

La Palabra

January 2015

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

“When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders...” **Acts 15:4**

Thank you for your gracious welcome! You have been so warm, welcoming and encouraging to both Bert and me! I am honored that Session selected me as your interim pastor and that Presbytery approved my commissioning to serve FPC Mesa. I am awed that our Lord seems to have been orchestrating all of this for a while now as I look back and see how pieces of God’s plan came together.

Even though most of you know me, here’s a bit of an introduction...

My first career was nursing. After I married Bert, and suddenly had four kids ranging from 9 to 18, I went into administration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Health Center for 10 years followed by one and a half years as an instructor in UAF’s Allied Health program.

I heard God’s call to pastoral ministry in 2002 and began training in the Commissioned Lay Pastor program with the Presbytery of Yukon. I was commissioned in February 2004 to serve University Community Presbyterian Church in Fairbanks as an Administrative Pastor. In August 2004 I became the moderator for Atqasuk Chapel, a small native congregation on the North Slope, 60 miles southwest of Barrow. I served Atqasuk for seven years visiting quarterly and staying a week at a time. I served as interim pastor for New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church in North Pole, Alaska, and as interim associate pastor for First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage.

Bert and I decided to ‘snow bird’ to Mesa four years ago. We found this church right away and got hooked! I started volunteering on staff as your parish visitor. Eventually, I started preaching...so here we are today. Fortunately, one of the pieces I referred to earlier had us purchase a condo last spring just 2.3 miles from the church so, once we get settled, we’ll have a nice home to spend the next couple years with you. That’s right, we won’t be going back to Alaska next summer.

Today we begin the journey of the interim process. We have work to do. I pray that all of you are already praying for the man or woman who is to be your new pastor. For God is already at work putting pieces together.

Blessings...Lois

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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

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

Happy New Year! Our great Visser-Rowland organ was installed in 1991, and this year we mark the beginning of its 25th season. If you'd like to learn more about the organ, *Rex: The King of the Instruments* will be offered in worship on Sunday, January 4th, at 9:00 a.m. Using a narrator and live music, the piece will describe the majesty of the organ and its music.

Internationally acclaimed pianist Sam Rotman will lead us in worship on Sunday, January 18th, at 9:00 a.m.! He will be presented as a part of our church Artist Series, and an additional freewill offering will be received during the worship service. When Sam Rotman made his debut at the age of 16 with the San



Antonio Symphony Orchestra before an audience of 6,000 people, the Baldwin Keynote Magazine wrote, "Sam Rotman is a pianist with abundant potential." Mr. Rotman received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Juilliard School in New York City. While a student, he was the recipient of nine awards in the form of grants, scholarships, and prizes. Subsequently, he has been among the winners in five piano competitions, both in the United States and Europe. The most prestigious award was that of Laureate Winner in the 4th International Beethoven Competition in Vienna, Austria. Mr. Rotman participated in the 6th International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow, Russia. He has given over 2200 perfor-

mances in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, South and Central America, Africa, South Africa, Europe and Asia, totaling 58 countries. Mr. Rotman has devoted a specific area of his musical life to the study and performance of the works of Beethoven. Beginning with a series of all-Beethoven concerts in 1970 (the Beethoven bi-centennial), he was presented on Public Broadcast System in a special Beethoven concert. Mr. Rotman has released four recordings, which are available on his website, www.samrotman.com. Mr. Rotman's testimony "Performance" has appeared in Contact, published by Christian Business Men, and The Good News Broadcaster, published by The Radio Bible Class. His article "Classical Music and the Christian" was published in The Banner of Truth Magazine, Scotland, The Sword and Trowel, Arkenstone, a Christian Arts Magazine, and The Christian Arts, Inc. Newsletter.

