

# La Palabra — 2014 Annual Report Edition

February 2015

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

## *A Message from Lois*

“When Pharaoh let the people go they camped on the edge of the wilderness. The LORD went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night.<sup>22</sup> Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Exodus 13:17a, 20-22 adapted

The interim time, the period of time between Installed Pastors, is often likened to a journey. I like this scripture from Exodus when thinking about the interim journey. Sometimes we feel like we are camping in the wilderness but day or night the Lord goes before us to lead us along the way. Our job is to follow God’s leading.

This issue of La Palabra includes our Annual Report for 2014. I hope you will take the time to read over the various commissions’ reports. Here you will find reports on all aspects of the church’s life and ministry over the past year and as you will see, it was a busy year! If reviewing the past were not important, why would we read books of the Bible, like Exodus?

Please bring this report with you to the Annual Congregational Meeting, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 8th, in the Sanctuary. But come at 5:00 p.m. so you can enjoy our best cooks’ (you might be one of them) chili!

Let’s all take time for the Annual Meeting which serves to remind us of where we have been even as we prepare for and look to the future.

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

### Annual Reports 2014: Staff

#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Each of our church choirs participated in our worship services at least once each month during the spring and fall. In addition, several events highlighted our year together in ministry:



- Weekly Preschool Chapels, with Brant, Lois, and Shiloh
- District Convener, American Guild of Organists Grand Canyon District
- Easter Sunrise Service on Sanctuary Patio (followed by breakfast prepared by Don & Jo Wilson)
- Study Leave: Desert Bells International, Expedition Handbells Conference, Tempe Mission Palms Hotel
- Ice Cream Social and Talent Show, with Fellowship Commission
- Gospel Hymnfest Service
- Hosted Southern and Central Arizona Organ Guild chapter members in an “organ crawl” of our Visser-Rowland organ; participated in Southern Arizona Chapter Organ Crawl.
- Music Sunday: "O Holy Night"
- Summer worship music was led by Organists-Directors Burt Dudding, Tony Montoya, Jim Norris, Tricia Ramsey, Bea Towe, Bob Strader, and Barbara Walker. Special Music included the “Summer Choir,” First Ringers, VBS Singers, Praise Band, Sunday of Soloists, One Voice, Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir, a Gospel Hymn Service, and special guest artist Mark Anzelon.
- Hosted Mesa Interfaith Choral Festival
- Superstition Springs Mall Worship in the Park
- Théodore Dubois *Seven Last Words of Christ*
- Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
- Hosted/Accompanied Arizona Masterworks Chorale Concert
- Sanctuary Celebration Committee Silent Auction
- Sabbatical
- Soprano Stephanie Ann Ball and Baritone Tom Sitzler
- Ministry Fair
- Celebration of our Sanctuary's 50th Anniversary, with Worship and Brunch, featuring Organist Dorothy Young Riess. Planned with Barbara Walker and Carol Gerlach, with initial assistance from Charlie Golden.
- Candlelight Communion Services of Lessons, Readings & Carols



We are blessed with about 100 congregation members participating in our music program. I continue to be thankful for each singer, ringer, signer, and instrumentalist, and I pray that each is blessed by God's gift of music and joy in ministry. Special thanks go to our choir leaders: **WEDNESDAY WRAP WORSHIP SKILLS**, Directors Miki Newbry and John Couillard; Assistants Linda Hayball, Lanai Mills, and Karen Rudin; **FIRST RINGERS**, Bea Towe, Director; **HEARTS HANDS AND VOICES**, Ellen Gillespie, Director; **ONE VOICE**, Anita Ramsey, Director; and **SANCTUARY CHOIR**, Bea Towe, Accompanist. Thank you also to our **PRAISE BANDS** for providing musical leadership for both worship services: Philip Fritschle, Ashley Herod, Dylan Hickey, Kevin Reeves, Dan Sitzler, Erin Skarphol, Sean Snitzer, Tricia Ramsey, and Karen Rudin.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Ramsey

### COMING EVENTS

- Sanctuary Choir at La Casa De Cristo Lutheran Church for the National Lutheran Choir Choral Festival (February 21, 22)
- Worship in the Park, Mesa Arts Center, followed by a BBQ at FPC (Palm Sunday, March 29)
- Seder Service (Maundy Thursday, April 2)
- First Players: Wind in the Willows (April 10,11,17,18)
- Artist Series: Valley Chamber Chorale (Saturday, May 2)
- Vacation Bible School (June 8-12, 5:45-8:15 p.m.)

