in November.

We would appreciate any stories, photos or other memorabilia that you may be able to provide. Please turn it in to the church office.

In Christ,  
50th Anniversary Celebration Committee

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### Humoresque

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

An Irish priest was transferred to Texas. Father O'Malley rose from his bed one morning. It was a fine spring day in his new west Texas mission parish. He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside. He then noticed there was a jackass lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He promptly called the local police station. The conversation went like this: "Good morning. This is Sergeant Jones. How might I help you?" "And the best of the day te yerself. This is Father O'Malley at St. Anne's Catholic Church. There's a jackass lying dead in me front lawn and would ye be so kind as to send a couple o'yer lads to take care of the matter?" Sergeant Jones, considering himself quite a wit and recognizing the foreign accent, thought he would have a little fun with the good father, replied, "Well now Father, it was always my impression that you people took care of the last rites!" There was dead silence on the line for a long moment . . . Father O'Malley then replied: "Aye, 'tis certainly true; but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin first, which is the reason for me call." [from Dick Baird]

#### OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The Nominating Committee is beginning to fill Elder and Deacon positions for the Class of 2018. This is an opportunity to serve God and your congregation. If you are willing to do so, please contact a committee member or call the church office. The Committee Members are Mary Jane Hee, Ellen Hickey, Renita Jurgensen, Steve Post and Barb Walker.

## 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

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### WRAP Report

Wednesday WRAP is for ages kindergarten through adult. We offer worship skills, recreation, fellowship, dinner, games and Bible study from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Themes this month are:

November 5 – Masquerade/Costume

November 12 – Patriotic

November 19 – Thanksgiving

**[Guardrails: a system designed to keep vehicles from straying into dangerous or off-limit areas.]**

They're everywhere, but they don't really get much attention . . . until somebody hits one. And then, more often than not, it is a *lifesaver*. Ever wonder what it would be like to have guardrails in other areas of your life—areas where culture baits you to the edge of disaster and then chastises you when you step across the line?

*Your friendships. Your finances. Your marriage.*

Maybe your greatest regret could have been avoided if you had established guardrails. All are invited and encouraged to attend the Wednesday night adult Bible study discussion group. We meet in the church library at 6:15 p.m. If you are able to come earlier for dinner at 5:45 in Fellowship Hall, the cost is only \$4. Discussion group participation is free!

### Nursery News

The nursery is in need of volunteers on Sunday mornings. The commitment is one time per month to care for infants through 5 years old during worship and Sunday School. Both teens and adults make great volunteers. Please contact Carol Anderson or Jasmine Couillard if you are interested in serving.



There are lots of things going on around the preschool. First of all, we would like to thank Pastor Brant for all of his years of service to our preschool and specifically to the weekly family chapel time. We will miss having your leadership for these young Christians. Best wishes for your future adventures, Pastor Brant!

As you may remember, this past summer has been an extremely wet and stormy monsoon season. The entire Jackson building was hit pretty hard with flooding, but we were able to clean that up within 2 days...Our preschool 3's classroom was damaged more severely and has been out of commission while undergoing repairs. We are just about ready to reopen that classroom for use by the first week of November.

Just in time for the holidays! We are making plans to bring to the church community an opportunity to once again purchase beautiful home decor, custom created by one of our parents here at the preschool. Look for the announcements to come, and tables will be set up in Fellowship Hall between services on those specific dates. 50% of the purchase price goes directly to the preschool to help us save enough money to remodel the outside playground bathrooms.

We hope that you can find time to stop and enjoy the beautiful fall weather and share the time with your families. We are truly blessed to be a part of the FPC Mission here at the Preschool. Thank you for all of your support, love and prayers!

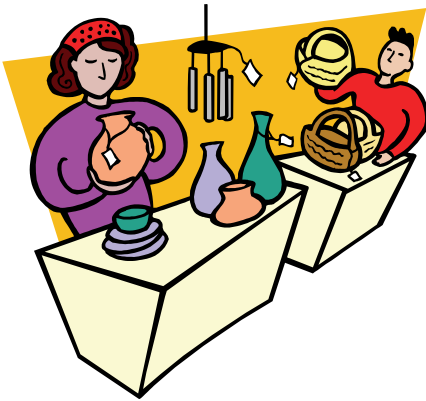
Shiloh Murillo,  
Director

## FELLOWSHIP

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

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

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



### **CRAFT FAIR – Saturday, November 8th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.:**

Denise Worden and her team of helpers have worked hard to make sure we have more craft vendors than ever before. They will display a wide variety of treasures! Many of our own congregation will be participating. PW will be holding a bake sale, and much, MUCH MORE! Plan on coming to see all the fabulous stuff that will be offered (and perhaps do some Christmas shopping)! This is another event that some of your friends might like to attend with you!



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

### **Bake Sale at the All-Church Craft Fair, Saturday, November 8th.**

We invite all women in PW, as well as members of the church family, to contribute HOME BAKED items to this sale. Bring your contribution to the kitchen between 1:00 – 3:00 Friday afternoon, November 7th, or bring it to the Fair on Saturday morning. Bring your favorite recipes: Cookies, Brownies, Cakes, Pies, Breads, Jams, Pickles, Candies! Proceeds will benefit PW mission projects. Cash donations will be gratefully accepted from members who are unable (or prefer not) to bake.



### **Circles Meet:**

Eve Circle meets second Monday, 7:00 p.m., parlor  
Deborah Circle meets second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., members' homes  
Lydia Circle meets second Tuesday, 12:00 noon, parlor  
Rachel Circle meets second Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., library

Next PWCT meeting will be Tuesday, November 4th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Library.

