

La Palabra

July 2015

www.fpcmesa.org

480-964-8606

A Message from Lois

“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:1-6

What “was written in former days for [their] instruction,” was the scriptures. Those are the scriptures we now call the ‘Old’ Testament. Paul says they were written “...that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of [them] we might have hope.” He was telling the church that reviewing history can bring hope.

History matters! Reviewing the past readies our congregation to look critically at our current situation and prepares us to realistically dream of a future that will include our new pastor. Interim Ministry calls this process ‘Coming to Terms with History.’ In this process we will discuss the history of First Presbyterian Church of Mesa, important events nationally and in the world as well as changes in our local area over the years. We will take an unvarnished look at our church: its past, its strengths, its weaknesses, its shortcomings and its accomplishments.

On June 28th, at our Italian Potluck Supper, those in attendance dealt with the first three decades of history for FPC Mesa, from 1947 to 1977. I’m writing this before the event, but I’m willing to stick my neck out and suggest that we had a good time and we all learned a thing or two or a dozen!

Our next ‘Coming to Terms with History’ event will be Sunday, July 26th, following worship. We will serve a light lunch. (I need a few volunteers to help with that. Are you willing?) At the second event we will discuss the next two decades, from 1978 to 1998.

The third event will be Sunday, August 9th, at 4:00 p.m. I’m not certain what light refreshments we will have but I’m leaning toward shaved ice or snow cones. (If you have a machine we could borrow, I’d love to hear about it.)

I look forward to learning a lot at our gatherings. Please come to share your knowledge and learn more about others’ experiences of the church. This is important work. I hope to see you there!

Blessings...Lois

INDEX

<i>A Message from Lois</i>	1
<i>Mark’s Remarks (Worship)</i>	2
<i>Fellowship</i>	4
<i>Discipleship</i>	4
<i>Mission</i>	5
<i>July Birthdays</i>	6
<i>Calendar Notes</i>	6
<i>Address Changes</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7

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

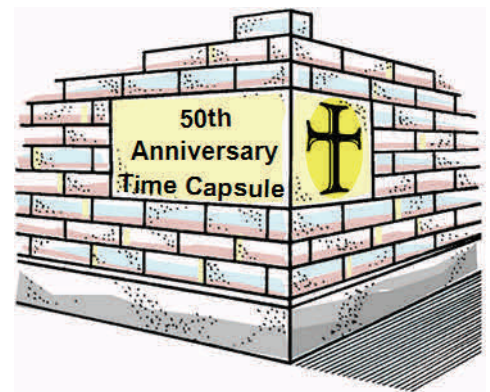
"The final aim and reason of all music is nothing other than the glorification of God and the refreshment of the spirit." - Johann Sebastian Bach

Announcements

Come Sing and Ring in our Summer Choirs! This month, the choirs and HolyGrounds Praise Band will lead our worship music on July 5th and 26th, with rehearsals at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday. The Praise Band will lead music on July 12th and 19th. Remember that our July combined church services will be held at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The most up-to-date Summer Choir Schedule is available on our Church Website, and printed copies are on the Receptionist's Counter in the Church Office. Please join us!

Continuing the celebration of our Sanctuary's 50th Anniversary, we have created a time capsule to place behind the Sanctuary cornerstone. Here are the items which have been placed in the time capsule, reflecting the social and spiritual life of FPC:

- A "Welcome" Letter
- Article: "The Sanctuary" by Curt Schafer
- Sanctuary Contract/Mortgage Information
- Building Timeline
- Sermon: "Living Under the Star" preached by Richard K. Smith at the dedication of the Sanctuary on December 13, 1964
- Description of the Visser-Rowland Organ
- Sanctuary 50th Anniversary Commemorative Bookmark
- "HolyGrounds" Pen
- Current Hymnal
- December 2014 La Palabra
- December 7, 2014 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Sanctuary, Bulletin and Service Recordings (in a variety of formats!)
- February 2015 La Palabra ("2014 Annual Report Edition")



and here is a copy of the Time Capsule Welcome Letter:

Greetings from your First Presbyterian Church families and friends of 2014, "Disciples Making Disciples!"

