

La Palabra

September 2015

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

You Can Make A Difference

...Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach God must believe that God exists and that God rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith. Hebrews 11:6-7 (NRSV)

Many times we ask ourselves, “Can I make a difference?” Can one man or one woman make a difference? History records many who have made a difference. You and I, in God’s will can always make a difference. Noah made a difference. In Genesis 6, we see the story of Noah and the building of the ark unfolding. Noah is just one of the giants of the faith listed in Hebrews 11.

We know that Noah, through obedience, saved humanity from extinction. I believe if we could talk with Noah, he would say, “Yes, you can make a difference.” Through God you can make a difference in your family, in your church, in your personal ministries and in future generations. You may feel like you are all alone and you cannot make a difference. You may feel like there is no hope, but through God’s Word we are reminded that we can make a difference through our obedience to God’s call.

As a reminder, FPC’s Mission statement reads: As followers of Jesus we will love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all our minds. And we will love our neighbors as ourselves and serve them in the name of Christ. Matthew 22:37, 39

Love God
Follow Jesus
Serve in Spirit

We each make a difference in changing the world every time we reach out in love to our neighbor.

Blessings...Lois

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WORSHIP

Dir. of Music (Chair) — Mark Ramsey
Worship (E) — Nate Robinson
Prayer Chain (D) — Bev Goff

Funerals/Memorials (D) — Karyn Weaver
Worship (D) — Carol Webster

Mark's Remarks

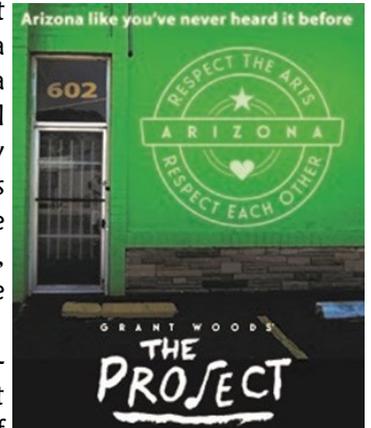
(480) 964-8606, EXT. 103; MUSIC@FPCMESA.ORG

“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

In a celebration of Arizona's rich musical legacy, some of the state's best musicians came together on “The Project,” a recording to benefit the Arizona School for the Arts. The record features songs written by former Arizona Attorney General Grant Woods and performed by artists like Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and E Street Band member Nils Lofgren, Gin Blossoms' Scotty Johnson, Francine Reed, Michael Nitro, Lawrence Zubia, Blaine Long, Hans Olson, Ray Herndon, Al Ortiz, Mindy Harris, Walt Richardson, and Alice Tatum. All available musicians from the record will perform at the concert, along with surprise guests. All proceeds will go to the Arizona School for the Arts.

Thanks to the generosity of FPC member Joe Woods, twenty free tickets to The Project are being offering for the Friday, September 18th, event at 8:00 p.m. in the Orpheum Theatre in Phoenix (203 W. Adams, Phoenix). If you would like to reserve a ticket (or a few), please contact Mark Ramsey in the Church Office. Additional tickets are available from phoenix.ticketforce.com.



Steppin' Out With My Baby

Ice Cream Social Family Concert

The Ice Cream Social and Praise Band Concert will be held on Sunday, September 27th at 4:00 p.m. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall and enjoy cold, yummy refreshments while being entertained by the Praise Band. Music will include the band's favorite pop songs from the past fifty years or so and will feature the song “Brielle” by the band Sky Sailing, a special tribute to our drummer's newborn baby girl! Other music will include Johnny Cash’s “Ring of Fire,” Queen’s “Crazy Little Thing Called Love,” “Rock Around the Clock” by Bill Haley and His Comets, “Pinball Wizard” by The Who, and other singalong favorites!

Coming Events:

- September 27 (Sunday) — Ice Cream Social & Praise Band Concert, 4:00 p.m.
- October 4 — World Communion Sunday, Services at 9:00 & 11:30 a.m.
- October 10 (Saturday) — FPC Road Rally, 3:00 p.m.

