

La Palabra

March 2015

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

“...be content with what you have; for he [Jesus] has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.” Galatians 13:5b-7

We are in the midst of the Lenten journey, the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. It is the time set aside for us to prepare for the celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection Day. We are also in the midst of our interim journey, the unknown number of days, weeks, months and years between Rev. Dr. Brant Baker’s retirement and our next installed pastor’s arrival. It is the time set aside for us to prepare for our church’s new pastor.

Enjoying decency and order as Presbyterians do, one might expect there is a process and general timeline for the Interim Journey. Below I provide a synopsis of the Pastoral Search Process 2014 found on the Presbytery of Grand Canyon’s website under the Commission on Ministry tab.

Phase 1 – Saying Goodbye

- Saying goodbye to the outgoing pastor with gratitude and grieving. A time to cry, celebrate and say thanks.
- Preparing for Interim Leadership. Presbytery recommends candidates. Session conducts a search and hires.
- Commission on Ministry (COM) provides a liaison to work with Session and the Interim Pastor.

Phase 2 – After Interim is in place: Reflecting, Exploring, Declaring

- Adjusting to new leader – Interim engages in ongoing ministry. Session and congregation work with Interim pastor in new beginnings.
- Explores next developmental steps of ministry. The Five Developmental Tasks of the Congregation are:
 - ◊ Coming to Terms with History
 - ◊ Discovering a New Identity
 - ◊ Working with Shifts of Power
 - ◊ Nurturing Denominational Linkages
 - ◊ Commitment to New Leadership and to a New Future
- Declaring a renewed sense of vision and direction. The congregation elects a Mission Study Team and conducts a mission study with help from Interim leader. Presbytery provides resources for mission study work.

Phase 3 - Approximately 18 months after Pastor leaves - Searching

- Stage 1 – Congregation elects Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Session reviews and approves the Mission Information Form (MIF) which is the document used to advertise for our new pastor. COM must approve MIF before the vacancy is advertised.
- Stage 2 – PNC advertises, screens, reference checks and conducts face to face interviews. The Executive Presbyter conducts reference checks before any face-to-face contact.
- Stage 3 – PNC identifies Candidate and Session negotiates terms of employment. The candidate preaches before the congregation. The congregation elects Candidate and Terms of Call.

Phase 4 - Approximately Two Years later – Welcoming

- Gratitude and Grieving – the congregation says goodbye to Interim Pastor who must remain absent from the congregation for a minimum of one year.
- Getting Started – Session works with the pastor on appropriate new beginnings.

As you can see, this is a lengthy process and we are just at the beginning. Remember God already knows who our new pastor will be. Let us continue to pray for that person as God prepares her or him for leadership at First Presbyterian Church of Mesa in the not too distant 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

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

March 29th	"WORSHIP IN THE PARK"	10:00 AM
Combined Worship on Palm Sunday, March 29th will be held at the Mesa Arts Center Alliance Pavilion. Join us for this festive celebration of worship, featuring Pastor Lois and our HolyGrounds Praise Band.		
Address:	1 E. Main St., Mesa	
Location:	Alliance Pavilion is an outdoor venue located on the northwest side of the main theater building.	
Parking:	Plenty of free parking is available in the south parking lot, with additional free parking on the streets and in the parking garage (30 S. Surrine).	
Things to Bring:	Hats, sunscreen and lawn chairs. (A limited number of chairs will be provided for those unable to bring one.)	
Food:	Following worship, we will return to FPC for a BBQ!	

Join us on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, for a Seder Supper Service at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate with family and fun, scripture and singing! The Passover Seder might be called the Jewish Thanksgiving. It is a special meal of remembrance of the mighty act of God to deliver the nation of Israel from slavery and release them for eventual return to the Promised Land.

The 2015 Artist Series features many outstanding artists, including Pianist Sam Rotman, the Valley Chamber Chorale, and the 2015 International Seniors Silver Medalists "High Priority" Quartet. Artist Series concerts are made possible by the generous contributions of our donors. Please consider helping to underwrite the concerts by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Artist Series. This year, we will have six notable levels of donation:

Fermata - \$1,000 & Up
Whole Note - \$500-\$999
Half Note - \$200-\$499
Quarter Note - \$100-\$199
Eighth Note - \$50-\$99
Sixteenth Note - \$25-\$49

Artist Series concert fees range from \$300 - \$2,000. If you would like to contribute financially, checks should be made payable to "First Presbyterian Church," with memo notation "Artist Series" and sent to: Mark Ramsey, First Presbyterian Church, 161 N. Mesa Dr., Mesa, AZ, 85201-6794. Contributors will be listed in future concert programs or, if requested, will remain anonymous. For more information on our Artist Series, please contact the Music Office, (480) 964-8606.