**Annual Reports 2014: Commissions**

**WORSHIP**

The Worship Commission serves our congregation through the planning of weekly worship services, by facilitating the church Prayer Chain, by celebrating with families as they welcomed new life, and by supporting families in times of grief. Items accomplished by the Worship Commission during 2014 include:

- Catered Lunch "Spring Fling" for All Choirs & Families, Fellowship Hall
- Ash Wednesday Service, with Wednesday WRAP Children & Youth, Sanctuary
- Artist Series: Arizona Masterworks Chorale Concert, featuring the John Rutter Gloria! First in series of concerts in celebration of the Sanctuary's 50th Anniversary Year
- Organ Postlude-Recital, Dr. Charles Sedgwick III – Part of Sanctuary Celebration Series
- Training Sessions for Communion Servers, led Dan Reeves
- Easter Sunrise Service on the Sanctuary Patio, with breakfast provided by Jo & Don Wilson
- Created a database of 105 potential communion services
- Bryan Tryon volunteered to serve as the Worship representative to our HolyGrounds service.
- Worship was held in Fellowship Hall during July.
- Planned Seventh Annual off-campus service as "Worship at the MAC," to be held on the Mesa Arts Center Patio at 10:00 a.m. on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015. Immediately following worship, we'll return to FPC for a BBQ being planned by our Fellowship Commission.
- Planned special services for 2015: Youth Sunday 4/12, Women's Sunday 3/15, Ministry Fair, Pledge Sunday 11/22; Special Offerings - One Great Hour of Sharing (Easter), Pentecost 5/24, Mesa Presbyterian Ministries, and Joy Gift (Christmas Eve).
- Planned Seder Service (Maundy Thursday – April 2)
- Planned Ice Cream Social and Praise Band Concert (August 23)
- Recommended serving communion by intinction during June, July, August, and September. **APPROVED.**

Items for Session Approval

- Recommended the purchase of six 33" tables (same manufacturer as the larger tables currently in use) to expand the HolyGrounds' seating capacity. Cost (recommended to come from Memorials and Bequests 22301) is \$79.99/table, total \$479.94, no tax, no shipping. **APPROVED**
- Recommended holding our four July services (one service at 10 a.m.) in Fellowship Hall; however, due to electrical work, the first two weeks in July will be held in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. During July, Sunday School will be at 9:00 a.m. **APPROVED**
- Proposed 2015 Communion Dates: The first Sunday of each month, excluding April and December, plus Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve. **APPROVED**



Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Ramsey, (Chair) Director of Music Ministries  
(Deacon) Carol Webster, Worship  
(Deacon) Karyn Weaver, Funerals/Memorials  
(Deacon) Bev Goff, Prayer  
(Elder) Dan Reeves, Worship  
(Elder) Bryan Tryon, Youth  
Bryan Tryon, Worship – HolyGrounds  
Susan Durand, Greeters  
Don Wilson, Ushers  
Jo Wilson, Liturgists



## 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

### 2014 Annual Report

Sunday Sing-a-Long now includes children in preschool through high school! Thank you Youth Advisors for joining us and adding your enthusiasm to the singing and hand motions! Join us any week at 10:25 under the tree on the playground!

THANK YOU to our amazing Sunday School teachers who plan, teach and follow up with their students every week, all year!

- \*Lanai Mills & Kathy Bilko (preschool/kindergarten)
- \*Miki & Brooks Newbry (first/second grade)
- \*Anita Ramsey & John Couillard (third/fourth grade)
- \*Ruth Letizia & Deborah Rosen (fifth/sixth grade)



The church Nursery is now open each Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:00 p.m. This allows parents with children 5 years of age and under to attend early or later church service, Sunday school and Wednesday night adult Bible study!