Humoresque

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

Husband - "Hello?" Wife - "Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?" H - "Yes." W - "Great! I am at the mall two blocks from where you are. I just saw a beautiful mink coat. It's absolutely gorgeous!! Can I buy it?" H - "What's the price?" W - "Only \$1,500.00." H - "Well, OK, go ahead and get it, if you like it that much..." W - "Ahhh, and I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership and saw the 2016 models. I saw one I really liked. I spoke with the salesman, and he gave me a really good price...and since we need to exchange the BMW that we bought last year..." H-"What price did he quote you?" W - "Only \$60,000..." H - "OK, but for that price I want it with all the options." W - "Great! But before we hang up, something else..." H - "What?" W - "It might look like a lot, but I was reconciling your bank account and...I stopped by the real estate agent this morning and saw the house we had looked at last year. It's on sale!! Remember? The one with a pool, English Garden, acre of park area, beachfront property." H - "How much are they asking?" W - "Only \$450,000 - a magnificent price...and I see that we have that much in the bank to cover..." H - "Well, then go ahead and buy it, but just bid \$420,000. OK?" W - "OK, sweetie...Thanks! I'll see you later!! I love you!!!" H - "Bye...I love u, too..." The man hangs up, closes the phone's flap, and raises his hand while holding the phone and asks to all those present: "Does anyone know whose phone this is?" [from Anita Ramsey]

September, 1947

- Two new members were received into church.
- A discussion on the supplying of a pastor until January 1, 1948 took place. It was suggested that the church could have a student pastor from the University of Arizona each Sunday or a fill-in pastor from Phoenix. The decision was to have a pastor supplied from Phoenix.
- It was decided to have the Every Member Canvass in November and to have as many members as possible sign pledge cards.
- It was also suggested that a fellowship and study group be formed to meet once a month for study and for social. It was suggested that this group have a definite program each time. It was also announced that a record of church preference of Mesa students is available thru Mr. Taylor.



From the History Files

September, 1955

- The Treasurer reported for the Benevolence Committee that our contributions are falling behind our pledges.
- Construction is progressing on the new education building. Some dissatisfaction was expressed over some of the details of construction and the supervision of the construction by the architect.
- The Music Committee noted that Mrs. Alliene Philips had been playing for the summer services and a total of \$30 was owed to her for past services. She will continue to play with the understanding that she receives \$5 per week for her services.
- Session approves and supports the Wednesday evening prayer meetings which were organized by the ladies and are now being held regularly.

September, 1965

- A presentation of the plans for the combined Building and General Fund drive was given.
- The Building and Grounds Committee is investigating irrigation possibilities for the land to the east of the parking lot.
- A report of necessary repairs for the new sanctuary will be ready shortly.
- A request for the use of several rooms in the Christian Education Building by the Mesa Education Association was approved.
- The Boy Scouts have donated \$200 toward alterations in the social hall to make more storage space.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship (E) (Chair) — Dan Davenport
Cards (D) — Gretchen Frederick
Older Adult (E) — Steve Muth

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

Parish Deacon 4 — Erin Skarphol
Parish Deacon 5 — Heidi Blincoe
Presbyterian Women — Susan McMichael

JC-Films Movie event: On Aug 8th, actor Tim Goodwin came to FPC and delighted the 90+ moviegoers with his stories and message. We watched the faith-based film, *VIRTUOUS* – and many took advantage of the popcorn, soda, and candy our “snack bar” had to offer. We will likely have the JC-Films staff back again to host another great movie.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (and PLAN ON BRINGING FRIENDS....)

- **Sunday, September 27th, 4:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social and PRAISE BAND CONCERT!** Always a good time to enjoy some yummy ice cream with lots of toppings, as you listen to our fabulous FPC Praise Band perform.
- **Saturday, October 10th, 3:00 p.m. FPC Annual ROAD RALLY launches from Fellowship Hall!** If you haven't participated in this event in previous years, you've missed some great fun! Watch for sign-ups in September.
- **Saturday, November 14th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. FPC Annual CRAFT FAIR.** Ads are being placed and outside vendors are being contacted. If you have some crafts to sell and want to reserve a table/space, PLEASE call the office and get your application form submitted ASAP! We always want to have space for our own FPC crafters – BEFORE we sell out! LOTS of vendors with various treasures to offer will be there. Plan on coming and doing some early Christmas shopping.

As always, 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



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

ALL WOMEN are invited to a Circle Social on Tuesday, September 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in Fox Chapel. Join us to:

- Become connected with a PW Circle for Bible study and friendship.
- Purchase the new PW Bible Study.
- Hear a report from your delegates to PW Churchwide Gathering.
- See what is in store for PW in the coming year.

A new season is unfolding for Presbyterian Women FPC. The Bible study for the year is focused on the Horizon's Curriculum, *COME TO THE WATERS*, Biblical stories of water. Study guides are now available (\$8.00).

Circles meet monthly beginning in October.

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

PW Coordinating Team will meet on Tuesday, September 1st at 1:00 p.m. in the library.