**The Senior Ministries of FPC Mesa** would like to extend a special invitation for you to attend Senior Matters. This will be a time of fellowship and education featuring a Catered Brunch (provided by the Endowment Committee), and presentations by Jack Gunter and Brent Gregory, Rosemary Fuller (RN), and a special performance by the FPC Choirs. This wonderful event will be held on Saturday, November 22nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP by calling the church office (480-964-8606) so we can know how many to count on for (the free) brunch!

**Are you alone, hungry and thankful?** Please come join those of us who do not have plans for Thanksgiving dinner on November 27th at 12:00 noon. It is a "Bring-A-Dish" event. Turkey is prepared. You bring the trimmings. RSVP to Flinn Lund.

## MISSION

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

Assimilation (D) — Scot Logan  
Evangelism (E) — Bill Anderson

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

Time is quickly approaching! Shoe boxes are here and will be available between services on November 2nd. Imagine the joy some girl or boy will feel when presented with a special box filled with goodies in the name Jesus Christ. Suggestions of items you might include are found on a pamphlet you will receive with your box or boxes. Please prayerfully consider helping us collect more boxes than last year. Our goal is 100.



We are asking that the boxes be returned to the church by November 16th. We hope you will enjoy filling the boxes as much as our small group does. If you have any questions, please contact the Oliver's, Hoff's, Miller's, Jan Montgomery, Hildenbrand/Lanstra or Jeanne Partida. Thank you and God Bless.



### How Blessed we are! We get to be Angels!

FPC will once again be sponsoring 4-6 needy neighborhood families this Christmas season. Gift suggestions for members of each family will appear on the tree in the sanctuary in December. What a lovely way to share our blessings! Watch for more details about this year's Angel Tree coming your way soon!

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## MINISTRY

Clerk of Session (Chair) — Carol Gerlach  
Property (E) — Alan Schultz  
Personnel (E) — Jo Wilson

Personnel (D) — Kate Buck  
Nominating (E) — Barbara Walker

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

The annual Staff and Officers Retreat was held Saturday, August 23rd, at Las Sendas Golf Course.

There was a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 26th, for the purpose of electing some remaining officers and also for dissolving Brant's pastoral relationship with FPC.

Current membership of FPC: 352.

Average September 2014 worship attendance: 117 + 43 = 160.

Average September 2013 worship attendance: 147 + 56 = 203.

Current Session Members	Current Deacons
Bill Anderson - Evangelism	Heidi Blincoe – Parish #2
Carol Anderson - Children's Ministries	Kate Buck – Personnel
Martha Bienert - Adult	Sandy Clark – Hunger Action
Dan Davenport - Fellowship	Sue Eisenklam – Seasonal Ministries
David Frederick - Stewardship/Treasurer	Gretchen Frederick – Cards
Carol Gerlach - Clerk of Session/Secretary	Dale Gibson – Parish #3
Jennifer Martin - Youth/Young Adult	Bev Goff – Prayer Chain
Steve Muth - Older Adult	Mary Jane Hee – Nominating
Phillip Pagels - Mission	Scot Logan – Assimilation
Kyle Posthumus - Youth Elder	Doug McInelly – Transportation
Dan Reeves – Worship	Jane Potyka – Mesa Presbyterian Ministries
Alice Schlak - Family Ministries	Erin Skarphol – Parish #4
Allan Schultz - Property/President	Mark Waters – Parish #1
Barbara Walker - Nominating	Karyn Weaver – Funerals/Memorials
Jo Wilson - Personnel	Carol Webster – Worship
	Denise Worden – Parish #2

## November Birthdays



Aaron Frederick	1st
Steve Muth	2nd
Jane Potyka	2nd
Scot Logan	3rd
Diane Schwartzmann	3rd
Kathleen Price	5th
John Fitzpatrick	6th
Carol Gerlach	6th
Kelly Pagels	6th
Sandy Hanson	7th
Charlene Raikes	7th
Heidi Blincoe	8th
Alexander Nguyen	9th
Amanda Hoyman	11th
William Letizia	11th
Kay Harding	12th
Erin Skarphol	14th
Ann Hawkins	17th
Marjorie Bergeron	19th
Pam Kurtz	20th
Martha Bienert	21st
Jan Garpner	21st
Ethan Couillard	22nd
Mary Beth McMichael	23rd
Gail Wylie	23rd
Lois Hildenbrand	26th
Flinn Lund	26th
Aenea Schwartzmann	26th
Bryan Verch	26th
Robert Verch	26th
Karyn Weaver	27th
Jade Fleener	29th
Bob Free	29th
Arlene Wagner	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.

## ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Carnes, Milan & Patty  
5822 E. Hermosa Vista Dr.  
Mesa, AZ 85215

### Calendar Notes

#### November 2

Dr. James R. Bruening in the pulpit

#### November 8

Craft Fair

#### November 9

Lois Hildenbrand in the pulpit

#### November 10 & 11

Circles meet

#### November 16

Lois Hildenbrand in the pulpit  
Commissions & Session meet

#### November 22

Senior Matters

#### November 23

Dedication Sunday  
Dr. Brad Munroe in the pulpit

#### November 27

Thanksgiving  
(Office closed Friday, November 28)

#### November 30

Monthly Food Drive  
Bob Schulz in the pulpit



My church family is such a blessing to me! I thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, visits and cards. Brant's hospital visit before surgery and his call after I got home were so appreciated. God bless all of you. —Caroline Cline

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for your cards, phone calls and prayers for healing of my knee replacement. Thank you, Pastor Brant, for your phone call checking to see how I was. I appreciate your care and concern. It is so nice to have such caring friends and a wonderful church to attend. —In Christ, Ginny Mallia