Thank you to Alice Schlak for doing an awesome job with Wednesday WRAP this year! Please join us each week for fellowship, music, dinner, games and Bible study. Cost is only \$4 for one night or \$20 for a 6-week block.

Vacation Bible School 2014 was SonTreasure Island. This year we had an evening program, and it was so successful that we decided to do it again for 2015! We also included young teens in the program for the first time! VBS 2015 is already in the planning stages and will be Group's Thailand Trek Cross Culture experience. Please plan now to join us June 6th – 11th from 5:45 – 8:15 p.m.

Montlure Presbyterian Camp was held in Wilcox, Arizona in summer of 2014. Twelve children and youth attended through our church, and we were able to sponsor them with \$2,255 in scholarship funds!

Join us on Wednesday nights from 5:00 – 7:00 for WRAP! We offer worship skills, recreation, fellowship, dinner, games and Bible study. This month the themes are:

- February 4 – Fire Safety
- February 11 – Valentine's
- February 25 – Chinese New Year



Jasmine Couillard,  
Christian Education  
Director



We truly feel blessed at our preschool as we look back at what 2014 has given us! There have been many new things happening that are bringing new families from the community to join us. We are thrilled to announce that we are a **3-star Program of Excellence** through the **Quality First Scholarship Program!** The teachers have worked so hard to make sure that we qualified for this high level of notoriety and distinction! They truly are the heart and soul of this program and it certainly showed during the assessment process. I am so proud of all of



them, especially Nicki McInnelly and Kristy Biggs for being the focus classroom for the entire process. A huge Thank You goes out to all of the teachers for creating a loving and deeply caring environment for the families at First Presbyterian Preschool. This really makes a big difference!

We also had a beautiful partnership with Pastor Brant Baker and Dr. Mark Ramsey this past year during our weekly chapel time with the families. They have encouraged the children to grow in their faith and love of God. There are many families who join us as we worship each week. We are sad to see Pastor Brant leave but know that he is called to do other work for the people of God in another capacity.

Our facility is licensed through the State Department of Health Services to provide services for 59 children in 3 classrooms. The 2013-14 school year ended with 44 children enrolled and 30 of those kids went on to Kindergarten in August 2014! When we started the 2014-15 school year we had 29 children enrolled in 2 classrooms, Pre-K and the 3's class. By the end of 2014 we had 35 kid enrolled, which is at full capacity for the 2 classrooms! We also are a Department of Economic Security certified site which means that we are able to support those families in the community who are receiving services for childcare coverage so that they can work or go to school. We had 3 children utilizing the DES childcare program.

We are still receiving the benefits of participating in the Quality First Scholarship Program. There was a change from last year's participation to this year. We went from receiving bi-weekly coaching services to weekly coaching services from Southwest Human Development. Our coach comes in to help support the work of our teaching staff by providing quality resources, support and trainings for the entire center. The difference that has occurred is that two of our teachers (Debbie Warneke and Rachel Schuster) voluntarily signed up to participate in a pilot coaching program that supports their professional development by giving hands-on training and technical support for current teaching practices. It has been a wonderful experience for them.



Our funding from the Quality First Grant has also changed how many scholarship they will distribute to each of the participating centers. For the 2013-14 school year we were allotted 18 full-time scholarships. For the 2014-15 school year they spread out their funding to more participating sites and decreased our number of scholarships to just 10 full-time scholarships. This reduction in funding really impacted our decision to change the hours of the preschool from the 6:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. schedule to the current 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. schedule that we are running now. It is also one of the reasons why we had to go from 3 classrooms to 2 classrooms for the 2014-15 school year.



There have been a few physical changes around the preschool as well. During the summer monsoon season, we sustained great damage to the Jackson B room when the water came through the doors and the roof leaked and brought down part of the ceiling. In late October, the church agreed to replace the roof over that classroom and we have not had any problems since. Due to this major issue, we had to move the children from that class to the Jackson C/D classroom to remain open and operational. This is where they remain for the duration of this school year.

As we look forward to 2015, we are STILL in great need of a total remodel of the playground bathrooms and continue to work on partnering with the church to budget for this. It is a major undertaking but a VERY necessary one for the professional appearance of the preschool to the community that we serve, as well as maintaining the safety of the facilities for our licensing requirement. We are asking for your prayers and financial support to make this possible in the next school year.