Next month, our Sanctuary Choir will participate in the Choral Hymn Festival “God is in the Goosebumps” with the National Lutheran Choir led by conductor-organist David Cherwien. A massed choir will rehearse on Saturday, February 21st, and on Sunday, February 22nd, at 3:00 p.m., the choirs will present a Hymn Festival at La Casa De Cristo Lutheran Church in Scottsdale (6300 E. Bell Rd.). Great hymns of faith, massed choir anthems, and pieces sung by the National Lutheran Choir will pull together to create an afternoon of tremendous, deep song.

Humoresque

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

A man was dining alone in a fancy restaurant, and there was a gorgeous redhead sitting at the next table. He had been checking her out since he sat down but lacked the nerve to talk with her. Suddenly she sneezed, and her glass eye came flying out of its socket towards the man. He reflexively reached out, grabbed it out of the air, and handed it back. 'Oh my, I am so sorry,' the woman said, as she popped her eye back in place. 'Let me buy your dinner to make it up to you.' They enjoyed a wonderful dinner together, and afterwards they went to the theatre, followed by drinks. They talked, they laughed, she shared her deepest dreams, and he shared his. She listened to him with interest. They had a wonderful, wonderful time. The guy was amazed. Everything had been so incredible! 'You know,' he said, 'you are the perfect woman. Are you this nice to every guy you meet?' 'No,' she replies, 'You just happened to catch my eye.' [from Carol Gerlach]

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 will kick off another block this month. All kids (kindergarten and older) and adults are welcome to join us each week! Cost is only \$20 per block (6 weeks)! The fun themes planned this month are:

January 7 – Birthday
January 14 – Pajama Party
January 21 – Back to the Bible
January 28 – Cool Shades

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Offering help and encouragement after the death of a loved one, Grief Share is a weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help. Come Wednesdays January 21 through April 15 from 3:30 – 5:30 in the church parlor. (You are welcome to enjoy dinner with the WRAP group at 5:45 in Fellowship Hall for \$4 per night.) Please contact Jeanne Partida (480-981-6149) or Ruth Rummler (480-415-4925) for more information.



Happy New Year from our little preschool! We hope that you and your family were able to celebrate the grace of our Lord's birth together. It has been a beautiful time for us to share our joy with you and the families of the preschool.

We would like to welcome Interim Pastor Lois to FPC and Preschool! We know that she will bring her talents in love to this community, and we look forward to celebrating Chapel together with the children of the preschool.

This month we will be learning about Outer Space, Transportation, Community Helpers and the Ocean. If you would like to come and share how you contribute to our community, please let me know. We would love to have you as our guests!

We want to thank all of the families for their sweet gifts that helped to make the teachers feel special. We feel blessed to have such a wonderful community here at FPC.

Sincerely,
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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all! As we celebrate the holidays, your Fellowship team is busy planning our 2015 events. I'm sure we'll have our Chili Cook-off, Easter Eggs-travaganza, Salsa Challenge, Ice Cream Social, Road Rally, Craft Fair, and some others. **BUT, what would YOU like to see us host as an FPC event?** We are always open to new ideas – especially ones that provide opportunities to bring friends that don't regularly attend FPC worship or events. Please let any of the Fellowship Commission members (shown at the top) know of your ideas and desires. We'll do our best to make 2015 a banner year for Fellowship at FPC!



Dan Davenport – Fellowship Elder
Dan.Davenport@cox.net



As part of a larger network of Presbyterian Women nationwide PW Circles use the Horizons Study Guide, *Reconciling Paul, A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians* for the basis of their 2014-15 Bible study. Four circles meet monthly and welcome new members.

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

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

Next PWCT meeting: January 6, Tuesday, 1:00, library.

