

La Palabra

May 2015

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit... All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "... this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
Even on the male and female slaves,

in those days, I will pour out my spirit." Acts 2:1-4, 12, 14, 16-18

This year FPC Mesa will celebrate Pentecost May 17th. Pentecost celebrates the fact that Jesus' love for us is so great that he asked God to give the Holy Spirit to be with us always so we would not have to make this journey through life alone. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be the disciples Jesus needs us to be, and to re-present Christ to the world – be his hands and feet, and examples of his love and grace.

Think about that. What does that mean for you and me? What would our life be like without that precious gift of our Holy Companion, the still small voice that guides us, sustains us, empowers us?

What an amazing God we serve...Father, Son and Holy Spirit pursuing us, claiming us, and alive in us! Let us celebrate the living Lord whose love for us is so great he came to us in flesh and blood to live and die for our freedom from sin and death, all with the promise of everlasting life for those who believe.

FPC's selection of its Mission Study team is timely to coincide with Pentecost. This is an apt time for our old (and young) men (and women) to dream dreams, see visions and prophesy what God has in store for the ministry and mission of FPC. The Nominating Committee has been at work and the Session will soon select the team of individuals God is asking to lead the Mission Study.

Remember, the Mission Study is an integral part in preparing our congregation for its new pastor. We must do the work of discovering our unique mission and ministry so we know what we're looking for in a pastor. I pray you will look forward to taking your part in the discussions that will be part of the study.

Traditionally, the Holy Spirit is represented by the color red, by flames and by the dove symbol. You'll notice that the paraments (the table covering on the Communion table and the fabric on the front of the pulpit) are red on Pentecost. Please join me in honoring Pentecost by wearing red, or whatever your preferred "flame" color is, to worship on May 17th. Let us celebrate God's giving of the Holy Spirit to the church.

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

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“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



The Valley Chamber Chorale will present a free concert of music for choir and organ on Saturday, May 2nd, at 4:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Building on a nucleus of singers who were graduates of Larry Wittig's Paradise Valley High School Concert Choir, the Valley Chamber Chorale invited Christopher Samuel in 1988 to become conductor and artistic director and expanded into a community choir that included members from all parts of the Valley. Ultimately reorganizing as an auditioned chamber choir under a not-for-profit status, the group took the name "Valley Chamber Chorale" to reflect the breadth of the area communities represented by its members. Since 1988, the ensemble has performed at the state convention of the Music Educators National Conference, the Western Region Convention of the American Guild of Organists, and the "World's Largest Organ Concert" with guest artist Joan Lippincott. The group's compact disc of Renaissance motets and madrigals, "O Sing Joyfully," can be found in bookstores locally and in select cities nationally. The Valley Chamber Chorale is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enlightening the community and enriching its culture. Through skilled performances of choral programs featuring an eclectic repertoire with emphasis upon unaccompanied works of the Renaissance and selections by Twentieth Century American composers, the Chorale offers entertaining and educational concerts at a variety of venues throughout the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

The Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present organist Lew Williams for the final event of its chapter year. The concert will be held at Organ Stop Pizza (1149 E. Southern Ave., Mesa) from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 23rd. The cost for the lunchtime concert will be \$12 per person (cash only, payable at the door), and reservations are due by May 16th. Please let me know if you'd like to attend! More about Organ Stop Pizza is available here: organstoppizza.com.

"Fling wide the gates." The annual Preschool Spring Fling will be held on Thursday, May 7th, at 10:30 a.m. The program will be held in Fellowship Hall, and the congregation is invited to attend this always energetic and enjoyable musical event.

Copies of the Summer Music Schedule will be available in the Church Office and Information Kiosk beginning Sunday, May 31. You can also follow the schedule at www.fpcmesa.org/worship/choir-schedule. Join us as we make a joyful noise through our somewhat quieter and slower summer months. You will not need to sign a choir letter of commitment, and the only requirement is that you enjoy offering your heart and music in praise to God!

Presbyterian Heritage Sunday will be observed at the end of this month, and we will celebrate with a special Pentecost anthem on Sunday, May 17th. The anthem will feature our Sanctuary Choir, Hearts Hands and Voices, and Chorister Signers! Plan to be blessed in word and in song by some of our current and future leaders of the church!