Lastly, we want to welcome Interim Pastor Lois Hildenbrand. We look forward to sharing our weekly chapel time with her and the ministry of the church! We appreciate all of your love and continuing support to make the Preschool a ministry of the church. We are very blessed and know that God has so much in store for these children, families and the staff that work with them.

— Respectfully submitted, Shiloh Murillo

## MISSION

Pastor (Chair) — Lois Hildenbrand  
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

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### Evangelism

**Bill Anderson**

Just as last year, most of our efforts have been on maximizing our online presence. We have also been trying to do more with Facebook as a way of getting the word out about FPC. The best evangelism, however, happens as we invite our friends and neighbors!

### Assimilation

**Scot Logan**

The Assimilation Deacon is responsible to contact second time visitors to our church. Phone calls welcome them to our church and answer questions. The other responsibility is assisting with the new member class, telephoning the list of potential attenders reminding them about the class.

### Seasonal Ministries

**Sue Eisenklam**

Blood drive: The Mission Commission of FPC in partnership with the American Red Cross once again hosted two blood drives. The spring blood drive held in May had 30 registered donors and they collected 29 blood products. For the November blood drive we had 33 registered donors and they collected 27 units of blood. The Red Cross has been delighted with the outcomes, and we as a church have provided a valuable service to our community.

Angel Tree: We sponsored three neighborhood families this year. Once again, as is a tradition of FPC, we provided gifts to each of the family members, as well as a holiday meal, other food stuffs, and an assortment of household and personal items.

### Mesa Presbyterian Ministries

**Jane Potyka**

Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (MPM) had a busy year in 2014. The total number of calls when the MPM phone line was open continues to exceed 500, with about 1/3 of those receiving assistance of some sort: utilities, rent, food, meals, medical, transportation, and other miscellaneous items.

### Deacon's Food Cupboard

**Sandy Clark**

The Food Cupboard continues to have high demand, with approximately 60 bags being given out each week. If each of these 3000 bags goes to a family of four, there is an impact of 12,000 people served, and an estimated dollar value of nearly \$120,000! New shelving was added to the pantry, so the number of bags has increased to 65 per week. Thank you, congregation, for your generous support of the food pantry.

### Labauch Literacy

Over 57 served as tutors this past year, giving over 2,500 hours of service. Tutors and support staff spent another 2,600 hours driving, training, and tracking tutors. We had have served 91 students from primarily Asian and Hispanic backgrounds. Once more, students became U.S. citizens, and three conversations classes helped many others learn how to interact with people of another culture. All in all, a very productive year! The support of FPC is greatly appreciated.

# 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

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The Ministry Commission is the “business arm” of the church. It oversees Property and Grounds, Stewardship, the Finance Committee, Personnel, Nominating and Session.

## Property

**Allan Schultz**

2014 brought many maintenance challenges to Dave’s Crew, which is comprised of three men in their 70s. There were several work orders submitted to repair/replace small items and make repairs to church facilities and the Preschool buildings - from the simple (door stopper, hinge and lock repairs, electrical and lighting repairs, etc.) to much larger items (Dave’s Crew designed and installed a patio irrigation system). Other maintenance/repairs were handled by third party vendors (several HVAC issues including the repair/replacement of some units; new roof for the north Preschool buildings, which required partial wall and total floor replacement due to water damage; roof, roof board and eve repairs to the roof on the Sunday School building; metal covers to replace the original copper cladding on the sanctuary roof support beams because the copper was stolen (good news: the thief is now in jail!); six new 20 Amp 120 Volt duplex outlets were added to the north and south walls of Fellowship Hall, to support events held in that area, and too many other tasks to mention.

I would like to invite anyone who has any kind of maintenance skill to step up and offer some time to Dave’s Crew. We meet at 8:30 a.m. every Wednesday morning to make repairs/adjustments/replacements to our campus infrastructure. As stated earlier, there are only three of us doing this work, and we could use help from time to time. There are some days when we only have a few work orders, but there are other days when we have too many to complete during our shift. If you would like to join us, you will be VERY welcome!