Tickets to the First Players' Production of
WIND IN THE WILLOWS (April 10,11,17,18)
are available on our church website (www.fpcmesa.org),
on weekdays in the Church Office (480-964-8606),
and during Fellowship Time on Sundays.

Coming Events

- 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)

Humoresque

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

A man was traveling through the west on vacation, and he saw a sign that said, "Meet the Indian Who Never Forgets, Next Exit". Well, being curious, the man stops at the attraction to see the Indian. He asks the man, "What did you have for breakfast on June 9, 1978?" The Indian replies "Eggs!" Well, everyone has eggs for breakfast, so this guy is a charlatan, the man thinks. Ten years later, the man is traveling through the same area and sees the sign for the Indian. He stops in to see him. When the man approaches the Indian, he holds up his hand and says, "How!" The Indian replies, "Scrambled." [from Anita Ramsey]

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 meets weekly from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. for worship skills, recreation, fellowship, dinner, games and Bible study. We welcome all children age 5 – 105! Cost is only \$4 per night or \$20 per block. Themes this month are:

March 4 – Cowboy/Cowgirl

March 11 – St. Patrick's Day

March 25 – Circus

Prizes each week for best costume!



Spring has Sprung at the Preschool and that means everything is new! New themes, new adventures and maybe even new toys! We are celebrating new life, too, by studying plants, insects and bugs. Our latest discoveries include having live chickens and a puppy come for a visit.

We need your help getting the word out about our little patch of heaven, our Preschool. Did you know that our preschool has an 80% referral rate? That means that people know how great our program is because of voices like you in the community. We are taking enrollment registrations from the community and have plenty of space for everyone in both of our Pre-K classrooms. Please send family, friends and people you see playing in the park or at McDonalds our way. Thank you!

We hope you have a wonderful spring season and may God bless your family.

Shiloh Murillo

Director

480-835-7877

preschool@fpcmesa.org

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

The annual **Chili Cook-off** on February 8th was a great success! We had over 100 attendees, lots of excellent chili, and other fixin's to go with it. Thanks to Spencer Hoff and Yvonne Oliver for that yummy cornbread. The potluck for side dishes, salads, and desserts provided an overall delicious meal! Spencer won Best Chili with Meat. Susan Durand won Best Vegetarian Chili. I'm pretty sure this was the most well-attended Chili Cook-off event we've ever had. Thanks to Dave Frederick for doing the MC duties. And thanks to Gretchen and Heidi, and the rest of the Fellowship Commission members for all the hard work to put this event together.



NEXT – Sunday, March 29th: Worship at Mesa Arts Center – and then a **Barbeque at FPC Fellowship Hall** afterwards. Look for more info on this during upcoming weeks.

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 First Presbyterian Church!



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

CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN Women's Sunday, March 15



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

PWFPC will welcome Martha Sadongei to the pulpit. Martha, of Kiowa/Tohono O'odham lineage, will bring the message from a Native American perspective. Martha has been consultant to various presbyteries and synods that have Native American churches; she serves as pastor of Central Presbyterian Church of Phoenix, an urban Indian congregation. In addition to her work with Indian ministries, Martha has served in many other capacities in the Presbyterian Church including Moderator of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon.

Its "Montlure" Not "Mountlure"

Montlure Presbyterian Church Camp is a ministry for all to find and grow in their faith in Jesus Christ. Montlure's primary objective is to provide a Christian camping ministry of the highest quality for children and youth in grades 4 – 12. Presbyterian Churches across Arizona are again getting ready for this summer's special Christian camp experience.

Due the forest fire of a few years ago surrounding the long-time Montlure camp site near Greer, the Montlure camps after the fire have been held at various rented locations across Arizona. This year we are excited to announce that Montlure will be located at Camp Colton on the western foot of Arizona's highest mountains near Flagstaff.

Visit www.Montlure.org for the latest updates regarding this Christian education and discipleship experience and announcements regarding the new Traveling Day Camp and the 3-day "You and Me Camp" experience. Also note the early bird pricing discounts from the prices shown under the heading "Youth Camps" on Montlure website.

Submitted by Stan Snitzer

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

Mission Summary

When you talk about Mission, you don't need to look any farther than FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 161 N. Mesa Drive, Mesa, AZ., www.fpcmesa.org.

Since 2001 FPC, through their outreach ministry, Mesa Presbyterian Ministries, a 501(c)(3) organization, has assisted more than 2,500 Mesa families with rental and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, transportation assistance and medical assistance. These families represent the less fortunate of Mesa.