MISSION

Pastor (Chair) — Lois Hildenbrand
Mission (E) — Sue Eisenklam
Hunger Action (D) — Sandra Clark

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

Seasonal Ministries (D) — Darlene Sitzler
Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (D) — Jane Potyka

Jordan Gustafson, Director of Student Ministry at Valley Presbyterian Church in Paradise Valley, gave the sermon on Sunday August 9th. He charged us all to go out and ask ourselves every day: “What am I willing to do to follow Jesus?” Furthermore, he challenged us to be willing to step out of comfort zone into wherever that might take us. “The Mission Commission leads the church in the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ in both word and deed, involves the church in local, national and worldwide mission and is the liaison with those who are involved in mission partnerships.” (FPC Mesa Officer’s Handbook) Here at FPC many in our congregation have experiences in proclaiming the Good News in a variety of works. As a relative newcomer, I don’t even begin to know all that history. What I do know is there is much to do and a great need for more people to do it.

There is much mission work going on in the church right now. We, as a congregation, readily step up to help with donations for food pantry, for school supplies, for Christmas Angels and for Christmas Shoe Boxes. We house I-Help ladies and give them a hot breakfast. Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (MPM) provides rental and utility assistance. Our youth have gone to “Save our Starving Children.” We help out with Mesa Make a Difference Day. We host blood drives twice a year. Presbyterian Women support mission work around the world. In the past we have taken groups on mission trips. For several years we have been involved with working with Habitat for Humanity. Sewing and knitting groups provide warmth and comfort through their craft. We have a prison ministry. I have tried to name as many as I know. If you know of a mission I left out, please contact me with a note in my box or a phone call so that we as a commission may have the whole picture.

All that said, I would like to invite you to look in your heart and see if you feel led to participate in any of the following:

- We would very much like to send youth and adults on at least one mission trip a year. We are beginning to plan what that might look like for a spring trip. Anita Ramsey and I will co-facilitate it, but it would be valuable to have a group of us to make it happen. Is this something you might be interested in?
- In the area of evangelism, Bill Anderson is our idea man. He needs help with putting into action outreach in our church neighborhood. Is this something that might be in keeping with your time and talents? Along the same lines, Scot Logan is the assimilation deacon, and he can use help with follow-up phone calls and outreach to visitors and new members.
- Sandy Clark, our Hunger Action Enabler, does an amazing job coordinating all to do with the food pantry. Volunteers help unload the food truck, pack bags and distribute them. If this is something you would like to help with, please let Sandy know.
- A big thank you to all of you who stepped up with donations of pasta and tuna when the need for that was great. Those items are well stocked for now. There is, however, a need for items with meat like chili, ravioli, spaghetios, etc. Cereal is always needed.
- The fall blood drive is coming soon. The need for blood is ever present. Darlene Sitzler will be signing up people in Fellowship Hall October 11-18. Mark your calendars for October 25th from 9:00-2:00.
- You will have an opportunity to make a difference with giving to our Peace offering on October 4th, which is World Wide Communion Sunday. Watch for details in the bulletin.

Being of service in the work of the Lord takes time and commitment. It often takes us out of our comfort zones. It does beg the question: What am I willing to do to follow Jesus and to carry forward His work in the world? May the Holy Spirit fill your heart and lead you where you are meant to go! Amen

Respectfully submitted, Sue Eisenklam

It isn’t too soon to begin collecting items for **Operation Christmas Child** shoe box. Our small group has sponsored this project for 6 years and will be doing so again this year. The collection week is the 3rd week in November. Stay tuned for more information in the October La Palabra. —Jeanne Partida

DISCIPLESHIP

Director of C.E. — Jasmine Couillard
Adult (E) — Martha Bienert

Children's Ministries (E) — Anita Ramsey
Family Ministries (E) — Alice Schlak

Youth/Young Adult (E) — Jennifer Martin
Youth Elder — Dylan Hickey

Wednesday WRAP will kick off this year on September 2nd! Plan to join us each week from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. for fellowship, music, dinner, Bible study and more! Come in costume for the theme and win prizes! The themes for September are:

September 2 – Best of Disney
September 9 – Masquerade
September 16 – Pirate Night
September 23 – Backwards
September 30 – Farm

Sacred Echoes

Newsflash: Wednesday WRAP is not just for kids! An adult Bible study group also meets in the library from 6:15 to 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday evening. If you would enjoy scripture-inspired conversation, fellowship, and thought-provoking videos, all in a small group atmosphere, this could be the best 45 minutes of your whole week! Even better, come to Fellowship Hall by 5:40 to enjoy a light meal with friends at a very reasonable price! Please note that all of these activities conclude in time for choir practice at 7:00!