## Stewardship and Finance

**David Frederick**

The Finance Committee consists of David Frederick who serves as Stewardship Elder, Church Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer; Property Elder Allan Schultz; Endowment Chair Jack Gunter; Ex-officio member Jim Schwartzmann, and at-large members Brent Gregory, Mary Jane Hee and Jan Montgomery. Meeting records are kept by Carol Gerlach, Clerk of Session. Interim Pastor, Lois Hildenbrand, also attends our meetings as does the church bookkeeper, Kathe Patchin, during discussion and review of the monthly financial reports.

The committee meets monthly to review the church’s financial reports and took the following actions in 2014:

- Responsibly disbursed the funds of the Marshall and Radabaugh estates.
- Developed a compensation package for the Interim Pastor, Lois Hildenbrand.
- David Frederick was appointed as Chief Financial Officer by the Session.

In November, David Frederick sent a letter to all members of the congregation for the 2015 Pledge Drive and noted that salaries, expenses and utility bills are supported by the **General Fund** while large projects, like maintaining our campus structures, are funded from the **Capital Fund**.

Because of your faithful giving, we completed several improvements to our campus. We improved the appearance of Fellowship Hall, constructed a useable courtyard and installed new electrical service boxes that now meet all safety codes.

The church uses the Building Fund as a reserve for big projects which are very important to sustaining a beautiful, functioning campus. These needs do not go away just because we depleted the fund to make improvements. We have tried to be faithful stewards of your gifts and ask that you continue giving at the same levels that you did last year, or even set a goal to pledge more than last year to help us plan a responsible budget for 2015.

## Nominating

**Barbara Walker**

The Nominating Committee has the responsibility of presenting qualified candidates for Elder and Deacon positions each year. For the first six months of 2014, in addition to myself as chairman, the committee was composed of Mary Jane Hee as Deacon and Randy Gray, Ellen Hickey and Renita Jurgensen as members at-large from the congregation, plus the pastor as ex officio. The only change beginning in June was that Steve Post replaced Randy Gray. We have already put together a slate of officers to present to the congregation for the Class of 2018, whose term will begin in June of 2015. We are also responsible for filling any vacancies that may arise. Please continue to hold us in your prayers as we seek potential candidates to faithfully serve our congregation.

(continued on page 11)

## 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 — Susan McMichael

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### Fellowship Activities in 2014

The Fellowship Commission puts on, or assists with, many social activities during the year to provide opportunities for our congregation to enjoy each others' company, provide some fun events to attend, AND to encourage our congregation members to invite their friends to come and see our church, meet our church family here at FPC, and have fun participating in the events with us. We encourage everyone to wear NAME BADGES, which we provide upon request, so everyone can easily know/learn each others' names. We also coordinate Coffee Hosts & Baked Goodies teams which provide refreshments during Coffee Time after first service each Sunday in Fellowship Hall.

- Fellowship sponsored a Pot Luck dinner associated with the Annual Congregational Meeting – February 9th.
- Fellowship assisted with the Eggstravaganza event & breakfast – April 19th.
- Fellowship sponsored a Salsa Challenge dinner – May 3rd.
- Fellowship hosted the Ice Cream Social and Open Mic event – August 10th.
- Fellowship held a “Pastor Appreciation Day” recognition of all our FPC Pastors – October 12th.
- Fellowship sponsored a Road Rally and dinner – October 18th.
- Fellowship assisted with the Farewell Reception for Brant Baker – October 26th.
- Fellowship sponsored our annual Craft Fair – November 8th
- Fellowship/Flinn Lund put on a Thanksgiving Day dinner – November 27th.