Coming Events

- 5/2 (Saturday), Artist Series: Valley Chamber Chorale "Music for Choir & Organ," Sanctuary, 4:00 p.m., Free
- 5/7 (Thursday) Preschool Spring Fling
- 5/9 (Saturday) Music for PW Luncheon
- 5/16 (Saturday) FPC Salsa Challenge
- 5/17 Special Pentecost Anthem with our Sanctuary Choir, Hearts Hands and Voices, and Chorister Signers!

Humoresque

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

George Phillips, an elderly man from Walled Lake, Michigan, was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people stealing things from the shed. He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" He said, "No, but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me." Then the police dispatcher said, "All patrols are busy, you should lock your doors, and an officer will be along when one is available." George said, "Okay." He hung up the phone and counted to 30. Then he phoned the police again. "Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago, because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now, because I just shot and killed them both; the dogs are eating them right now," and he hung up. Within five minutes, six Police Cars, a SWAT Team, a Helicopter, two Fire Trucks, a Paramedic, and an Ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence and caught the burglars red-handed. One of the Policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!" George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

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

DISCIPLESHIP NEWS

Don't miss out on Thailand Trek Vacation Bible School at FPC! Students and volunteers will learn all about the culture of Thailand from June 8 – 11, 5:45 – 8:15 p.m. There will be music, light dinner, snacks from Thailand, Bible adventures, games and many more experiences. Cost is only \$15 for ages 5 – 13! Invite your neighbors, your grandchildren and all your kid's buddies.



Wow! This school year has flown by! It is hard to believe it is almost over. We have had a fantastic year together with 36 children enrolled! Let's celebrate that milestone during the teacher appreciation week coming up May 4th -8th. This is a special week of love to show our teachers how much we care. Please consider surprising them with a little note of encouragement, special gift or a good book for their summer reading pleasure.

Our Annual Spring Fling will be on Thursday, May 7th, at 10:30am. We hope that you will join us as the children sing a few songs for their families. There will also be a family picnic after the program. The preschool will provide the sub-sandwiches and the families are asked to bring something to share. Hope to see you there!

Our last day of school will be on Wednesday, May 20th. We will re-open for our summer program on June 1st and run through June 26th. We will not be open for the month of July. Don't forget: We are now enrolling for our Fall 2015 school year and need your help. Now is the time to think about putting your preschool child or grandchild into our high-quality preschool to get ready for kindergarten. Stop by the preschool office and pick up a registration packet today! We will be doing tours by appointment in July, too.

Thank you for all of the love, prayers and support that you continually show to us. It means so much and we truly can feel the strength of your caring!

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

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Whew! As I write this, your Fellowship Commission has recently worked on the BBQ following the Worship at the Mesa Arts Center, the EGGStravaganza breakfast, and as dinner prep and cleanup help for the four “Wind In The Willows” dinner theater events. LOTS of stuff going on at FPC! Are you participating???

The BBQ was well attended, and I must thank Allan Schultz for being our Head Chef and overseeing the meal preparations! We couldn't have done it without you! Mark Waters and I served as cooks, and the rest of the commission gang did setup/cleanup.

Erin Skarphol and helpers took care of the EGGStravaganza breakfast. Although we had fewer kids and families than expected, all went well.

Our fabulous Mark Ramsey and the First Players at FPC put on yet another great show! If you didn't attend, you missed something special. It's always fun to see our fellow congregation members becoming actors/singers. What talent we have at FPC! Thanks to John and Alice Schlak who were the Chefs for the dinner, and did a great job for Mark. And thanks to all the Commission members and spouses who served and cleaned up: Iron Man Bill Lents, Susan McMichael, Erin Skarphol, Mark & Angie Waters, Steve Muth, Dale Gibson, Cindy Davenport, and yours truly. (If I missed someone, sorry).



UPCOMING: Our annual SALSA CHALLENGE is right around the corner on Saturday, May 16th, at 5:00 p.m.! We'll have signup sheets during Coffee Time by the time you receive this. WATCH FOR DETAILS and make sure to attend this fun event. BETTER YET, arrange to BRING A FRIEND with you!

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

PW Spring Luncheon

On Saturday, May 9th, at 11:30 a.m., our own Lois Hildenbrand will speak on “**I Became a Mother in Alaska.**” Celebrating motherhood and womanhood, Lois will share missionary experiences on the last frontier. Ladies of the church please come and bring a salad to share.

Church Women United

Friday, May 1st, is May Friendship Day. Fellowship of the Least Coin — Journey of the Caregiver is the theme. Caregiving is a task entrusted to us by God: children, youth, spouses, parents and grandparents. This May Friendship Day Celebration is for all people who struggle with their calling of caring for the needs of others. Lois Hildenbrand will be the speaker. The Celebration will begin at 10:00 a.m., with breads and beverages at 9:30 a.m.