To each of you, the current disciples of FPC Mesa, I hope that you are enjoying a beautiful ministry founded upon Jesus Christ and the work of His faithful servants here in Mesa, Arizona. May your work continue to be fruitful, and may God's blessings continue to be spread abundantly upon your ministries.

This time capsule was placed following the 2014 50th Anniversary Celebration of our Sanctuary. Nothing was previously placed behind the cornerstone.

Along with several items from 1964 and 2014, including Curt Schafer's "The Sanctuary" (plans for every portion of the new Sanctuary 1964), the time capsule includes an audio recording from the December 7, 2014 celebration service. The recording is in three formats, in case one survives the rapid progression of technology!

Continue to be faithful in His service, and continue to seek new ways to reach God's world, God's children. Press on!

In Christ, and with Blessings and Peace in His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Ramsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Ramsey" clearly legible.

Mark Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries
for Interim Pastor Lois Hildenbrand
and the Sanctuary Celebration Committee,
Carol Gerlach, Barbara Walker, Mark Ramsey

Coming Events

- August 8th (Saturday), FPC Jessica Lynch movie event!, (time to be determined)
- **Tentative Date:** August 23rd (Sunday), FPC Ice Cream Social & Praise Band Concert, 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Humoresque

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

A man was sitting on the edge of the bed, watching his wife, who was looking at herself in the mirror. Since her birthday was not far off, he asked what she'd like to have for her birthday. 'I'd like to be eight again', she replied, still looking in the mirror. On the morning of her birthday, he arose early, made her a nice big bowl of Coco Pops, and then took her to Adventure World theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park; the Death Slide, the Wall of Fear, the Screaming Roller Coaster, everything there was. Five hours later they staggered out of the theme park. Her head was reeling, and her stomach felt upside down. He then took her to a McDonald's where he ordered her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake. Then it was off to a movie, popcorn, a soda pop, and her favorite candy, M&M's. What a fabulous adventure! Finally, she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed. He leaned over his wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, 'Well Dear, what was it like being eight again? Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed. 'I meant my dress size!!' The moral of the story: Even when a man is listening, he is gonna get it wrong. [from Dick Baird]

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 — Suzanne Engman
Parish Deacon 3 — Dale Gibson

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

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for a very special **Movie event on Saturday, August 8th!** We are finalizing arrangements to show a Christian film, AND we'll have one or two of the movie's STARS attending and talking with us afterward. **We believe one of these movie stars will be none other than Jessica Lynch, the former Army POW who was rescued in Iraq in 2003!** This movie presentation is sponsored by JC-Films which holds similar events all over the United States. Final details are still being worked out, but this will be an FPC **DON'T MISS** event. Stay tuned for more info and **PLAN ON BRINGING FRIENDS....**

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

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

Summer Children's Sunday School

For the month of July, when there is only one church service at 10:00 a.m., the children's Sunday School will meet in Jackson B at 11:00 a.m.

Vacation Bible School Update

Thank you VBS directors, station leaders, crew leaders, greeters, registrars, those who brought a child, those who donated supplies or money and those who prayed for VBS. We would like to give them all a hearty thank you and say that because of them, we were able to show God's love to 41 children.

We did two Mission projects at Thailand Trek Vacation Bible School this year and both were an enormous success! We collected toiletry items for our food pantry to be handed out to homeless people throughout the year and the children and volunteers donated 645 items! We also raised money to buy New Testament children's Bibles in Thai to be handed out to children in Thailand by missionaries. We raised \$168, enough to purchase 42 Bibles! What a blessing these donations will bring to many, many people.



Dear FPC members,

We really need your help in spreading the word about our little school. We are currently enrolling 3-5 year olds for our preschool program. We do have a scholarship program available that we would like to offer to those that qualify. Please help us by letting others know that we are here! During the month of July, we will be giving tours and enrolling children on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Please stop by for a tour today! Thank you for all of your support and love for our school. It is such a blessing to know that we are surrounded by your prayers and love.