### Fellowship Plans for the future

Your Fellowship Commission members are busy making plans for the events we'll hold in 2015:

- We've already held a January 4th Soup Luncheon/Potluck Dessert event in conjunction with the FPC Prayer Walk.
- The annual Chili Cook-off Dinner will be held in conjunction with the Congregation Annual Meeting on February 8th.
- We'll have a BBQ following “Worship at Mesa Arts Center” on March 29th.
- The Easter EGGStravaganza event / continental breakfast will be held on April 4th.
- The Music teams are putting together the annual church musicals in April. Fellowship will no doubt assist with the dinners preceding these shows.
- We'll host our Salsa Challenge Dinner on May 16th, where contestants vie for prizes for the best home made salsa.
- We plan on hosting an Ice Cream Social in August, with some type of entertainment planned.
- We will put on another Road Rally in October where teams receive clues and travel the city to locate their destinations and next clues on the route. Prizes are awarded for the team finishing closest to the average course navigation time, with a dinner at the end of the event where teams can exchange “war stories” of the event.
- We'll have another great Craft Fair in November, and another Thanksgiving dinner.

LOTS of fun events will be happening at your church this year. Are there other events that you would like to see us sponsor this year? If so, LET US KNOW. New ideas are welcome and needed. We are always looking for new events to provide an opportunity for our congregation and their friends to get together, socialize, and have some fun in the name of our Lord Jesus!

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

Presbyterian Women (hereafter identified as PWFPC) commit themselves:

*To nurturing their faith through prayer and Bible study;*

As part of a larger network of Presbyterian Women nationwide PW Circles use the Horizons Study Guide, *Reconciling Paul, A Contemporary Study of II Corinthians* for the basis of their 2014-15 Bible study.

*To supporting the mission of the church worldwide as well as locally;*

PWFPC sends financial contributions to churchwide missions through PW of the Presbytery (Thank Offering, Birthday Offering, Least Coin Offering and the General Churchwide Mission fund). In addition, PWFPC supports regional missions (Montlure Camp, Menaul School), as well as local community missions (New Leaf Autumn House, Child Crisis Center, Salvation Army, Laubach Literacy, FPC Preschool), and missions within FPC (Kitchen Memorial Fund, Sewing Circle that provides lap quilts and prayer shawls to the infirm).



*To working for justice and peace;*

Members of PWFPC work actively with projects that aid the homeless, feed the hungry, support the persecuted.

*To building an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.*

- PWFPC participates actively in PW matters at the Presbytery, Synod, and National levels of the Presbyterian Church.
- PW holds a position on the FPC Fellowship Commission and works with that commission in many of its social endeavors.
- PWFPC plans and presents a worship service for Women's Sunday, an annual March event. During the 2014 service an Honorary Life Member Award was presented to Bea Towe for outstanding service to the church.

Four Circles meet monthly October-May and welcome new members:

- 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

Susan McMichael, Moderator, PWFPC

**Grief Share:** If you have lost someone close to you, please consider coming to the support class on grief. If you know someone who has lost a loved one, please consider passing this information onto them. This class will begin on Wednesday, February 4th, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. We will be meeting in the Parlor. This is a 13-week course, however, each class is self-contained. The cost for the course is \$20, which includes a participant's workbook plus weekly handouts. For further information, please contact Jeanne Partida 480-981-6149 or Ruth Rummler 480-415-4925.

# *FPC 2014 Youth Group at work and play!*



# Youth Gnus



## Souper Bowl of Caring

When: Feb. 1, 2015 (Super Bowl Sunday)  
after first service and coffee house  
What: Come help collect cans and \$\$\$  
Who: We need you!

## Acquire the Fire

When: Feb. 27 (6 p.m.-10 p.m.)  
Feb. 28 (8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.)  
Cost: \$10  
What: see [acquirethefire.com](http://acquirethefire.com)



Come join us as we explore L.E.A.P of Faith during Wednesday WRAP  
AND

Come learn what the Good Book says on Sundays with Todd and Gray

YOUTH TEAM: John —(602) 284-7311, Gray —(480) 459-8071, Todd —(480) 495-6109,  
Katelyn — (602) 790-0373, Jen—(480) 688-3543

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(continued from page 5)

## Personnel

Jo Wilson

The Personnel Committee consists of Personnel Elder, Jo Wilson, Personnel Deacon, Kate Buck, and Brent Gregory, Dennis Sitzler and Marcy Snitzer. The committee took the following actions this year: conducted annual reviews for all FPC staff; recommended salaries for the 2015 fiscal year budget; approved changes in youth group advisors roles and responsibilities.