The series for the first block is called Sacred Echoes. Have you ever noticed God sending you a recurring message many times in many ways. But we often work so hard to see it as just a coincidence that the same thought shows up in a sermon and small group lesson and daily devotions and an incidental scripture reading? Do you think God could ever be saying, “Really? How clear do I have to make this for you?”

Come as often as you can. Please let us know if you're coming to eat, too, by calling 964-8606 or emailing education@fpcmesa.org. Hope to see you on September 2nd and Wednesdays thereafter!

Small Group Study Resources

Is your small group looking for a small group study? FPC has a few excellent studies on hand (in the library), and we will be adding one new book for small group study, as well. While there are no plans for a coordinated all-church study, the Discipleship Commission has developed these suggestions that can help if your group is looking for ideas:

Already on hand:

- **Advance: Go Unless You Get a No**, a one-session workshop by **Erwin McManus**. Includes a DVD and discussion guide. Focus is discernment and choices to take action in your life as a Christian.
- **Breakaway: Because You Didn't Set Out to Be Just Like Everybody Else**, a six-session study by **Andy Stanley**. Focus is on individuality and the true liberation offered by the holy spirit. May be good for older teens, but could be for any group. Includes DVD and study guide.
- **Guardrails: Avoiding Regrets in Your Life**, a six-session study by **Andy Stanley** challenges us to stop flirting with disaster and establish some personal guardrails. We have the DVD, and lessons guidebook.
- **Twisting the Truth: Learning to Discern in a Culture of Deception**, a six-session study by **Andy Stanley** with DVD and participant's guide. Exposes some common ways God's truth gets twisted.

Details of these studies can be found on Amazon, or on the materials in the library.

Coming soon:

- **For the Love: Fighting for Grace in a World of Impossible Standards**, by **Jen Hatmaker**. This is a book (not a "study" or "workshop" like the resources above). The theme is identifying resources we already have as individuals, family members, and community members to "empower ordinary members of our churches to take ownership of the life of the church." This book might be a good stimulus for discussion as our church begins its self-study during our journey to find our new pastor and, in the process, redefine ourselves.

(See *Preschool News* on page 7)

September Birthdays



Monte Nelson	1st
Chakiwe Patricia Sakala	1st
Mark Ramsey	3rd
Bryan Tryon	3rd
Ruth Rummler	5th
Charlie Golden	7th
Diana Johnson	7th
Gregg Gerlach	10th
Gabe Homolya	11th
Suzanne Engman	13th
Rosalie Lowe	13th
Sam Smith	13th
Skeets Throckmorton	13th
Beverly Snitzer	14th
Adam Williams	14th
Paul Green	15th
Miki Newbry	16th
Nuha Ghubril	17th
William Rummler	17th
Mildred Kimbrough	18th
Helen Thielke	18th
David Tobey	18th
Rediet Gerlach	21st
Kyle Harding	21st
Henry Woodrum	21st
Paul Harding	22nd
Andrea Schultz	22nd
Richard Lowe	24th
Steve Post	25th
Susan Sylvia	25th
Sandra Clark	26th
Don Wallen	26th
Richard Hawkins	27th
Bev Goff	28th
Jeanette Chaney	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.

Calendar Notes

September 2

Wednesday WRAP begins

September 7

Labor Day — Office Closed

September 8

Lydia Circle
Circle Social

September 27

Monthly Food Drive
Commissions & Session meet
Ice Cream Social/Praise Band Concert

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Miller, David & Tammy
908 Lake Ave.
Storm Lake, IA 50588



What a wonderful start to the school year at the Preschool! As you know, we began on August 17th. We have 27 kids enrolled in the 2 classrooms and have plenty of room to grow.

We want to send special grace to Ms. Nicki McInnelly, Baby Demi and the whole family! Ms. Nicki will be on maternity leave for the first part of the fall.

A huge THANK YOU to the FPC community for all of the school supply donations and generosity that you have shown to our little school! It has made the start of the new year so much easier and we really appreciate it! We ask for your prayers, too, as we get ready to bring Christ into the lives of these families. We look forward to working as a community to build up our shared faith. If you know of any families that are looking for a high quality preschool, please send them our way!

With sincere blessings,
Shiloh Murillo, Director

See calendar on website:
<http://www.fpcmesa.org/about-us/current-events>