CWU is the National Sponsor for Fellowship of the Least Coin, which was started in 1956 by Shanti Soloman, an Indian woman who was part of a Presbyterian Peace Mission to Korea. She was stranded in the Philippines due to visa issues and had to wait there for the group to return. While there she waited and prayed. She had a vision of every woman putting the least coin of their country aside as a token of prayer. And so the International Fellowship of the Least Coin was born. Today the group gives hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to support projects around the world that benefit women and children. Each May Friendship Day, CWU gathers the coins collected throughout the year. Shanti is no longer with us, but her dream and vision live on as we continue to pray and share the vision.



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

SANCTUARY ROOF

The Session has decided that it is time to replace the sanctuary roof. Some of you may know that this is the original roof, installed to these fifty years ago. While it is still beautiful from a distance, up close it is showing some significant wear and tear. A leak could significantly damage our beloved pipe organ and cause more damage than the cost of a roof.

Stewardship season will come early this year as the Committee begins planning the capital campaign to raise enough money to begin work. We are still looking at our options, but preliminary estimates tell us that it will cost over \$250,000. This campaign will be a significant undertaking and require multiple years to complete. I will let you know more details as soon as I know them. It is no longer an option, it must be done. And God willing and with your faith, it will happen.

David Frederick, Stewardship Chair

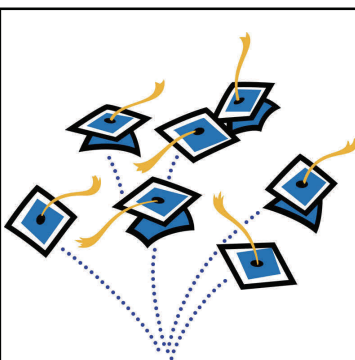


SESSION NOTES

At the April 19th Session Meeting, the incoming Elders and Deacons, Class of 2018, met with Session to be examined. Their Ordination and Installation date will be May 17th.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on May 3rd to elect two members to the Nominating Committee.

There were no member changes during March, our membership is 318.



2015 Graduates

Kyle Posthumus will be graduating from Westwood High School. He plans to attend Scottsdale Community College and plans on a career in law enforcement. He currently works part time at Harkins Movie Theatre at Tempe Marketplace and will continue while he attends college.

Amy Woods will be graduating from Westwood High School. She plans to attend Mesa Community College and plans on a career in the pharmacy. She currently has a job and will continue to work and do some camping over the summer.

Todd Ramsey will graduate from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering with Emphasis in Aerospace Engineering (Aeronautics).

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

May Birthdays



Jan Peterson	1st
Joy Schulz	2nd
Sydney Skarphol	2nd
Raul Flores	4th
Bill Smith	4th
Brent Gregory	6th
Robert Nobis	6th
Fran Gunter	11th
George Wagner	12th
Connie Gailfus	13th
Gail Pearson	13th
Jon Lokensgard	14th
Malia Hee	15th
Sue Eisenklam	16th
Robert Martz	16th
Stella Bero	17th
Jennifer Smith	17th
Lisa Calhoun	18th
Mihret Gerlach	19th
Lynne Logan	21st
Robert Harbin	22nd
Graham Walker	22nd
Vivian Buck	23rd
Denise Worden	23rd
Lynne Harding	24th
Karen Eberhardt	25th
Yvonne Oliver	25th
Margaret Ryan	28th
Patricia Wyse	28th
John Frontone	29th
Jo Godfrey	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.

Happy Mother's Day!

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Goff, Bev
6312 E. Dallas St.
Mesa, AZ 85205

Lokensgard, Jon
7255 E. Broadway Rd., #235
Mesa, AZ 85208

Calendar Notes

May 2

Valley Chamber Chorale

May 7

Preschool Spring Fling

May 9

PW Mother's Day Luncheon

May 10

Mother's Day

May 11 & 12

Circles meet

May 16

Salsa Challenge

May 17

Commissions & Session meet

May 25

Memorial Day — Office Closed

May 31

Monthly Food Drive



Our family would like to thank Pastor Lois Hildenbrand for the visit with our mother, Charlotte Y. Roberts, and to the church members and friends for the prayers and good wishes during her surgery, hospitalization and recovery.

Sheila Cummins & Family
Gina Byler & Family
Michael Roberts & Family

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