## Session

Carol Gerlach

During 2014, Session met in ten Stated Meetings and four Called Meetings. In addition to the Annual Congregational Meeting in February, there were two Called Congregational Meetings. We met with the Deacons and church staff for our Annual Retreat in August. Following Brant's departure as Pastor in October, as the Interim Search Committee, Session met twice and selected Lois Hildenbrand as our Interim Pastor.

Ten new members were added to the Active Roll and 51 members were transferred or removed. Membership as of December 31, 2014 is 319.

The following members were transferred in 2014 to the Church Triumphant: Ruth Peake, May 26th; Avonelle Marshall, July 16th; Mary Ellen "Calli" Kitchen, August 13th.

## Endowment

Jack Gunter

The Endowment Committee consists of Jack Gunter, Brent Gregory, Mary Jane Hee, Ron Peyton, Jim Schwartzmann, and Skeets Throckmorton, with David Frederick, stewardship elder, serving as an ex-officio member. The committee met five times during 2014 and has undertaken the following actions:

- Continued oversight of the Endowment Funds including the Kissinger, Mehlhop, Stubblefield, and Montlure Funds with a total value of \$106,545.10 as of December 31, 2014. In addition, the General Endowment Fund value as of December 31, 2014, was \$102,360.61 and the Capital Endowment Fund value as of December 31, 2014 was \$46,314.39. The Worship Arts Endowment Fund value as of December 31, 2014, was \$11,151.10.
- Gifts of \$3,000 and \$1,500 were received into the General Endowment Fund and a gift of \$10,000 gift was received into the Worship Arts Endowment Fund.
- Disbursed \$1,500 of the Montlure Fund income for camp scholarships, disbursed \$168 of the Stubblefield Fund income for seminary tuition, disbursed \$284 of the Kissinger Fund income for seminary tuition and testing and \$310 of the Mehlhop Fund income for an adult education class honorarium.
- Continued to interpret the endowment concept to the congregation in conjunction with an Endowment Fund brochure, Minutes for Mission, and a Fall Endowment brunch presentation, conveying the need for further contributions to the Endowment Fund.

The committee will continue to serve the endowment needs of the membership of FPC.

Mary Jane Hee, Secretary

## February Birthdays



<i>Peggy Anderson</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Patty Carnes</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Alma Post</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Kara Gregory</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Will Snitzer</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Josh Leichtman</i>	<i>6th</i>
<i>Gary Clark</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>Nate Buck</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Isobel Letizia</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Bob Trimble</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Ginny Mallia</i>	<i>11th</i>
<i>Karen Williams</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Kate Buck</i>	<i>14th</i>
<i>John Peterson</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Robert Schulz</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>John Goings, Jr.</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>Brock Hoyman</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>Sharon Brause</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Abby Patton</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Richard Schroeder</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Storm Johnson</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Gavin Mallia</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Clara Padelford</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Kim Roberts</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Lucy Carlyon</i>	<i>22nd</i>
<i>R.J. Watson</i>	<i>22nd</i>
<i>Bryan Hickey</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Shelby Castela</i>	<i>26th</i>
<i>Elly Weinel</i>	<i>26th</i>
<i>Lee Tobey</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Linda Free</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Bob Strader</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.



I want to thank my church family for all the prayers, calls, emails and cards during my recovery from two surgeries in December. Lois's prayer before surgery and her visit afterwards were so comforting. I feel so blessed to be among so many friends. God Bless all of you.

Caroline Cline

### ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Conner, Dorothy 2345 E. Main St., #141 Mesa, AZ 85213	Johnson, Margaret 5933 E. Main St., Lot 104 North Mesa, AZ 85205
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### *Calendar Notes*

#### February 1

Souper Bowl of Caring

#### February 6 & 7

Super-Start Pre-Teen Conference

#### February 8

Chili Cook-Off and Annual Meeting

#### February 9 & 10

Circles meet

#### February 16

President's Day — Office Closed

#### February 18

Ash Wednesday

#### February 21

Preschool Carnival

#### February 22

Monthly Food Drive

#### February 27 & 28

Acquire the Fire Youth Event

Financial Reports are not published on-line. Copies of the reports are available in the church office.