There is also the Deacons Pantry that has provided food bags to the less fortunate of Mesa since 1989. In 2014 the Deacons Pantry prepared 2,640 food bags and supplied 9,413 persons in 2,634 households with balanced, healthy food. The food valued at \$66,000.00, was supplied by United Food Bank (70%) and the FPC congregation (30%).

There is the I-Help program, sponsored by Lutheran Social Ministries. Every Sunday from 22 to 30 homeless women are brought to FPC, where they are provided with their meals, an overnight stay with access to showers and clean comfortable quarters.

There is Habitat for Humanity that has been a part of our Church Family for nearly ten years. Habitat is a part of the Superstition and East Valley Coalition that have provided labor and funds for building and renovating homes in the East Valley. In 2014 FPC participated in building a home for the Soto Family of eight, who immigrated from Hidalgo, Mexico.

There is Oasis Microfinance International, a 501(c)(3) organization, www.oasismicrofinance.org, which fights poverty in Zambia by providing start-up loans to mostly women. These loans (rather than handouts) emphasize the importance of learning business skills to provide jobs and education to create tangible wealth and break out of poverty. In 2014 with a gift of \$8,000.00 to Clothed in Hope www.clothedinhope.org, our partner in Zambia, this program was launched. Ten women were issued loans, after receiving approval of their applications, business plans and profitability analysis, by the Micro Loan Committee.

Please feel free to visit the various web sites to learn more about these programs.

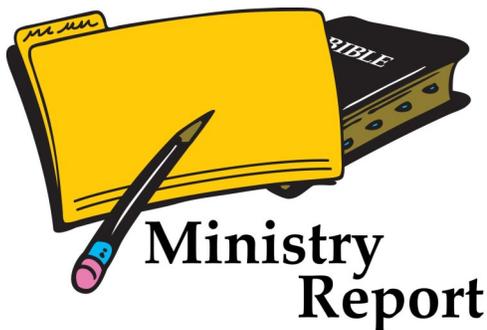
Submitted by Robert L. Gerlach

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 Congregational Meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 8, 2015, following a chili cook-off and potluck. The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for the Class of 2018 (unless otherwise stated). Their term begins on June 1, 2015:

Elders: Linda Hayball, Personnel; Mary Jane Hee, Clerk of Session, Dylan Hickey, Youth Elder, Class of 2016; Anita Ramsey, Children's Ministries; Nate Robinson, Worship; Frackson Sakala, Mission, Class of 2016 and Jim Schwartzmann, Nominating.

Deacons: Suzanne Engman, Parish #2; Gretchen Frederick, Cards, Class of 2016; Bev Goff, Prayer Chain, Class of 2016; Doug McInelly, Transportation; Miki Newbry, Nominating Committee, Class of 2016; and Jane Potyka, Mesa Presbyterian Ministries.

March Birthdays



Milan Carnes	1st
Cleta Larson-Enck	1st
Joyce Baum	6th
Paige Castela	6th
David Letizia	6th
Sean Snitzer	6th
Darlene Sitzler	7th
Helen Lents	11th
Joan Carns	13th
Jasmine Couillard	15th
Brandon Castela	16th
Pam Godfrey	16th
Marvin Luntz	16th
Dick Baird	18th
Carter Herrera	19th
Nelly Nobis	19th
Peter Eisenklam	20th
Lillian Leichtman	22nd
Dan Gibbs	23rd
Gray Baker	24th
Caroline Cline	25th
Cindy Davenport	25th
Alice Peterson	25th
Earl Visser	25th
Thirza Wesselius	27th
Mark Bockler	28th
Joshua Anderson	29th
David Miller	29th
Kyle Posthumus	29th
Becca Brause	30th
Frances Kaufmann	31st
Bill Lents	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.



Thanks to the many members and friends of FPC for the outpouring of prayers, good wishes, and visits during my period of surgery and rehabilitation. It is good to be back among you as I continue to improve with various therapies.

Graham Walker

Calendar Notes

March 6 & 7

Acquire the Fire — Youth

March 8

Commissions & Session meet

March 9 & 10

Circles meet

March 15

Women's Sunday

March 21

Feed My Starving Children — Youth

March 29

Palm Sunday

Worship at Mesa Arts Center
with BBQ to follow at FPC

Holy Week Schedule

April 2: Maundy Thursday Seder, Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

April 3: Good Friday — Office Closed

April 4: EggsTravaganza at 9:00 a.m.

April 5: Easter Sunday Services:

Sunrise Service—6:00 a.m.

Traditional Service—9:00 a.m.

HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse—11:30 a.m.

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