MINISTRY

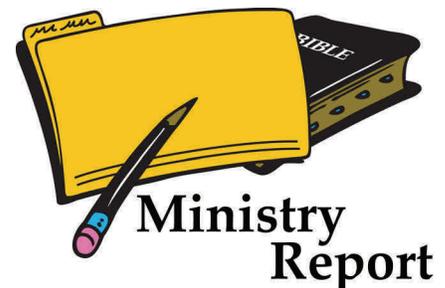
Clerk of Session (Chair) — Carol Gerlach
Property (E) — Alan Schultz
Personnel (E) — Jo Wilson

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

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

2014 Per Capita Apportionment:

General Assembly:	\$ 7.07 (\$0.05 increase)
Synod of the Southwest:	4.00 (no change)
Presbytery of Grand Canyon:	<u>19.93</u> (\$0.05 decrease)
Total —	\$31.00 (no change)



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



Thank you from Hot Chili's

The Hot Chili's small group would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Shoe Box drive. We collected and delivered 92 boxes to one of the SE Valley distribution sites.

Robyn Earl sent me the following email: Thank you so much for your AMAZING help in packing **21,563 shoebox gifts** for needy children through Operation Christmas Child! We are THRILLED with going over and beyond our goal! God has blessed us greatly and worked in and through us to accomplish so much!

We filled 3 1/2 trucks (semi-pups), smoothly collected, transported and packed our shoebox gifts THANKS to SO MANY WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS. We especially prayed over our boxes as they make their way to so many PRECIOUS CHILDREN in Indonesia, Nepal, Peru, and the Philippines.

Habitat for Humanity

Once again our church will be participating with the Superstition Coalition and Habitat for Humanity. We will be renovating a house in Apache Junction located at 1743 W. Mockingbird Street. This renovation is not as extensive as the last two houses and the coalition is the sole sponsor.

The project is slated to be five weeks and start on January 17, 2015. Our church is asked to bring 10 workers that day and to provide coffee and breakfast rolls. We will also be working on February 7th and need to have 5-7 workers that day along with lunch.

If you are able to work on either of those days please contact; Jeanne Partida 480-981-6149 or Sheilah Dye 480-306-4946.



CHILDREN'S VIEW OF BIBLE STORIES

Editors Note: The following statements about the Bible were written by children across the country and have not been retouched or corrected.

- *Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.*
- *When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.*
- *One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.*
- *St. John, the blacksmith, dumped water on his head.*
- *It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.*
- *The people who followed Jesus were called the 12 decibels.*
- *The epistles were the wives of the apostles.*
- *St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached the holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.*

January Birthdays



<i>Stephanie Gerlach</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Jenna Towe</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Elaine Weatherford</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Ryan Posthumus</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Alyene Trimble</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Liberty Swartz</i>	<i>4th</i>
<i>Robert Stickney</i>	<i>5th</i>
<i>David Bozmoski</i>	<i>6th</i>
<i>Tammy Miller</i>	<i>8th</i>
<i>Joan Still-Woods</i>	<i>8th</i>
<i>Nate Robinson</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Kelly Woods</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Susan Logan</i>	<i>14th</i>
<i>Kim Laneville</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Stan Snitzer</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Jan Montgomery</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>Dan Davenport</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Helen Letizia</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Cameron Hee</i>	<i>20th</i>
<i>Bill Anderson</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Polly Betterton</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Bea Towe</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Laura Cone</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Ashlyn Newbry</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Alma Oberly</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Patricia Miller</i>	<i>26th</i>
<i>Charles Gibson</i>	<i>29th</i>
<i>David Jurgensen</i>	<i>29th</i>

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

Hildenbrand, Lois & Lanstra, Bert
New home phone:
480-450-2328
(Lois' new email: interim@fpcmesa.org)

Shearin, Dorothy
c/o Jane Shearin-Bachman
501 W. Fellars Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85023

Calendar Notes

January 1

Happy New Year!

January 2

Office Closed

January 4

FPC Prayer Walk

January 7

WRAP begins

January 10

Play Rehearsals begin

January 12 & 13

Circles meet

January 18

Sam Rotman in worship (9:00 only)
Commissions & Session meet

January 25

Monthly Food Drive

HAPPY NEW YEAR

See calendar on website:
[www.fpcmesa.org/current events](http://www.fpcmesa.org/current%20events)