Thank you! Shiloh

MISSION

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

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

Seasonal Ministries (D) — Sue Eisenklam
Mesa Presbyterian Ministries (D) — Jane Potyka

Food Pantry

In the past year our program has grown tremendously in the number of persons and families that we serve. We have also added helpers to make it possible for us to keep up with that growth.

Food requirements for a food bag change as the economy and government policies change. As there are changes, we will do our best to keep up with our part and to let you know what our church is doing.

The food that we put in the bags comes from three sources. The main source is the United Food Bank from which we order supplies weekly. We do not always get everything that we order because they do not always have certain things in stock. There is no charge for the food, but there is a charge based on the weight of the food, which our church pays. The United Food Bank also provides us with FEMA food once a month. Unlike the regular order, the FEMA food gives us what is available, without any choice of food items on our part. The third and most generous donations come from our congregational food drive. We have the ability to state what our most needed items are, and the gaps are filled. We have a generous congregation, and we thank God for their overwhelming response.

Contact Sandra and Gary Clark, 480-835-1338, if you are interested in helping with the Food Pantry.

Habitat for Humanity

The latest Habitat Build benefits the Gerstner Family: Syri and her daughters, Kahlyn and Kori. Their new home is located in Apache Junction.

After fleeing a tumultuous marriage in her home state of Illinois, Syri created a new life for herself and two young daughters in Phoenix. But just as the three were adjusting to life in a new state, the economy began to sink and Syri's job as a hair stylist was threatened. She started to lose customers because their financial priorities began to shift. Syri knew she needed to do something quick to keep her family afloat.

Syri started borrowing from her 401K to make rent and keep her children comfortable. When she realized the effects of the bad economy would not bounce back quickly, she had to look for outside help to provide her children shelter. She contacted an organization that gave her temporary housing while she continued to look for work in a new field. The stress of an inconsistent income and the uneasiness of the homeless shelter began to weigh on her.

But Syri is a survivor. With the help of the organization, she was able to seek reliable employment and earn a steady income. She can now afford to pursue independent living. Her young daughters, Kahlyn and Kori, saw first-hand the hard work needed to achieve a goal.



Now Syri, Kahlyn and Kori are on their way to living in their very own home. Habitat for Humanity was the perfect program for this single mom who needed people who were willing to partner with her in seeking homeownership. Syri is thankful for her sponsors, volunteers and Habitat's program for being that perfect fit. The Gerstner family is persistent and overcame many obstacles to get from homeless to homeowners!

July Birthdays



Sharon Schroeder	2nd
Ruth Landers	3rd
Marcy Snitzer	3rd
Tate Posthumus	4th
Anne Schafer	5th
Rebecca Andreen	8th
Lorraine Yphantides	8th
Kevin Reeves	10th
Virginia Leigh	11th
Linda Hayball	12th
Jo Throckmorton	13th
Jackie Kambak	14th
Jessi Smith	14th
Katelyn Eberhardt	15th
Angelina Waters	15th
Andrew Frederick	17th
Ruth Letizia	17th
Carol Stirling	17th
Larry Loraditch	18th
Skyler Verch	18th
Eileen Brause	19th
Ian Harding	19th
Matthew Skarphol	19th
Fernande Anderson	23rd
Larry Beinert	23rd
Ben Gerlach	23rd
Freda Homolya	24th
Amie Alvarado	25th
Mack Coulter	25th
Mary Lou Vickery	25th
Tom Watson	25th
Chaz McInelly	27th
Casey Johnson	28th
Dorothy Shearin	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

July 6

Office Closed for 4th of July Holiday

It's July!

July 26

Monthly Food Drive
Coming to Terms with History, Part 2

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Verch, Marlene
Emerald Groves Central, #B6
2759 N. Val Vista Rd.
Mesa, AZ 85213



IN MEMORIAM

Marion Klassen — June 8, 2015



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